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CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS ROBERT COLE
A CELEBRATION OF COLE'S 23-YEAR LEGACY AS DIRECTOR
SATURDAY, MAY 9 AT 7:00 P.M. AT ZELLERBACH HALL,
A BENEFIT FOR CAL PERFORMANCES

**Mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade, Composer/Pianist Jake Heggie
and musicians from the Cal Band, UC Choral and Jazz Ensembles and University Chorus
Offer Artistic Divertissements**

MENU BY ALICE WATERS AND DÉCOR BY STANLEE GATTI

BERKELEY, April 10, 2009—Hundreds of performing arts lovers from around the Bay Area and beyond will gather to honor Cal Performances' Director **Robert Cole**, who steps down from his post at the end of August 2009 after 23 years of distinguished leadership. During his tenure, Cole transformed Cal Performances into an internationally recognized presenting and commissioning powerhouse offering Northern California audiences performances by the most renowned dance, music and theater artists in the world. *Cal Performances Presents Robert Cole*, a benefit for Cal Performances' presenting program and endowment, will be held **Saturday, May 9** at **Zellerbach Hall** beginning with cocktails at **7:00 p.m.** and followed by dinner and artistic divertissements at **8:00 p.m.** The Honorary Co-chairs of the celebration and fundraiser are **Ann and Gordon Getty, Natalia Makarova and Edward Karkar**, and **Margery and William Zellerbach**. **Petra Michel** and **Maris Meyerson** serve as Celebration Co-chairs. The illustrious mezzo-soprano **Frederica von Stade**, described by *The New York Times* as "one of America's finest artists and singers," and award-winning composer and pianist **Jake Heggie** will contribute musical offerings. Also tapped to entertain are the musicians from the **Cal Band, UC Choral and Jazz Ensembles** and the **University Chorus**. Culinary impresario **Alice Waters** and party planner supreme **Stanlee Gatti** will create the menu and décor for the evening.

Under Cole's sustained and inspired leadership, Cal Performances is considered one of the most influential presenters of the performing arts in the United States, alongside Carnegie Hall, the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Kennedy Center. The exceptional growth in arts presentation during his tenure has established Cal Performances as a leader in the international

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arts scene where careers are made. European, Russian, African, Asian and South American artists vie for a coveted place on seasons that include the likes of the **Grand Kabuki Theater of Japan, The Gate Theatre of Dublin, Kirov and Bolshoi ballets and orchestras**, and such international stars as **Mark Morris, Yo-Yo Ma, Youssou N'Dour, Wynton Marsalis, Laurie Anderson, Gilberto Gil, Jordi Savall and Cecilia Bartoli**.

THE CELEBRATION

Alice Waters, one of the world's most creative and influential culinary forces, will create the menu for the cocktail reception and dinner for *Cal Performances Presents Robert Cole*. Waters is the founder of Berkeley's legendary Chez Panisse—and a Cal grad—who created a revolutionary California cuisine through her advocacy for fresh and simple ingredients. She is the Founder and Director of the Chez Panisse Foundation, a Visiting Dean at the French Culinary Institute, an Honorary Trustee of the American Center for Food, Wine and the Arts in Napa, and Board Member of the San Francisco Ferry Plaza Farmers Market. The sure-to-be-memorable décor will be the work of master party guru **Stanlee Gatti**. Former San Francisco Arts Commission president, Gatti considers party giving an art form and will bring his vast design experience and always entertaining creativity to the celebration. In a fanciful twist, partygoers will dine on Zellerbach Hall's stage, giving the evening a dramatic, behind-the-scenes feel. Waters and Gatti reprise their artistic partnership for Cal Performances, having produced an unforgettable Centennial Gala celebration for 500 people on the UC Berkeley campus in 2006.

The duo of mezzo-soprano **Frederica von Stade** and composer and pianist **Jake Heggie** will offer a selection of songs to honor Cole. The two artists have appeared at Cal Performances separately and together, most recently when Von Stade starred in Heggie's new opera *Three Decembers* which had its West Coast premiere in Berkeley in December 2008.

ROBERT COLE

From the beginning of his tenure as Director of Cal Performances in 1986, **Robert Cole** has taken the organization from a respected regional performing arts center to one that shares acclaim with the greatest performing arts centers and festivals in the world. Audiences have responded enthusiastically with ticket sales increasing more than tenfold since 1986.

