

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 27, 2007

**SOPRANO MEASHA BRUEGGERGOSMAN MAKES HER BAY AREA RECITAL DEBUT
AT CAL PERFORMANCES SUNDAY, APRIL 1 AT 3:00 P.M. AT HERTZ HALL**

BERKELEY, February 27, 2007—Emerging as one of the most exciting performers and vibrant personalities of the day, Canadian soprano **Measha Brueggergosman**, makes her Bay Area recital debut **Sunday, April 1 at 3:00 p.m.** at **Hertz Hall**. Called a “singer of rare gifts and artistic intensity” (*San Francisco Chronicle*) with “an all-encompassing warmth and joy, melding honed artistry with youthful enthusiasm” (*The Washington Post*), she has been praised by the international press for her innate musicianship and radiant voice as well as a regal stage presence far beyond her 29 years. She has already acquired an impressive list of opera performances and is deeply committed to the art of recital. Her Berkeley program is to be announced. She will be accompanied by pianist **J. Penna**.

MEASHA BRUEGGERGOSMAN

Measha Brueggergosman has called singing “her sweet abandon,” from a very young age. Born in 1977, the daughter a Canadian Broadcasting Company employee, Measha Gosman grew up listening to the radio, especially classical music, the predominant programming in her hometown of Fredericton, New Brunswick. She studied both piano and voice from an early age. For many years, she assumed she would become a classical pianist. But at 15, when she was scheduled to play the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto with Symphony New Brunswick, she developed a bad case of nerves. After some soul searching, she realized that voice performance held no terror for her; piano quickly became the career not taken. She subsequently studied voice at the University of Toronto with soprano Mary Morrison and continued her musical education after graduation with soprano and Lieder expert Edith Wiens in Germany.

The youthful Canadian’s career continues to ascend at an impressive pace. After winning a number of prizes—2002 Jeunesses Musicals Montreal International; the Wigmore Hall International Song Competition; the George London Prize; the Queen Sonja International Music Competition, Oslo—Brueggergosman is in great demand as both an opera and concert artist. Recent significant symphonic debuts have included celebrated performances with Michael Tilson Thomas and the San

-MORE-

Francisco Symphony Orchestra, Hans Graf and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and with the Deutsches-Symphonie Orchester Berlin singing Strauss's *Vier Letzte Lieder*.

Past recital debuts include performances at Carnegie's Weill Hall, Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall, the Kennedy Center, Spivey Hall in Atlanta and at the Edinburgh, Bergen, Verbier, and Tuscan Sun festivals. Brueggergosman recently reprised a role that was formative to her as a college student, Madame Lidoine in Poulenc's *The Dialogues of the Carmelites*, for the Vancouver Opera. She also has sung Juno in *Aeneas in Karthago* at the Staatsoper Stuttgart, and both Liù in *Turandot* and Sister Rose in *Dead Man Walking* for the Cincinnati Opera. She gave a series of concerts at the Stratford Summer Music Festival spanning opera, Broadway, jazz, spirituals and Motown.

Brueggergosman has recorded two CDs to date, both for CBC Records: *So Much to Tell*, featuring works by Copland, Barber and Gershwin, which received a Juno nomination last year; and *Extase* which was released in September 2006, featuring works by Massenet and Berlioz, including *Les nuits d'été*, with Yoav Talmi conducting L'Orchestre Symphonique de Québec.

She lives in Toronto with her husband, Markus Brueggergosman, whom she met when he was a foreign exchange student and with whom she has compounded her name.

J. J. PENNA

Pianist **J. J. Penna** has already performed in recital with such notable singers as Kathleen Battle, Harolyn Blackwell, David Daniels, Denyce Graves, Kevin McMillan, Florence Quivar and Measha Brueggergosman, among others. Penna has performed at the Kennedy Center, Weill Recital Hall in New York City, Wigmore Hall, Seiji Ozawa Hall in Tanglewood, and in venues on concert tours throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, the Far East, South America and the former Soviet Union. Devoted to the performance and study of contemporary music, he has premiered song cycles by William Bolcom, Ricky Ian Gordon, Richard Hundley and Lowell Lieberman. He performs regularly with a variety of young artists under the auspices of the Marilyn Horne Foundation, Concert Artists Guild and Young Concert Artists. He recently participated in the Marilyn Horne Annual Birthday Concert at the Juilliard Theatre.

Penna devotes much of his time to the teaching of art song literature, and is currently on the faculties of Juilliard, Yale and Westminster Choir College. Penna has directed the vocal program at the Bowdoin Festival for three summers, and has been on the staff of the Steans Institute of the Ravinia Festival for five summers.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for soprano **Measha Brueggergosman** in recital on **Sunday, April 1 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; 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.calperformances.net.

#

Cal Performances' 2006/07 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC and SFStation.com are 2006/07 season media sponsors.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, April 1 at 3:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way at College, Berkeley

Recital

Measha Brueggergosman, soprano

J. J. Penna, piano

Program: "A singer of rare gifts and artistic intensity soprano Measha Brueggergosman makes her Bay Area recital debut at Hertz Hall in Berkeley Sunday April 1, 2007.

Tickets: \$42.00, 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.
