

**THE “SILKEN AND SULTRY”* SUSAN GRAHAM GIVES RARE RECITAL FEATURING
WORKS BY POULENC, RAVEL, BERLIOZ, HEGGIE, IVES, AND MAHLER
AT CAL PERFORMANCES WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 AT 8:00 P.M.**

BERKELEY, March 9, 2005 – The acclaimed mezzo-soprano **Susan Graham** will sing in recital at Zellerbach Hall on **Wednesday, April 13 at 8:00 p.m.** presented by Cal Performances. The Berkeley performance will be one of just two recitals this season for Ms. Graham, who has also been described by *The Washington Post* as “capable, versatile and altogether winning.” Ms. Graham, *Musical America’s* 2004 Vocalist of the Year, will sing **Francis Poulenc’s** charming *Quatre poèmes d’Apollinaire*, **Maurice Ravel’s** *Chansons madécasses* with flute and cello, and three movements from the evocative *Les Nuits d’Été* by **Hector Berlioz**. Ms. Graham will also sing *The Deepest Desire* by **Jake Heggie** (with flute; based on texts by Sister Helen Prejean, subject of Heggie’s opera *Dead Man Walking*), five songs by **Charles Ives** (from Ms. Graham’s 2005 Grammy-winning recording), and four movements of **Gustav Mahler’s** *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*, based on German folk poetry. Pianist **Malcolm Martineau**, one of the world’s premier accompanists who performed with Ms. Graham on her spring 2002 recital tour and her 2003 CD, *Susan Graham at Carnegie Hall*, will accompany Ms. Graham at the Cal Performances recital.

Ms. Graham is one of the most sought-after singers on the world’s opera, concert and recital stages. Her reputation comes from her lustrous voice, contagious onstage charm and natural acting ability, demonstrated in contemporary opera theatre and traditional opera standards. “Her interest is in exploring strong female roles with more drama, and in doing so she is becoming one of the great singers of our time,” wrote Anne Midgette of the *New York Times* in *Musical America’s* profile of Ms. Graham. To that point, earlier this season she sang Donna Elvira in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* for the first time with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and in the 2003–2004 season she made her role debut as Didon in Berlioz’s *Les Troyens* at the Châtelet in Paris. Ms. Graham is well known to Bay Area opera audiences through her powerful

* *The Washington Post*

performance as Sister Helen Prejean in the 2000 world premiere of Jake Heggie and Terrence McNally's *Dead Man Walking* with San Francisco Opera.

Although she is performing just two recitals this season, Ms. Graham has made extensive international recital tours in the last several years, performing in Paris, Berlin, London, Lisbon, Amsterdam, Madrid, Vienna, Washington, D.C., and other cities. Her recitals have been widely acclaimed for her singing, stage presence and emotional performance of a varied repertoire. *The Washington Post* wrote, "...how luscious and ripe French phonemes sound as they float from Graham's lips!" Ms. Graham made her Carnegie Hall recital debut in April 2003, moving Allan Kozinn of *The New York Times* to write, "She had everything: stage presence, technique and, most crucial, the kind of thoughtful musicianship that illuminated the connections between note and text." *The New York Observer* described Ms. Graham as "...the most approachable of singers, inviting her listeners to enjoy the searchlight directness of her voice."

Long esteemed as a Berlioz specialist, Ms. Graham will sing three movements of the Romantic French song set *Les Nuits d'Été*, a regular highlight of her recital appearances. Indeed, French composers will be well represented in Berkeley; she will also present *Quatre poèmes d'Apollinaire* by Poulenc and Ravel's *Chansons madécasses* with flute and cello (artists to be announced). The flautist will also play for *The Deepest Desire*, a setting of poems of Sister Helen Prejean written expressly for Ms. Graham by Jake Heggie.

Ms. Graham's 2004–2005 performing season includes concerts and opera performances in London, Paris, Berlin, Chicago, Copenhagen, Houston, and other cities. Immediately before coming to Berkeley, she will perform as Octavian in Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* with the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Her Berkeley performance will be followed by a recital at Los Angeles' Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and appearances as Sesto in Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* at the Paris Opera. Ms. Graham will finish her season in her hometown of Santa Fe with performances of Mozart's *Lucio Silla*, in which she will sing Cecilio.

Her discography includes solo recitals and complete operas. Ms. Graham's 2004 recording of songs by Charles Ives, featuring pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard, won the Grammy Award for Best Classical Vocal Performance, and the Virgin recording of Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, on which she sings Dido, received a 2004 Grammy nomination. Her 2002 Erato

release, *C'est ça la vie, c'est ça l'amour: French Operetta Arias*, won accolades from *Gramophone*, *Opera News* and *Entertainment Weekly* magazines, and her 2001 recording of Gluck and Mozart arias, *Il tenero momento*, won the French *Grand Prix de l'Académie du disque* (also known as the *Prix Gabriel Fauré*) and was nominated for *Gramophone's* Best Recital Disc honor.

Ms. Graham was born in New Mexico and raised in Midland, Texas. She sang the 1927 hymn, "Bless This House," at the second inauguration of fellow Texan George W. Bush in January 2005. Ms. Graham studied at Texas Tech University and the Manhattan School of Music. Early in her career, she participated in the San Francisco Opera's Merola Program.

MALCOLM MARTINEAU

Malcolm Martineau, Ms. Graham's accompanist, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and studied at St Catharine's College, Cambridge and the Royal College of Music. He has accompanied many of the leading singers and instrumentalists including Dame Janet Baker, Sarah Walker, Della Jones, Frederica von Stade, Anne Sofie von Otter, Thomas Hampson, Angela Gheorghiu, Olaf Bär, Karita Mattila, Solveig Kringelborn, Michael Schade, and Ian Bostridge, and performed throughout Europe, North America, and Australia. *The Washington Post* described Mr. Martineau accompaniment as "unfailingly sensitive."

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Susan Graham** on **Wednesday, April 13** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$28.00, \$36.00, and \$48.00**. 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

Wednesday, April 13 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Recital

Susan Graham, mezzo-soprano

Malcolm Martineau, piano

To be announced, flute

To be announced, cello

Program:

Poulenc/*Quatre poèmes d'Apollinaire*

"L'Anguille"; "Carte-Postale"; "Avant le cinéma"; "1904"

Ravel/*Chansons madécasses*

"Nahandove"; "Aoua!"; "Il est doux"

Berlioz/*From Les Nuits d'Été*, op. 7

"Villanelle"; "Le spectre de la rose"; "L'Île Inconnue"

Heggie/*The Deepest Desire*

Ives/*Songs*

"1, 2, 3"; "The Things Our Fathers Loved"; "Memories (A - Very Pleasant, B - Rather Sad)"; "The Swimmers"; "The Housatonic at Stockbridge"

Mahler/*From Des Knaben Wunderhorn*

"Rheinlegendchen"; "Wo die schönen Trompeten blasen"; "Das irdische Leben";
"Wer hat dies Liedlein erdacht?"

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