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**VIRTUOSO PIANIST RUDOLF BUCHBINDER CONTINUES PERFORMING
BEETHOVEN'S SONATAS IN TWO CONCERTS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25
AND SUNDAY, MARCH 4 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

BERKELEY, January 12, 2007—Passionate and fearless with a talent that “blends athletic ferocity with clear-eyed interpretive rigor” (*San Francisco Chronicle*), Viennese pianist **Rudolf Buchbinder** returns to Cal Performances for two concerts **Sunday, February 25** and **Sunday, March 4** at **3:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall**. For the third season in Berkeley, Buchbinder continues his traversal of **Beethoven's** 32 piano sonatas, a feat he has accomplished in over 30 cities around the world, including Munich, Vienna, Hamburg and Buenos Aires. With “stylistic integrity, comprehensive technique and a genuine Beethovenian flair” (*Los Angeles Times*), Buchbinder performs works composed during Beethoven's Early Vienna Period, the 1790s.

The Sunday, February 25 recital contains four sonatas beginning with a matching pair: Sonata No. 9 in E major, Op. 14, No. 1, that showcased Beethoven's orchestral ambitions, and the playful Sonata No. 10 in G major, Op. 14, No. 2. With the name “Pastoral,” Sonata No. 15 in D major, Op. 28, is known for its easygoing manner and geniality. The program closes with the powerful “Pathétique,” Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13, a reflection of Beethoven's inner struggle as he comes to term with his approaching deafness.

One week later, Sunday, March 4, his second performance opens with an early example of Beethoven's unique symphonic style, Sonata No. 5 in C minor, Op. 10, No. 1, followed by a fiery work living up to its name “Tempest,” Sonata No. 17 in D minor, Op. 31, No. 2. The second half of the performance continues with one of Beethoven's largest pieces, Sonata No. 4 in E-flat major, Op. 7, and ends with “Moonlight,” Sonata No. 14 in C-Sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2, a work that contains a calm and poetic beginning and a turbulent ending.

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Born in 1946 in Czechoslovakia, Rudolf Buchbinder has lived his entire life in Vienna, where he began his piano studies at age five as the youngest student to ever be admitted to the Vienna Musik Hochschule. He first toured beyond Europe when he was 19 years old, visiting Japan, Central America and South America with a California debut occurring the following year with the California Chamber Symphony. Buchbinder is a regular guest of such renowned orchestras as the Berlin Philharmonic, Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam, London Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, Vienna Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony and Cleveland Orchestra. He has collaborated with the world's most distinguished conductors, including Lorin Maazel, Claudio Abbado, Carlo Maria Giulini, Zubin Mehta, Kurt Masur, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Christoph von Dohnányi and Wolfgang Sawallisch.

For Buchbinder's recording of his formidable cycle of work on all 32 Beethoven piano sonatas, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* hailed Buchbinder "one of today's most important and competent Beethoven performers." Buchbinder has over 100 recordings in all, many on the Teldec label, including an 18-disc set of Haydn's complete works for piano for which he was awarded the "Grand Prix du Disque." He has also recorded rarely performed pieces such as the collection of *Diabelli Variations*. Buchbinder's cycle of the complete Mozart piano concertos, which he conducted and performed with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, was recorded live at the Vienna Konzerthaus. Joachim Kaiser, Germany's renowned music critic, named the recording CD of the Year in 1998. Marking the 100th anniversary of Johann Strauss's death in 1999, Buchbinder recorded a highly praised CD of piano transcriptions, entitled *Waltzing Strauss*. The following year, his live recording of both Brahms piano concertos with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, under the direction of Nikolaus Harnoncourt, was released.

In June 2003, Buchbinder conducted and performed all five Beethoven concertos with the Vienna Symphony in one day, an unprecedented event, to sold out audiences at the Konzerthaus in Vienna, and extraordinary critical acclaim. One of his highlights last year was his concerts with the Wiener Philharmoniker on the occasion of the Wiener Festwochen; the program consisted of the 12 piano concerts by Mozart and has been recorded on DVD.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Rudolf Buchbinder** on **Sunday, February 25** & **Sunday, March 4** 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.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, February 25 at 3:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Sunday, March 4 at 3:00 p.m.

Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

Recital

Rudolf Buchbinder, piano

Program A (Sunday, February 25):

Beethoven/Sonata No. 9 in E major, Op. 14, No. 1; Sonata No. 10 in G major, Op. 14, No. 2;

Sonata No. 15 in D major, OP. 28, "Pastoral"; Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13, "Pathétique"

Program B: (Sunday, March 4)

Beethoven/Sonata No. 5 in C minor, Op. 10, No. 1; Sonata No. 17 in D minor, Op. 31, No. 2,

"Tempest"; Sonata No. 4 in E-flat major, Op. 7; Sonata No. 14 in C-Sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2, "Moonlight"

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