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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 16, 2005

**VIRTUOSO PIANIST RUDOLF BUCHBINDER
RETURNS WITH TWO ALL-BEETHOVEN CONCERTS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

BERKELEY, August 16, 2005 – One of the most sought- after pianists on the international scene, Beethoven specialist **Rudolf Buchbinder** returns to Cal Performances **Sunday, September 18 & Sunday, September 25 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall**. He follows last season’s highly praised performance - “the most vibrant, muscular playing heard in the Bay Area in recent memory” (*Contra Costa Times*) - with two concerts featuring works Beethoven composed during his Early Vienna Period, the decade following his return to his birth city in 1792. **Program A**, Sunday, September 18, contains four sonatas beginning with Sonata in F minor, Op. 2, No. 1, a piece that hinted at the intensity that would soon become the hallmark of Beethoven’s work, and Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 27, No. 1, one of two sonatas entitled *Quasi una Fantasia*, written as he came to grips with his growing deafness. The second half of the concert features one of Beethoven’s more melodramatic pieces, Sonata in D major, Op. 10, No. 3, and Sonata in F minor, Op. 57, No. 23, aptly name *Appassionata* by his publisher – a name Beethoven did not object to – and considered one of his most violent musical works.

Program B, Sunday, September 25, opens with one of Beethoven’s shortest early sonatas, Sonata in F major, Op. 10, No. 2, followed by Sonata in A-flat major, Op. 26 composed for his loyal patron Prince Karl von Lichnowsky. Sonata in B-flat major, Op. 22, a work he labeled a Grande Sonata, was a piece he was most proud of. Buchbinder closes the concert with Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 31, No. 3, nicknamed “The Hunt” because of its robust finish. Free *Sightlines* talks will be given by musicologist **John Palmer** on Sunday, September 18 & Sunday, September 25 at 2:00 p.m.

Born in 1946 in Czechoslovakia, Rudolf Buchbinder has lived his entire life in Vienna, where he began his piano studies at age 5 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

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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 Dohnanyi, and Wolfgang Sawallisch.

One of Buchbinder's major accomplishments was his cyclic performance of all 32 piano sonatas by Beethoven, which he played in over 30 cities including Munich, Vienna, Hamburg, Zurich and Buenos Aires. For his recording of this formidable cycle of work, 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' 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. Buchbinder's most recent live recording is a 3-CD set of this performance, which was released in 2003 on the ORF label. He has recently performed with Wolfgang Sawallisch and the Philadelphia Orchestra in Philadelphia at the new Kimmel Center and in New York's Carnegie Hall, and twice with the New York Philharmonic and Music Director Lorin Maazel in performances of Gershwin's Concerto in F and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2 at Avery Fisher Hall.

After Buchbinder completes his Cal Performances' engagement, he returns to Europe for the completion of his 35th Beethoven cycle. In 2006, Buchbinder will conduct and play all 27 Mozart Piano Concerti with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, something his fans have eagerly anticipated.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Rudolf Buchbinder** on **Sunday, September 18** & **Sunday, September 25** 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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Cal Performances' 2005/2006 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, September 18 at 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Sunday, September 25 at 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

SIGHTLINES

Pre-concert talk by musicologist **John Palmer**. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. These events are free to ticketholders.

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Sunday, September 18 at 3:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

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

Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

Recital

Rudolf Buchbinder, piano

Program A (Sunday, September 18):

Beethoven/Sonata in F minor, Op. 2, No. 1; Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 27, No. 1; Sonata in D major, Op. 10, No. 3; and Sonata in F minor, Op. 57, No. 23, *Appassionata*

Program B: (Sunday, September 25)

Beethoven/Sonata in F major, Op. 10, No. 2; Sonata in A-flat major, Op. 26; Sonata in B-flat major, Op. 22; and Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 31, No. 3.

Tickets: \$42.00, 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.