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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS LES VIOLONS DU ROY
IN TWO PROGRAMS WITH GUEST ARTISTS TENOR IAN BOSTRIDGE
AND HARPSICHORDIST ALEXANDER WEIMANN
SUNDAY & TUESDAY, MAY 1 & 3, AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, April 1, 2011—Named after the string ensembles kept close at hand by the kings of France, Canadian ensemble **Les Violons du Roy** combines historical accuracy with passionate musical expression. The 18-member string ensemble of “almost superhuman perfection” (*Opera News*) will be joined by tenor **Ian Bostridge** on **Sunday, May 1, at 3:00 p.m.** for songs by George Frideric Handel, Francesco Gasparini, Antonio Caldara, Francesco Geminiani and Antonio Vivaldi, and instrumental works that include William Boyce’s Symphony in B-flat major, Op. 2, No.1; Handel’s Orchestral Suite from *Alcina*, HWV 34, and Concerto grosso in F major, Op. 3, No. 4; and Geminiani’s Concerto grosso, *La Folia*. On **Tuesday, May 3, at 8:00 p.m.** the ensemble will be joined by harpsichordist **Alexander Weimann** for an all-J. S. Bach program of Contrapuncti I, IV, IX, XIV from *The Art of Fugue*, BWV 1080; Orchestral Suite No 1 in C major, BWV 1066; and Concerto for Harpsichord in D minor, BWV 1052. Led by founder and conductor **Bernard Labadie**, Les Violons du Roy takes an unorthodox approach to performing using modern instruments with Baroque period bows. “The audience got a robust, pleasing, room-filling sound along with some period strokes for the authenticity crowd” (*Los Angeles Times*).

LES VIOLONS DU ROY

Québec City–based **Les Violons du Roy** was founded by artistic director Bernard Labadie in 1984 and specializes in the vast repertoire of music for chamber orchestra, performed in the stylistic manner most appropriate to each era. Although the ensemble plays on modern instruments, its approach to the works of the Baroque and Classical periods has been strongly influenced by current understanding of performance practice in the 17th and early 18th centuries; in this repertoire Les Violons du Roy uses Baroque bows and bowing technique.

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A pillar of the musical scene in Québec City, and well known throughout Canada for its concerts and its recordings for the French and English networks of the CBC, Les Violons du Roy has, since 1988, made over one hundred concert appearances in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Spain and the United States. After a first visit in August 1997, Les Violons du Roy played at Lincoln Center in New York in March 2001. They returned to New York in the wake of the September 11, 2001, attacks, offering an emotionally intense version of Mozart's *Requiem* and Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* that were hailed by *The New York Times* as "soul-healing."

Les Violons du Roy has made 20 CD recordings reaping seven JUNO Award nominations (Canada's Music Awards) and two JUNO Awards for Best Classical Album, Choral or Vocal Performance for their recordings of Handel's *Apollo and Dafne* and Mozart's *Requiem*. Their latest CD, *Bonbons*, was released in fall 2010.

BERNARD LABADIE

Bernard Labadie is in his 26th year as head and conductor of Les Violons du Roy. Labadie is one of the most sought-after guest conductors in North America and made his debut appearance with the Metropolitan Opera in New York in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* in September 2009. In 2009–2010, he appeared with the Cleveland Orchestra and returned to conduct the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Chicago, Houston and Colorado symphony orchestras. During coming seasons, he will complete guest engagements with the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony and St. Louis Symphony.

Labadie's reputation has travelled well beyond North America. In March 2010, he conducted the Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam, and in coming seasons will debut with the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra and the Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra (Finland). He will also return to lead the Northern Sinfonia (Newcastle, UK), the North German Radio Symphony Orchestra (Hanover, Germany) and the Musikkollegium Winterthur (Switzerland). He led the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra in November 2009 and will lead the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in 2011 and 2012.

Labadie is also becoming a favorite with European period-instrument groups. After a brilliant debut with the Orchestra of Collegium Vocale Ghent in 2008, he recorded an album in November 2009 with the English Concert and British tenor Ian Bostridge for EMI in London. In 2010, he conducted the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in a touring production of Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio* and will appear for the first time with the Academy of Ancient Music in London in 2011.