Early on, Cole established long term relationships with important artists and scholars, commissioned and produced new works, and discovered new talent. “I had the idea to make [Berkeley] more like a London, New York or Paris where the greatest artists come from all over the world,” stated Cole in a 2005 KQED interview. “That was my goal when I came here and that’s what we’ve been working on ever since.”

One of his early partnerships was with choreographer Mark Morris whom Cole first invited to Berkeley in 1987. Cole has presented a string of Mark Morris Dance Group world, U.S. and West Coast premieres and commissions, including world premieres of *Falling Down Stairs* with Yo-Yo Ma (1997) and *World Power* (1995) and *Rhymes With Silver* (1997), both set to music by Lou Harrison; the U.S. premieres of Morris’s staging of Jean-Philippe Rameau’s *Platée* (1998) and Purcell’s *King Arthur* (2006); and West Coast premieres of *L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* (1994), *The Hard Nut* (1996), *Mozart Dances* (2007) and *Romeo & Juliet, On Motifs of Shakespeare* (2008).

Cole also commissioned and presented an impressive list of premieres with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, including the American premiere of *Ocean* (1996), performed in Harmon Gym, and the world premiere of Cunningham’s masterpiece *Biped* (1999). Cole has, additionally, commissioned or co-commissioned new works from theater/opera director Peter Sellars; choreographers Twyla Tharp, Bill T. Jones and Pascal Rioult; the Kronos Quartet; actor/director Robert Lepage; and performance artist Laurie Anderson; among others. Highlights for Cole have been presenting the world premiere of John Adams’s song-play *I Was Looking at the Ceiling, and Then I Saw the Sky* (1995) with libretto by UC Berkeley poet June Jordan, directed by Sellars; the world premiere of *Nur Du* (“Only You”) by German expressionist choreographer Pina Bausch and her Tanztheater Wuppertal (1996); and the U.S. debut and final performances of the acclaimed Berliner Ensemble before the company disbanded in 1999.

In 1990, Cole founded the Berkeley Festival & Exhibition of early music, now a biennial weeklong international festival presented in association with the UC Berkeley Department of Music, the San Francisco Early Music Society and Early Music America. In 2003, he

established the Berkeley Edge Fest, a biennial showcase for new and contemporary works of performing arts that has featured the compositions of John Adams, John Zorn, Lou Harrison and Terry Riley. In 2007, the festival spotlighted the work of Paul Dresher and Frederic Rzewski. *Wall Street Journal* arts critic David Littlejohn wrote in the *California Monthly*, “Cole’s programming for Cal Performances has been more adventurous than Lincoln Center’s and broader in scope than that of Brooklyn Academy of Music.”

To bring about these productions, Cole forged partnerships with Royal Opera Covent Garden, the Edinburgh International Festival, London’s Barbican Centre, English National Opera and Lincoln Center in New York City, among many others. He has attracted new audiences to Berkeley by broadening international arts presenting to include such celebrated companies as Lyon Opera Ballet and Orchestra (1995 to present day); the Royal Court Theatre (2004); the Grand Kabuki Theater of Japan (1990, 1996 and 2005); the National Ballet of China (1995 and 2005) and both the Kirov and Bolshoi ballets and orchestras (2002–2009). Under Cole’s leadership, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater now gives more performances in Berkeley than any other place in the world outside of New York. The many internationally celebrated artists who have regularly appeared at Cal Performances include Yo-Yo Ma, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Cecilia Bartoli, Ravi Shankar, Gilberto Gil, Philip Glass, Jordi Savall, Eva Yerbabuena, Paco de Lucia and Sweet Honey In The Rock. Among the many American debuts Cole has presented are tenor Ian Bostridge, violinist Julia Fischer and the esteemed early music ensemble Il Giardino Armonico. One reason many artists value Cal Performances so highly is because Cole is an artist himself and he “understands what artists need to do their best work,” explains cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

Soon after Cole arrived, the campus’s Student Musical Activities program was brought under his leadership. Given his training as a musician and conductor, he welcomed the opportunity to shape the extracurricular music activities composed of the University’s famed Cal Band, UC Jazz Ensembles and UC Choral Ensembles.

