

CONTACT:  
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714  
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu  
Joe Yang 510.642.9121  
scyang@calperfs.berkeley.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 29, 2009

**PIANIST LOUIS LORTIE MAKES HIS  
CAL PERFORMANCES DEBUT ON  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 AT 3:00 P.M. AT HERTZ HALL**

**BERKELEY, September 29, 2009**—Praised for his fresh perspective and individuality, Canadian pianist **Louis Lortie** makes his Cal Performances debut on **Sunday, November 1 at 3:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall**. Proclaimed “one of a half-dozen pianists worth dropping everything to hear” (*The Daily Telegraph*, London), Lortie has performed to great acclaim throughout Europe. He is particularly well known for his interpretations of the works of **Maurice Ravel** and **Frédéric Chopin**, and his Berkeley program includes compositions by both. Lortie’s concert begins with **Robert Schumann**’s dark and nocturnal *Vier Nachtstücke*, (“Night Pieces”), Op. 23 and one of Ravel’s most celebrated solo piano pieces, *Gaspard de la nuit*. The second half of the program features **Elliott Carter**’s fast and fleeting *Night Fantasies* and Chopin’s stormy yet gentle Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35.

Born in Montreal, Louis Lortie made his debut with the Montreal Symphony at age 13 and the Toronto Symphony three years later, engaging him for an historic tour of the People’s Republic of China and Japan. In 1984, he won First Prize in the Busoni Competition and was a prize winner at the Leeds Competition. He has studied in Montreal with Yvonne Hubert (a pupil of French pianist Alfred Cortot), in Vienna with Beethoven specialist Dieter Weber and subsequently with Schnabel disciple Leon Fleisher, among others.

Lortie has performed the complete works of Ravel in London and Montreal for the BBC and CBC, and is also known for his interpretation of Chopin. Following a recital of Chopin’s complete etudes in London’s Queen Elizabeth Hall, *The Financial Times* wrote: “Better Chopin playing than this is not to be heard, not anywhere.” Lortie has performed the complete Beethoven sonatas in Wigmore Hall, the Ford Center in Toronto, the Berlin Philharmonie, and the Sala Grande del Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi in Milan. With the Montréal Symphony, he has performed and conducted all five Beethoven Piano Concertos and

-MORE-

most recently, the complete Mozart Piano Concertos. He often performs major contemporary works, recently concentrating on pieces by British composer Thomas Adès.

Lortie has performed under the baton of conductors Lorin Maazel, Kurt Masur, Seiji Ozawa, Charles Dutoit, Kurt Sanderling, Neeme Jarvi, Sir Andrew Davis, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Mark Elder and Osmo Vänskä, among others. He has also been involved in many chamber music projects with such musicians as Frank Peter Zimmermann, Leonidas Kavakos, Renaud and Gautier Capuçon, Jan Vogler, Augustin Dumay, the Takács Quartet, and Gidon Kremer.

Forthcoming engagements include the San Francisco and Chicago symphonies, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Warsaw and Dresden philharmonics, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, a tour of Spain with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the Ulster Orchestra, the Beethoven Bonn Orchestra, Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony and BBC Philharmonic. Future recitals include the Vienna Konzerthaus, the International Piano Series and the International Chamber Music Season at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, and the Aldeburgh Festival. Lortie will also play and conduct the Sinfonia Cracovia from his piano at the 14th Beethoven Festival, with the Quebec Symphony and Slovenian Philharmonic.

Lortie has made over 30 recordings on the Chandos label, ranging from Mozart to Stravinsky. His recording of Beethoven's "Eroica" Variations won the Edison Award, and his disc of Schumann's *Bunte Blätter* and other works by Schumann and Brahms was named one of the best recordings of the year by *BBC Music Magazine*. His recording of the complete Chopin etudes, Op. 10 and 25, has been cited by *BBC Music Magazine* as one of "50 Recordings by Superlative Pianists." Lortie's recording of Liszt's complete works for piano and orchestra with the Residentie Orchestra of The Hague was selected as "Editor's Choice" by *Gramophone*.

In 2008, Lortie received a special invitation from the National Center for the Performing Arts of China to take part in the 2008 Beijing Centenary Piano Extravaganza directly linked to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, which included a commission for 10 pianists by Chinese composer Cui Shi Guan with the Beijing Symphony Orchestra.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Louis Lortie** on **Sunday, November 1** at **3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$52.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); 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.org](http://www.calperformances.org).

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community Rush Tickets. Rush Tickets are announced two 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 \$20.00 for all other community members. Information is available at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

# # #

Cal Performances 2009/10 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC is 2009/10 season media sponsor.

# # #

### CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

#### CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Sunday, November 1** at **3:00 p.m.**

**Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

*Recital*

**Louis Lortie**, piano

**Program:**

Schumann/*Vier Nachtstücke* ("Night Pieces"), Op.23

Ravel/*Gaspard de la nuit*

Carter/*Night Fantasies*

Chopin/*Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor*, Op. 35

**Tickets:** \$52.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

---

- Cal Performances -

-MORE-