IAN BOSTRIDGE

Tenor **Ian Bostridge** was a post-doctoral fellow in history at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, before turning his hobby of singing into a full-time career with a 1993 debut at Wigmore Hall. A year later, he made his operatic debut as Lysander in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Opera Australia at the Edinburgh Festival. Since then, Bostridge has amassed a vast operatic repertoire with roles including Quint in Britten's *Turn of the Screw*, Caliban in Adès's *The Tempest*, Tamino and Don Ottavio in Mozart's operas *Die Zauberflöte* and *Don Giovanni*, respectively, and Vašek in Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*. He has performed in the world's major concert halls and at such prestigious festivals as the Salzburg and Vienna festivals, among others. He appeared last season at Cal Performances performing Schubert's *Winterreise*.

Bostridge has won several awards for his recordings, including three Gramophone Awards for *Die schöne Müllerin* with Graham Johnson in 1996, *Schubert Lieder* and *Schumann Lieder* in 1998, and for Britten's *Our Hunting Fathers* and *The Turn of the Screw* in 2003. He also won a Grammy Award in 1999 for *The Rake's Progress* with Sir John Eliot Gardiner. Recently, Bostridge sang in the 2010 Grammy-winning recording of Britten's *Billy Budd*. Bostridge had his own *Perspectives* series at Carnegie Hall in the 2005–2006 season and another in 2008 at the Barbican in London. Bostridge currently resides in London and is the music columnist for *Standpoint* magazine.

ALEXANDER WEIMANN

Alexander Weimann has established a reputation as one of the leading harpsichordists and ensemble leaders of his generation. He has travelled the world as guest of Cantus Cölln,

Freiburger Barockorchester, Gesualdo Consort, Tafelmusik and many others, and as a member of the ensemble Tragicomedia. He is artistic director of the Pacific Baroque Orchestra in Vancouver, and musical director of Les Voix Baroques, Tempo Rubato and Le Nouvel Opéra in Montreal.

Weimann can be heard on over 100 CDs and frequently on radio broadcasts in countries worldwide. His recording of the complete keyboard works of Alessandro Scarlatti was nominated for the Prix Opus for best Canadian early-music recording, and his album of Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostri* with Les Voix Baroques won the 2008 Prix Opus and was nominated for a Juno Classic Award.

Weimann was born in 1965 in Munich, Germany, where he studied the organ, church music, musicology, theater theory, medieval Latin and jazz piano. From 1990 to 1995, he taught music theory, improvisation and jazz at the Munich Musikhochschule. Since 1998 he has been giving numerous master classes in harpsichord and early music performance at several institutions, including Lunds University in Malmö, Sweden; the Bremen Musikhochschule, Germany; UC Berkeley, Dartmouth College and Mount Allison University. He also coaches voice and instrumental students at the Université de Montréal. In recent years, Weimann has returned to his youth love for jazz; he currently lives in Montreal.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Les Violons du Roy** on **Sunday, May 1**, at **3:00 p.m.** and **Tuesday, May 3**, at **8:00 p.m.** at **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$38.00, \$50.00, \$68.00, and \$80.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.net; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.net.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced three hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:
CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

Sunday, May 1, at 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 3, at 8:00 p.m.

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

Early Music

Les Violons du Roy

Bernard Labadie, music director

Ian Bostridge, tenor

Alexander Weimann, harpsichord

Program A (with Ian Bostridge): Sunday, May 1, at 3:00 p.m.

Featuring works by Handel, Gasparini, Caldara, Geminiani, Vivaldi and Boyce; Handel's Ochestral Suite from *Alcina*, HWV 34, and Concerto grosso in F major, Op. 3, No. 4; and Geminiani's Concerto grosso, *La Folia* (after Corelli)

Program B (with Alexander Weimann): Tuesday, May 3, at 8:00 p.m.

Bach: Contrapuncti I, IV, IX, XIV from *The Art of Fugue* (completed by Bernard Labadie after Davitt Moroney); Concerto for Harpsichord in D minor; Sinfonia from Cantata; and Orchestral Suite No. 1 in C major

Tickets: \$38.00, \$50.00, \$68.00 and \$80.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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