

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

Updated: October 6, 2003

CONTACT:

Lisle Peterson: (510) 643-6714

lisle@calperfs.berkeley.edu

Stefanie Scott: (510) 642-9121

sscott@calperfs.berkeley.edu

**GERMANY'S OUTSTANDING YOUNG MUSICIANS,
LANDESJUGENDORCHESTER RHEINLAND-PFALZ
COME TO ZELLERBACH HALL TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28 AT 8:00 P.M**

BERKELEY, September 22, 2003 – The highly acclaimed German youth orchestra **Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz** celebrates its 30th year in 2003 with its first tour to California, appearing at Cal Performances **Tuesday, October 28 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Selected from among Germany's most talented students, the 85-member ensemble will perform **Mendelssohn's** Overture *Meeresstille und glueckliche Fahrt*; **Sibelius'** Violin Concerto featuring American violin soloist **Hahn-Bin**; **Strauss'** Vier Letzte Lieder featuring German soprano **Daniela Bechly**; and **Shostakovich's** Ninth Symphony. The performance of Landesjugendorchester is co-sponsored by the Goethe Institut, San Francisco.

The **Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz** (LJO) was founded in 1973 and has since developed into one of the finest youth orchestras in Europe. "The match of many professional orchestras," says the German newspaper *Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz*. "At the conclusion of the concert, innumerable calls of 'bravo' and applause not only for the 30th anniversary of the Landesjugendorchester but also for the here and now of the wonderful concert." The orchestra of musicians between the ages of 12 and 19 provides incomparable preparation for its participants future careers in orchestras in Europe and elsewhere, as an astonishing number of them go on to professional posts around the world after their tenure with LJO.

For the past three decades, Germany's most talented students have been invited to perform under the guidance of dedicated conductors. These students gather several times a year for rehearsals and study. Students are recommended by music teachers and auditions are held to select the best instrumentalists. The high standard of the LJO is documented in radio and television performances, recordings, and reviews in major German newspapers. Since 1988, newcomers have been able to join the "Junior Orchestra" as the first step to becoming a member of LJO.

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Conductors of the LJO vary from project to project. For the past several years, **Klaus Arp**, conducting professor at the College of Music, Mannheim-Heidelberg, has frequently worked with the young musicians and will serve as conductor for the California tour. Since 1977 Michael Luig, music professor at the College of Music, Cologne, has conducted the orchestra regularly and has shaped it through his continuous and intensive work. He also serves as conductor for all Junior Orchestra projects.

Concert tours have taken the orchestra through Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, including visits to Austria, France, England, Italy, Sweden, Israel, Greece, Spain and recently the orchestra was chosen to represent the Rheinland-Pfalz state at the Cultural Festival in Poland. Furthermore, the orchestra has traveled several times to North America, touring to Illinois, Michigan and Florida, in addition to Mexico.

A concert tour to South Africa in 1998, which included not only concerts in Johannesburg, Capetown, Stellenbosch, Kimberley and Pretoria, but also township outreach projects in Soweto and Mitchell's Plain, was the start of an intensive exchange program between the orchestra and local cultural organizations in South Africa. Since then, young musicians from disadvantaged backgrounds have been invited to join the orchestra every year in Germany.

16 year-old **Hahn-Bin** is winning recognition as one of the world's most sensational rising violinists. Since he made his orchestral debut at age 10 with the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, Hahn-Bin has performed with numerous orchestras, including the Pacific Symphony, the San Diego Symphony, the Culver-City Westchester Symphony, the San Luis Obispo Symphony, the Indian Wells Symphony, and the Brentwood-Westwood Symphony. Born in Korea, Hahn-Bin began playing the violin when he was six and won his first competition the same year. In 1995 he was accepted at the Korean Preliminary School of Arts as one of its youngest students. By age nine he had won first prizes in many prestigious national competitions and had performed in virtually every major concert hall in Korea. In 1999, he moved to the United States to study with Robert Lipsett at the Colburn School of Performing Arts and currently attends both the Colburn School and the Crossroads School as a full scholarship student. When Hahn-Bin made his Chicago recital debut at

age 12, Sam Weller of *New City Magazine* wrote, “His velvet sound wallpapers the hall; eyes closed, Hahn-Bin is calling spirits....His performance was a tour de force.” In May of 2002, he was invited to perform a recital as part of a prestigious series in Seoul that was also broadcast live on Korea’s national radio station. During this past summer, Hahn-Bin participated in the Perlman Music Program in New York, working with Itzhak Perlman among others, and performed Sarasate’s *Carmen Fantasy* with pianist Rohan de Silva. *The New York Times* called Hahn-Bin the “Elvis Presley of Classical Music.” And on his recent tour with the Landesjugendorchester in Germany, *Die Rheinpfalz* wrote, “The immense technical ability of the young virtuoso was astonishing. More important were the expressive dimensions of his occasionally boundlessly soaring manner of playing and the fascinating variety of his tonal palette.” In 1999 he became a recipient of a G. Gagliano violin from the Mandell Collection of Southern California and currently performs on a G.P. Maggini, ca. 1600, on extended loan through the generous efforts of The Stradivari Society of Chicago.

Soprano **Daniela Bechly** was born and educated in Hamburg. After receiving a number of top vocal prizes around Europe, she made her debut with the Braunschweig Opera. Subsequent engagements have been with the Vienna Kammeroper, Krefeld-Mönchengladbach and the Deutsche Oper Berlin (four seasons) followed by a year as a guest artist at the Stadttheater in Bern. In addition, she has performed at the Royal Opera in Covent Garden, in Düsseldorf, and at the Zwingenburg Festival in Neckar. Major operatic roles include Cherubino, Susanna, Zerlina, Pamina, Donna Elvira, Cordelia, and Gretel among others. Bechly’s recordings include the Flowermaiden in *Parsifal* under Daniel Barenboim for Teldec Records, and the Telemann Cantatas, Schubert Mass in B flat, Der Contrabass (Schedl), and four song cycles by Matthias Ronnefeld for Da Capo records.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz** on **Tuesday, October 28 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$20.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and

UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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All Cal Performances programs are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz is presented in cooperation with the Goethe Institut, San Francisco, Ulrich Everding, Director.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Tuesday, October 28 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall. UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

Chamber Music & Orchestra

Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz

Klaus Arp, conductor

Hahn-Bin, violin

Daniela Bechly, soprano

Program:

Mendelssohn/Overture *Meeresstille und glueckliche Fahrt*

Sibelius/Violin Concerto

Strauss/Vier Letzte Lieder

Shostakovich/9th Symphony

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