

PIANO PRODIGY
LANG LANG
MAKES HIS CAL PERFORMANCES RECITAL DEBUT
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL

"It's not often that one is privileged to hear a musical legend in the making ... [Lang Lang] demonstrated the phenomenal technical ability and fine interpretational skills that have rocketed him to international stardom at a very young age."

– *St Louis Post-Dispatch*

BERKELEY, October 4, 2004 – World-renowned piano virtuoso **Lang Lang** makes his Cal Performances recital debut on **November 13 at 8:00 pm** in Zellerbach Hall. Already a veteran at age 22, Lang Lang is a sensation in the world of classical piano. “There seems no limit to where his gifts can take him ... With his showboat's natural charisma, a cherubic face, a huge heart and unusually rubbery fingers, he conveys guileless, delirious pleasure” (*New York Times Magazine*). His wide range of repertoire is reflected in his program that includes Mozart's *Piano Sonata No. 10 in C major*; Chopin's *Piano Sonata No. 3 in B minor*; Schumann's *Kinderszenen (Scenes from Childhood)*; two preludes by Rachmaninoff, *Op. 23, No. 2 in B flat major* and *Op. 23, No. 5 in G minor*; and two works by Liszt, *Années de pelerinage No. 2, Sonnet No. 104* and *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2*.

Born in 1982 in Shenyang, China, Lang Lang began piano lessons at the age of three with Professor Zhu Ya-Fen. At the age of five he won the Shenyang Piano Competition and played his first public recital. He entered Beijing's Central Music Conservatory when he was nine, studying with Professor Zhao Ping-Guo. At the age of 11, he won the first prize and award for outstanding artistic performance at the Fourth International Young Pianists' Competition in Germany. In 1995, at 13 years of age, he played Chopin's complete 24 Études at Beijing Concert Hall and also took first prize at the Tchaikovsky International Young Musicians' Competition in Japan, where he performed Chopin's *Concerto No. 2* with the Moscow Philharmonic. At 14 he

was a featured soloist at the China National Symphony's inaugural concert, broadcast by CCTV and attended by President Jiang Ze-Min.

In 1999 at age 17, Lang Lang took a step away from the child prodigy label and moved into the realm of adult professional when he was substituted at the last minute for an ailing André Watts at the Ravinia Festival's "Gala of the Century", playing Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto #1* with the Chicago Symphony and Christoph Eschenbach. The *Chicago Tribune* heralded him one of the most exciting keyboard talents encountered in many years. In 2001 he made his sold-out Carnegie Hall debut with Yuri Temirkanov, travelled to Beijing with the Philadelphia Orchestra on its 100th anniversary tour and made a highly acclaimed BBC Proms debut. In 2003, he returned to the BBC Proms for the First Night concert with Leonard Slatkin.

Lang Lang is the first Chinese pianist to be engaged by the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic, and has performed with many of the world's leading orchestras including Boston, New York, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Francisco, London Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, NHK Symphony, Israel Philharmonic, and the St. Petersburg Philharmonic. He has collaborated with conductors including Daniel Barenboim, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, Valery Gergiev, Mariss Jansons, James Levine, Loren Maazel, Zubin Mehta, Simon Rattle, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Yuri Temirkanov, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Franz Welser-Möst. Lang Lang makes regular recital appearances in the main concert halls of major cities all over the world. His schedule of frequent visits to Asia includes concerts with the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra in China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia.

During the 2004-05 season, Lang Lang will be heard with orchestras including the Vienna Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Berlin, Munich Philharmonic, Orchestre National de Lyon, Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic. With the China Philharmonic Lang Lang will tour North America and play New Year's concerts in Shanghai and Beijing. He appears in recital in many

international cities, including Vienna, Zurich, Hamburg, Madrid, London, Stockholm, Philadelphia, Boston, Vancouver and here in Berkeley.

The subject of a best-selling biography in China, Lang Lang has received numerous awards and has been seen by millions of television viewers throughout the world. As a Steinway Artist, he recently received the first-ever Gold Medallion on the occasion of the company's 150th anniversary. In the summer of 2002, he became the first recipient of the Leonard Bernstein Award at the Schleswig-Holstein Festival, in recognition of his distinguished musical talent. Lang Lang is dedicated to sharing music with young people and was recently recognized for his efforts by the United Nations' Children's Fund (UNICEF) who appointed him their newest and youngest international Goodwill Ambassador.

Lang Lang records exclusively for Deutsche Grammophon. His first DG album featuring the *Piano Concerto #1* by Tchaikovsky as well as the *Piano Concerto #1* of Mendelssohn both with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Daniel Barenboim remained on Billboard's top-selling classical charts for over 40 weeks. His second album, which was released in March 2004 and appeared immediately on the German pop charts, is a live recording of his Carnegie recital debut, which included a performance of Chinese traditional music with his father Guo-ren Lang and the world-premiere recording of Tan Dun's *Eight Memories in Watercolor*. A DVD of this recital with documentary footage has just been released. His third DG recording, due out in early 2005, will feature Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 2* and *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* with Valery Gergiev conducting the Kirov Orchestra.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Lang Lang** on **Saturday, November 13 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$32.00, \$42.00, and \$56.00**. 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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Cal Performances' programs are supported in part by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, November 13 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Recital

Lang Lang, piano

Program:

Mozart/Piano Sonata No. 10 in C major, K. 330

Chopin/Piano Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58

Schumann/*Kinderszenen (Scenes from Childhood)*, Op. 15

Rachmaninoff/Two Preludes, Op. 23, No. 2 in B flat major; Op. 23, No. 5 in G minor

Liszt/Petrarch: *Années de pèlerinage* No. 2, Sonnet No. 104; Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2, S244
(Horowitz Transcription)

Tickets: \$32.00, \$42.00, and \$56.00, 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.