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**SINGLE TICKETS FOR CAL PERFORMANCES 2005/06 CENTENNIAL SEASON  
ON SALE SUNDAY, AUGUST 7**

**Five Added Events include Sheng Xiang & Water3 (Sept. 9); *Bulgarian Be-Bop* with The Yuri Yunakov Ensemble featuring Ivo Papasov (Oct. 14); UC Improvisors Mark Dresser, Myra Melford, Bob Ostertag & David Wessel (Feb. 9); Masters of Persian Classical Music (Mar. 12); and Frank Rich (Apr. 10)**

**PLUS: A SECOND PERFORMANCE OF AN EVENING WITH JOHN CLEESE, *SEVEN WAYS TO SKIN AN OCELOT*, ADDED (FEB. 9)**

AND

**EILEEN IVERS & IMMIGRANT SOUL JOIN BURHAN ÖÇAL (FEB. 10)**

**BERKELEY, July 27, 2005** – Cal Performances announces the addition of five events to the 2005/06 Centennial Season including Taiwanese composer/musician **Sheng Xiang & Water3**; *Bulgarian Be-Bop* with the legendary gypsy musicians of **The Yuri Yunakov Ensemble** featuring **Ivo Papasov**; musical pioneers **UC Improvisors Mark Dresser, Myra Melford, Bob Ostertag & David Wessel**; Berkeley favorite **Masters of Persian Classical Music**; and *New York Times* Associate Editor **Frank Rich**, part of the Strictly Speaking series.

Other changes to the 2005/06 season include the addition of a second performance of **An Evening with John Cleese, *Seven Ways to Skin an Ocelot***, due to popular demand; and Irish fiddler **Eileen Ivers** and her band **Immigrant Soul** will join Turkish multi-instrumentalist **Burhan Öçal**, replacing the previously announced Gypsy Diplomats. Cal Performances regrets to announce the cancellation of Brazilian composer and musician **Paulinho da Viola** scheduled for October 18.

Single tickets for Cal Performances 2005/06 Centennial Season go on sale to the public Sunday, August 7 at 1:00 p.m.; prior to that, to Donors Sunday, July 31 at 1:00 p.m. and to Email Club members on Thursday, August 4 at 10:00 a.m.

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### 2005/06 SEASON ADDED EVENTS

Taiwanese composer and musician **Sheng Xiang** and his ensemble **Water3** make their U.S. debut at Cal Performances. Sheng Xiang is one of Taiwan's most passionate champions of social causes. His 1999 album inspired by the Meinung anti-dam movement won him a Best Producer and Best Composer award at Taiwan's International Golden Melody Awards, the Chinese pop music industry's equivalent of the Grammy Awards given to professionals making music in Mandarin, Taiwanese, Hakka and any of Taiwan's aboriginal languages. This year he received seven nominations. Combining modern and traditional instruments, Sheng Xiang and his ensemble of four eclectic musicians perform a hybrid of western rock and the aboriginal music of Taiwan (Fri., Sept. 9).

Combining bebop and electric rock with traditional folk, the hugely popular gypsy musicians **Yuri Yunakov**, **Ivo Papasov**, **Neshkov Neshev**, and **Salif Ali** became overnight superstars in the mid-70s with a lively new style described as Bulgarian be-bop. Once outlawed by the Soviets, the group reunites for a concert tour, showcasing the music's vibrancy, rapid tempos, daring key changes and virtuosic improvisation (Fri., Oct. 14).

**UC Improvisors**, each an internationally recognized musician, **Mark Dresser**, **Myra Melford** and **Bob Ostertag** joined the University of California faculty in the fall of 2004. Together with electronic musician **David Wessel** of UC Berkeley's innovative Center for New Music and Audio Technologies, these artists mix acoustic performance with live computer-based improvisation in a program demonstrating the energy and possibilities of the electronic medium (Sat., Feb. 4).

