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**NETHERLANDS BACH SOCIETY PERFORMS BACH'S MASS IN B MINOR**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 21 AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**SECOND UNITED STATES TOUR CELEBRATES THE RELEASE OF THE ENSEMBLE'S CD  
OF BACH'S COLLECTION OF SACRED MUSIC**

**BERKELEY, March 12, 2007**—Returning to the United States for the second time in its 86-year history, the **Netherlands Bach Society** brings “perfect clarity” and playing that is “lively and fresh” (*The New York Times*) to its Cal Performances’ concert **Saturday, April 21 at 8:00 p.m.** at First Congregational Church. Holland’s oldest and pre-eminent music ensemble devoted to period instrument performance is led by conductor and artistic director **Jos van Veldhoven**. The 37-member ensemble includes five soloists and ten chorus members and will perform **Johann Sebastian Bach’s Mass in B minor**. The tour coincides with the release of its CD of the same work in April 2007; this is the third installment in the Netherlands Bach Society’s highly acclaimed series of recordings of sacred works by Bach. Composed during the final two decades of the composer’s life, the *Mass in B minor* is best described as an anthology of Bach’s sacred music. What makes this piece remarkable is that Bach was able to make a coherent sequence of movements from a diverse pool of materials. It has been speculated that Bach himself probably never heard the piece in its entirety. The stellar group of soloists specifically chosen for the recording, who will also be performing in Berkeley, consists of sopranos **Dorothee Miels** and **Johanette Zomer**, countertenor **Matthew White**, tenor **Charles Daniels** and baritone **Peter Harvey**.

**NETHERLANDS BACH SOCIETY**

Founded in 1921, the **Netherlands Bach Society** is the Netherlands’ longest standing early music organization. The influence of the ensemble, whose popular annual performances of Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* in the Dutch town of Naarden date back to 1922, reached first the local early music community and then throughout Europe and beyond. The musicians and vocalists of the Netherlands Bach Society are specialists in the authentic performance practices

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of the 17th and 18th centuries. The ensemble tailors the size to the repertoire it performs, a flexibility made possible by the great diversity of talent within the Netherlands Bach Society, ensuring that the cast is always in agreement with the particular program.

The group focuses its concert activity primarily in the Netherlands, but also undertakes concert tours and performs at festivals in France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Poland and Japan. The company last performed at Cal Performances in 2004. Many of the world's leading early music conductors, including Gustav Leonhardt, Ton Koopman, Philippe Herreweghe and René Jacobs, have led the ensemble. The Netherlands Bach Society has made eleven recordings, the most recent featuring Bach's *Mass in B minor* on the Channel Classics label to be released in April 2007.

### THE ARTISTS

**Jos van Veldhoven**, artistic director and principle conductor of the Netherlands Bach Society, is a graduate of Utrecht University and the Royal Conservatory in The Hague. He divides his time between the Netherlands Bach Society, which he has led since 1984; the Utrechts Barok Consort, which he founded in 1976; and guest conducting appearances with such ensembles as Das Orchester der Beethovenhalle Bonn, the Tokyo Philharmonic, the Telemann Chamber Collegium and the New York Collegium. He has established a considerable reputation for reviving lost gems of the Baroque era, including oratorios by Telemann and Graun, the Vespers of Gastoldi, and operas by Mattheson, Keiser, Bononcini, Legrenzi and Scarlatti.

Soprano **Dorthée Miels** is a versatile artist whose early career was marked by an extraordinary expertise in the music of the 17th and 18th centuries, followed by an increasing involvement with new music as well. She sang the title role in the world premiere of J. M. Staud's opera *Berenice* at the Munich Biennale in 2004 and in recent performances of Pierre Boulez' *Pli Selon pli* at the Berlin Konzerthaus. She performs regularly with Collegium Vocale Gent, the Bach Collegium Japan, Netherlands Bach Society and with conductors Ivor Bolton, Philippe Herreweghe and Jos van Veldhoven.

Called a “new voice to watch” by *Gramophone Magazine*, lyric soprano **Johannette Zomer** is quickly establishing herself as a dynamic artist on the international concert circuit. Zomer has brought idiomatic clarity and expressive range to a diverse repertoire in collaborations with some of the industry’s brightest stars, including Kent Nagano, Valery Gergiev and early music specialists Philippe Herreweghe, Reinhard Goebel and Jos van Veldhoven.

**Matthew White** has established himself as one of the leading countertenors of his generation. Praised for his musical intelligence and beauty of sound, White is in demand as a baroque specialist who has appeared at many of the world’s finest operatic and concert venues, including the Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Houston Grand Opera and the New York City Opera.

Celebrated for his nuanced musicianship and vivid interpretations, English tenor **Charles Daniels** has elicited critical accolades in performance of a repertoire extending 1,150 years, from the ninth century to the present. He has appeared in concert and operatic engagements throughout Europe and in Israel, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States under the directions of such distinguished artists as John Eliot Gardiner, William Christie, Jos van Veldhoven and Andrew Parrott.

Called “one of our finest young baritones” by London’s *Sunday Times*, **Peter Harvey** is an international soloist celebrated for his intelligent and nuanced interpretations of music of the baroque music. In demand all over Europe, Harvey has appeared frequently at London’s Wigmore Hall and had the honor of singing the *St. John Passion* with the choir of St. Thomas Church, Leipzig, on their first visit to England, and subsequently in Leipzig for a Good Friday performance.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for the **Netherlands Bach Society** on **Saturday, April 21, 2007 at 8:00 p.m.** in First Congregational Church are priced at **\$46.00**. Performance 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 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.

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

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**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Saturday, April 21 at 8:00 p.m.**

**First Congregational Church**  
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

*Music Before 1850*

**Netherlands Bach Society**

**Jos van Veldhoven**, conductor

**Dorothee Miels**, soprano

**Johanette Zomer** soprano

**Matthew White**, countertenor

**Charles Daniels**, tenor

**Peter Harvey**, baritone

**Program:**

*Bach/Mass in B minor*

**Tickets:** \$46.00, 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.

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