

FOR IMMEDIATE
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NETHERLANDS BACH SOCIETY
MAKES ITS CALIFORNIA DEBUT WITH RECORDER VIRTUOSO
MARION VERBRUGGEN
SATURDAY, MARCH 13 AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**Sightlines: Pre-concert discussion with Netherlands Bach Society conductor
Jos van Veldhoven at 7:00 p.m.**

BERKELEY, February 9, 2004 – Cal Performances presents the revered **Netherlands Bach Society**, Holland's oldest music ensemble devoted to period instrument performances, **Saturday, March 13 at 8:00 p.m.** in Berkeley's First Congregational Church. On its first North American tour for artistic director and conductor **Jos van Veldhoven's** ensemble of eight vocalists and eleven instrumentalists, the Netherlands Bach Society has played a major role in the blossoming of the early music movement since the 1970s. The program, *Bach and His Musical Inheritance*, will feature music by **Johann Schelle, Johann Kuhnau, Dietrich Buxtehude, Johann Bach, and Johann Sebastian Bach**, including the latter's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4. "Jos von Veldhoven and his ensembles understand each other so perfectly that he can take risks in the performance," writes Amsterdam's *NRC Handelsblad*. "The fine contrasts, the subtle changes in tempo, the dynamics and colour made this performance...wonderfully entralling." Recorder virtuoso **Marion Verbruggen**, who has made many appearances as a featured performer at the Berkeley Festival & Exhibition, will join the Netherlands Bach Society as special guest. A free *Sightlines* pre-concert discussion with conductor Jos van Veldhoven will take place from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m., one hour prior to the performance.

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

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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 of the 17th and 18th centuries, tailoring its ensemble size to the repertoire performed. This flexibility is possible because of the great diversity of talent within the Netherlands Bach Society, ensuring that the cast is always in agreement with the particular program. The Berkeley performance features **Irmela Brünger** and **Sara Jäggi** (sopranos); **Peter de Groot** and **Marleene Goldstein** (altos); **Immo Schröder** and **Otto Bouwknecht** (tenors); **Michiel Meijer** and **Matthew Baker** (basses); **Antoinette Lohmann** and **Pieter Affourtit** (violin); **Jan Willem Vis** and **John Wilson Meyer** (violas); **Marion Verbruggen** and **Anneke Boeke** (recorders); and **Eyal Streett** (bassoon), **Richte van der Meer** (cello), **Christian Staude** (bass), **Andre Henrich** (theorbo), and **Pieter Dirksen** (organ).

The group primarily focuses its concert activity in the Netherlands, but also undertakes concert tours and performs at festivals in France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Poland and Japan. 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 nine recordings, the most recent featuring Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, on the Channel Classics label.

JOS VAN VELDHOVEN

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 work with the Netherlands Bach Society, 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.

MARION VERBRUGGEN

Marion Verbruggen has earned an international reputation as a master recorder virtuoso in her solo recitals throughout North America, Japan and Europe. “Marion Verbruggen's virtuosity exhausts the available superlative in a critic's vocabulary,” says the *Chicago Tribune*. As a chamber musician, she has performed and recorded with many of the top early music ensembles including Musica Antiqua Köln, Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and Tafelmusik. She has frequently been a featured artist in Cal Performances' Berkeley Festival & Exhibition, last appearing in June 2002 with harpsichordist Arthur Hass and viola da gambaist Mary Springfels.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Netherland Bach Society** on **Saturday, March 13, 2004 at 8:00 p.m.** in First Congregational Church are priced at **\$38.00**. 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, 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 the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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Cal Performances' presentation of Netherlands Bach Society is sponsored by Kwei and Michele Ü, and the Sz-wing Ü Memorial Fund.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, March 13 at 8:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Music Before 1850

Netherlands Bach Society

Jos van Veldhoven, conductor

Marion Verbruggen, recorder

Program:

Bach and His Musical Inheritance

Schelle/*Barmherzig und gnädig ist der Herr*

Kuhnau/*Gott sei mir gnädig*

J.S. Bach, Kuhnau/*Der Gerechte kommt um*

J.S. Bach/*Brandenburg Concerto No. 4, BWV 1049*

Buxtehude/*Nimm von uns Herr du treuer Gott, Bux WV 78*

Buxtehude/*Jesu meines Lebens Leben, Bux WV 62*

Johann Bach/*Unser Leben ist ein Schatten*

J.S. Bach/*Komm, du süsse Todesstunde, BWV 161*

Tickets: \$38.00, 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.