As arts funding continues on a precipitous drop, schools have turned to Cal Performances to fill the gap. In the past 23 years, the organization has expanded arts education offerings both

in schools and on campus. More than 100 programs are presented annually, including the highly popular *SchoolTime* and *Cal Performances in the Classroom* that together serve more than 22,000 K–12 students and teachers and are nationally recognized as model arts education programs. Cole is particularly proud of *AileyCamp*, the nationally acclaimed youth program conceived by Alvin Ailey and locally produced by Cal Performances. The camp opened on campus in 2002 and is sustained by a coalition of sponsors and patrons. Additionally, Cole has deepened the organization's commitment to higher education by working closely with UCB faculty to support their work. A full range of lectures, demonstrations and symposiums are programmed yearly for University students and community members.

In 1996, Cole along with the support of the University and key patrons, initiated the formation of a Board of Trustees to insure the stability and continuity of Cal Performances. Dean Emeritus of the Hass Business School, Earl Cheit, served as the first Board chairman.

In recognition of Cole's achievements, UC Berkeley Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien awarded him the 1997 Berkeley Citation, the campus's highest administrative award, bestowed on individuals who have "rendered distinguished or extraordinary service to the University." In 1995, Cole was made Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters by France's Minister of Culture and Francophonie; he received the William Dawson Award for Programmatic Excellence from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters in 1998.

Cole is a graduate of the University of Southern California School of Music and studied conducting with Richard Lert and Ingolf Dahl in California, with Leonard Bernstein and Leon Barzin at the Tanglewood Music Center, and with Hans Swarowsky in Europe. Prior to his appointment in Berkeley, Cole was the Executive Director of the Brooklyn Center for Performing Arts at Brooklyn College, and previously served as Executive Director of the Bardavon 1869 Opera House in Poughkeepsie, New York. He was Associate Conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and was Music Director and Executive Director of the Ballet Society of Los Angeles. Cole has served on panels for New York State Council on the Arts, California Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts, and on the boards of Early Music America, San Francisco Early Music Society and International Society of the Performing Arts.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for *Cal Performances Presents Robert Cole*, a benefit for Cal Performances, on **Saturday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m.** at **Zellerbach Hall** begin at **\$500.00**; tables for 10 begin at **\$10,000**. Valet parking is included in the price of all tickets. Celebration tickets are available by calling Cal Performances Development Office at (510) 642-8395 or by emailing social@calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS ROBERT COLE A Benefit for Cal Performances

Honorary Chairs

Ann and Gordon Getty
Natalia Makarova and Edward Karkar
Margery and William Zellerbach

Celebration Co-chairs

Petra Michel and Maris Meyerson

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Annette Campbell-White and Ruediger
Naumann-Etienne

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Jan Deming and Jeff Goodby
Louise Gund
Ambassador Kathryn Hall and Craig Hall
Charles and Helene Linker
Maris and Ivan Meyerson
Petra Michel
Edward E. and Camille Penhoet
Gail and Daniel Rubinfeld
Markus and Barbara Trice
William Unger

Soloist

Lynn and Donald A. Glaser
Michael A. Harrison and
Susan Graham Harrison
Kirk McKusick and Eric Allman
Barclay and Sharon Simpson

Concertmaster

Jesse and Laren Brill
Earl and June Cheit
Joseph and Sherry Felson
Dr. Roger W. Hoag and Dr. M. Silvija Hoag
Natalia Makarova and Edward Karkar
Susan Marinoff and Thomas Schrag
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Joe and Carol Neil
Teresa Picchi and Joel Linzner
Kim Polese
Michael and Gini Savage
Paul Siegel
Francoise Stone
Kwei and Michele Ü
Carol Jackson Upshaw
Wendy and Mason Willrich

Menu by Alice Waters
Event Design by Stanlee Gatti

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

Saturday, May 9, 2009

Cocktail Reception at 7:00 p.m.

Dinner and Divertissements at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

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Special Event

Cal Performances Presents Robert Cole, a benefit for Cal Performances

Program: A celebration of Robert Cole's legacy as longtime Director of Cal Performances; songs will be offered by mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade and composer/ pianist Jake Heggie.

Tickets: single tickets begin at **\$500**; tables for 10 begin at **\$10,000**. Valet parking is included with all tickets. Call Cal Performances Development Office at 510.643.8783 or by emailing social@calperfs.berkeley.edu.

– Cal Performances –