A favorite of Cal Performances World Stage audiences, **Masters of Persian Classical Music** returns to showcase the rich heritage of Iranian classical music and ancient Sufi and contemporary poetry. The Grammy-nominated ensemble features superstar vocalist **Mohammad Reza Shajarian**, a national treasure in Iran; virtuoso **Kayhan Kalhor**, *kamancheh* (spiked fiddle); **Hossein Alizadeh**, *tar* (plucked lute) and *setar* (Persian sitar) master; and **Homayoun Shajarian**, *tombak* (hand drum) (Sun., Mar. 12).

Last on the list of newly-added performances is *New York Times* Associate Editor **Frank Rich** bringing his provocative views on news and culture to Zellerbach Hall. Mr. Rich routinely zeroes in on the critical issues of the day in his column and widely-read opinion pieces in the

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*Sunday Arts & Leisure* section. His articles draw from his background as a theater critic and observer of art, entertainment and politics. He is also author of three books, a childhood memoir titled *Ghost Light* (2000), a collection of his drama reviews, *Hot Seat: Theater Criticism for The New York Times, 1980-1993* (1998) and *The Theater Art of Boris Aronson*, co-authored with Lisa Aronson (1987) (Mon., Apr. 10).

### OTHER CHANGES TO THE 2005/06 SEASON

Due to high interest, Cal Performances will add a performance of **John Cleese's *Seven Ways to Skin an Ocelot*** (Thurs., Feb. 9). Mr. Cleese is best known for his work with Monty Python and in television and film including *Faulty Towers* and *A Fish Called Wanda* and guest appearances on *Cheers*, *Third Rock from the Sun* and *Will and Grace*. What is less well known is that he is also the author of two books on psychology, *Families and How to Survive Them* and *Life and How to Survive It*, teaches at Cornell and UC Santa Barbara, and is trying to grow a decent tomato.

A cross-cultural first, Irish fiddler **Eileen Ivers** and her band **Immigrant Soul** will be joined on stage by Turkish percussionist **Burhan Öçal**, widely regarded as the greatest *darbuka* (finger drum) player alive today. Ms. Ivers, called “the Jimi Hendrix of the violin” by *The New York Times* and “sensational” by *Billboard*, mixes Celtic music with touches of Latin and African and American bluegrass sounds. Born in the United States to Irish immigrants, she is a nine-time All-Ireland Fiddle Champion and has performed with such esteemed organizations as the London Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops and National Symphony at The Kennedy Center (Fri., Feb. 10).

### CAL PERFORMANCES 2005/06 CENTENNIAL SEASON

Highlights of Cal Performances Centennial Season include celebrated mezzo-soprano **Cecilia Bartoli**, with the **Zurich Orchestra La Scintilla** (Oct. 6); the return of the **Kirov Ballet & Orchestra** with the Tchaikovsky/Petipa masterpiece *The Sleeping Beauty* (Oct. 12-16); **Edward Hall's** all-male **Propeller** theater company in *The Winter's Tale* (Nov. 9-13); **Giorgio Strehler's** landmark production of **Goldoni's *Arlecchino, Servant of Two Masters***, by **Piccolo Teatro di Milano** (Oct. 26 – 30); a new collaboration with the **Miller Theatre at Columbia University** for a series of “Composer Portraits” concerts; and a world premiere from **Mark Morris Dance Group**

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commissioned by Cal Performances titled *Flowercandle* set to the music of Stravinsky's Serenade for Piano in A major (Sept. 22 - 24).

### **SINGLE TICKET SALE INFORMATION**

Single tickets for Cal Performance's 2005/06 Centennial Season, including added events, go on sale to the public, on **Sunday, August 7 at 1:00 p.m.**; prior to that, to Donors **Sunday, July 31 at 1:00 p.m.** and to Email Club members on **Thursday, August 4 at 10:00 a.m.** Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students; UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, and other students receive a \$2.00 discount; and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3.00 discount (Special Events excluded). A 10% discount on single ticket prices is available to patrons who choose any six events on a single order. Groups of 10 or more receive a 15% discount (Special Events excluded). A brochure listing all Cal Performances events is available by calling Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or by fax at (510) 643-2359. Complete event and program information, as well as on-line ticket purchasing, is available through the Cal Performances web site at **www.calperfs.berkeley.edu**. The Cal Performances Ticket Office is located in Zellerbach Hall, at Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue on the UC Berkeley campus (Tuesday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.; closed Monday).