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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 3, 2005

**RISING STARS OF ST. PETERSBURG'S MARIINSKY ACADEMY, SOPRANO IRINA MATAEVA AND TENOR DMITRI VOROPAEV, MAKE THEIR BAY AREA DEBUTS ACCOMPANIED BY PIANIST LARISSA GERGIEVA ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

**SIGHTLINES: Pre-concert talk by musicologist William Quillen, 2:00–2:30 p.m.**

**BERKELEY, November 3, 2005** – Each year, a small, select group of musicians from Russia's Mariinsky Academy of Young Singers in St. Petersburg are chosen to tour internationally with artistic director and pianist **Larissa Gergieva**. Known for her instinct to find talent, this season Gergieva brings soprano **Irina Mataeva** and tenor **Dmitri Voropaev**, both on the cusp of international performance careers, to Berkeley's Hertz Hall on **Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 p.m.** as part of Cal Performances' Centennial Season. Mataeva and Voropaev will sing a program of duets and solos by composers including **Pyotr Tchaikovsky**, **Sergei Rachmaninoff**, and **Alexandr Grechaninov**.

A free *Sightlines* pre-concert talk entitled "The Russian Romance as Everyday Musical Life, 1830-1900" will be given by musicologist **William Quillen** one hour before the concert, 2:00–2:30 p.m. in Hertz Hall.

**IRINA MATAEVA**

Soprano **Irina Mataeva** graduated from the St. Petersburg Conservatory in 1999 after studying with Tamara Novichenko. Since 1998 she has been a soloist at the Academy of the Mariinsky Theatre and has toured to Finland, China, America, Germany, Italy, and the UK. She has taken master classes with Elena Obratzova, Renata Scotto, Larissa Gergieva, and others. Mataeva has sung in recital with the Mariinsky Academy at Wigmore Hall in London and with Larissa Gergieva at St John's Smith Square as a part of the Rosenblatt Series. Her recent opera engagements include singing Chloe in *Pique Dame*, Micaela in *Carmen* and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* with the Washington Opera; Chloe at the Los Angeles Opera; and Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin* at the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris (where the Sponsors' Circle named her Most Popular

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Artist in 2003) and the Opera de Marseille. Mataeva has also sung Lisa in *La Sonnambula*, Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Natasha in *War and Peace*, and Sofia in *Semyon Kotko*. Future engagements include *Sampiero Corso* at the Opera de Marseille.

### **DMITRI VOROPAEV**

Born in Baku in 1980, **Dmitri Voropaev** graduated from the M.I. Glinka Choral College in 1998 and entered the St. Petersburg Conservatory, where he studied conducting and choral singing. He joined the Mariinsky Academy of Young Singers in 2000 and has since sung in concerts at the Academy and abroad, including performances in Finland and Estonia. In 2001 Voropaev was invited to sing in concert with the Estonian State Philharmonic orchestra, and he made his debut on the Mariinsky stage under Maestro Valery Gergiev as Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* in 2002. A 2004 finalist of Placido Domingo's Operalia Competition, Voropaev has also sung Chevalier Belfiore in *Il Viaggio a Reims* at the Mariinsky Theatre, *Don Giovanni* with Valery Gergiev in Japan and *Boris Godunov* in Washington DC. Future engagements include his debut at La Monnaie in Brussels, singing *Boris Godunov*.

### **LARISSA GERGIEVA**

Pianist **Larissa Gergieva** serves as accompanist, teacher and mentor to the Artists of the Mariinsky Academy. An Honored National Artist of Russia, she was appointed artistic director of the Mariinsky Academy of Young Singers upon its formation in 1998, and charged with nurturing young Russian musical talent. She has toured with Academy artists to Switzerland, Argentina, Paris, London, New York, and across North America, including last season's memorable appearance at Cal Performances where Gergieva introduced mezzo-soprano Ekaterina Semenchuk, an "artist of fire and finesse" (*San Francisco Chronicle*), to Bay Area audiences.

Gergieva began to study music at age seven, along with her brother **Valery Gergiev**, who serves as principal conductor and artistic director of St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre. Gergieva continued her piano studies at Rostov-on-Don and St. Petersburg, and played her first recital as an accompanist at the age of 15. She taught piano at the Academy of Musical Arts in Vladikavkaz and was soon invited to be *repetiteur* at the Vladikavkaz Opera. While there, she

prepared singers for productions of *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, *I Pagliacci*, and *Carmen* as well as many Russian operas. She also prepared Verdi's *Otello* for her brother to conduct at the Vladikavkaz Opera. In 1987 she was appointed *repetiteur* at the Tchaikovsky Opera House in Perm, where she also prepared singers for national and international singing competitions. She continues to hold master classes in Perm for Russian and international singers, and is general director of the biennial Rimsky-Korsakov Competition for Singers in St. Petersburg. Gergieva is in demand throughout the world as an opera coach, working in Aix-en-Provence, San Francisco, Salzburg, Milan, Tokyo, London, and other cities.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Artists of the Mariinsky Academy: Irina Mataeva and Dmitri Voropaev** with pianist **Larissa Gergieva** on **Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$42.00**. 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](http://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](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

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Cal Performances' 2005/2006 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Sunday, December 4 at 2:00–2:30 p.m.**

**SIGHTLINES**

**Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**

Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

Pre-concert talk by musicologist **William Quillen** titled “The Russian Romance as Everyday Musical Life, 1830-1900” will be given one hour before the performance. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post performance discussions with Cal Performances’ guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience’s experience. These events are free to ticketholders.

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**Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**

Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

***Recital***

**Artists of the Mariinsky Academy**

**Irina Mataeva**, soprano

**Dmitri Voropaev**, tenor

**Larissa Gergieva**, piano

**Program:**

Dargomizhsky/“You and You”

Varlamov/“The mountain heights”

Bulakhov/“Barkarola”

Taneev/“In an invisible haze”; “When autumn leaves are spinning”; “The Fountains”

Tchaikovsky/“A Canary”; “To forget so soon”; “Tell me, whereof under shadows of the branches...”; “Again, as always I am alone”; “I would not tell you anything”

Rachmaninoff /“A Prayer”; “A Lilac”; “In my garden at night”; “Island”; “My sweetheart, let’s leave...”

Grechaninov/“By a sharp pole-axe...”; “The snowdrops”; “Autumn”; “She was yours”; “People’s tears”; “On impulse of a loving tenderness”

Gluer/“The sad tears are falling”; “Asian Song”; “Only the dreams”

Cue/“Was growing dusky”; “Tsar-Village’s statue...”; “For the portrait of Zukovsky”; “Where is a lilac...”

**Tickets:** \$42.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door.