

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE ST. PETERSBURG STRING QUARTET
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 8:00 P.M. IN FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

BERKELEY, October 27, 2003 – “**St. Petersburg String Quartet** plays with one voice,” says the *Los Angeles Times* of the world renowned ensemble appearing at Cal Performances **Sunday, November 15 at 8:00 p.m.** in First Congregational Church. This year the Quartet commemorates the 300th anniversary of its namesake city with an international tour honoring the arts of St. Petersburg. **Alla Aranovskaya** (first violin), **David Chernyavsky** (second violin), **Aleksey Koptev** (viola), and **Leonid Shukaev** (cello) comprise the ensemble, and will perform **Zurab Nadarejshvili’s** Quartet No.1, **Alexander Borodin’s** Quartet No.2 in D major, and **Dmitri Shostakovich’s** Quartet No.9 in E flat major, Op.117.

ST. PETERSBURG STRING QUARTET

The **St. Petersburg String Quartet** was founded as the Leningrad Quartet in 1985 by Alla Aranovskaya and Leonid Shukaev, both graduates of the Leningrad Conservatory. The Quartet blazed a trail through international chamber music competitions, winning First Prize at the All-Soviet Union String Quartet Competition, the Silver Medal and a Special Prize at the Tokyo International Competition of Chamber Ensembles, First Prize and two Special Prizes at the Vittorio Gui International Competition for Chamber Ensembles in Florence, Italy and First Prize and the “Grand Prix Musica Viva” at the International Competition for Chamber Ensembles in Melbourne, Australia.

When the city of Leningrad resumed its historic name in 1991, the Quartet changed its name to the St. Petersburg String Quartet. The Quartet has continued its ascendancy, building a formidable reputation that includes a Grammy nomination, “Best Record” honors in *Stereo Review* and *Gramophone* magazines, and the Chamber Music America/WQXR Prize for Best

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CD of 2001. The Quartet has held the position of Quartet-in-Residence at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music for the last five years.

The Quartet's 2003 touring season includes performances around the world honoring the arts of St. Petersburg, which celebrates its 300th anniversary this year. The group premiered *Rhapsody for String Quartet and Guitar* by Georgian composer Zurab Nadarejshvili in March 2003 and toured across the United States, England, Germany, and Italy, with tours of Holland and Japan still to come.

The acclaimed ensemble has 13 recordings under its belt, including the complete Shostakovich cycle on five CDs (Hyperion), Prokofiev's two Quartets with Nadarejshvili's String Quartet No.1, and Glazunov's Quartet No.5 and Novelettes all on Delos. The Quartet is currently working on the completion of the complete works of Tchaikovsky for string quartet on Dorian.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **St. Petersburg Quartet** on **Saturday, November 15** at **8:00 p.m.** in First Congregational Church are priced at **\$42.00**. Performance 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).

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San Francisco Chronicle, *San Francisco* magazine, and KDFC Classical 102.1 FM are season media sponsors of Cal Performances' 2003/04 performing arts season.

All Cal Performances programs are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, November 16 at 3:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Chamber Music

St. Petersburg Quartet

Program:

Nadarejshvili/Quartet No.1

Borodin/Quartet No.2 in D major

Shostakovich/Quartet No.9 in E flat major, Op.117

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.

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