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**TAKÁCS QUARTET MAKES ITS ANTICIPATED RETURN TO
CAL PERFORMANCES WITH TWO SUNDAY PERFORMANCES
FEBRUARY 15 & MARCH 8 AT 3:00 P.M. AT HERTZ HALL**

***Sightlines* pre-performance talks will be given by musicologists Yael Braunschweig
Sunday, February 15 and John Prescott on Sunday, March 8 at Hertz Hall**

BERKELEY, January 8, 2009—Eternal favorites of Cal Performances patrons, the **Takács Quartet** returns to **Hertz Hall** for two concerts featuring two celebrated guest performers on **Sunday, February 15** at and **Sunday, March 8 at 3:00 p.m.** Recognized as one of the world's premier string quartets, the Grammy Award-winning group, comprised of **Edward Dusing** (violin), **Károly Schranz** (violin), **Geraldine Walther** (viola), and **András Fejér** (cello), is renowned for its ability to fuse four distinct, expressive musical personalities into gripping, unified interpretations. On February 15, the Takács Quartet will be joined by clarinetist **Richard Stoltzman**, "one of that important new breed of virtuoso who always brings something new along" (*The Boston Globe*), playing **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's** Clarinet Quintet in A major K. 581. The program also includes **Robert Schumann's** Quartet Op. 41 No. 3; Quartet No. 2 by **Béla Bartók**.

On March 8, the group performs **Joseph Haydn's** Quartet in F major, Op. 77, No. 2; Bartók's Quartet No. 3; and **Franz Schubert's** Quintet in C major, D. 956 with San Francisco Symphony associate principal cellist **Peter Wyrick**, noted for his impeccable musicianship as an ensemble player as well as for being an "eloquent soloist" (*San Francisco Chronicle*). True to form, both performances of the Takács Quartet are sold out.

***Sightlines* pre-performance talks will be given by UC Berkeley musicologists Yael Braunschweig on Sunday, February 15, from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. at Hertz Hall; and John Prescott on Sunday, March 8, from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. at Hertz Hall.** These events are free to ticket holders.

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TAKÁCS QUARTET

Based in Boulder, Colorado, the **Takács Quartet** gives over 90 concerts a year worldwide. The group has performed repertoire ranging from Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert to Bartók, Britten, Dutilleux, Janaček and Sheng in virtually every music capital in North America, Europe, Australasia and Japan, as well as at prestigious festivals, including Aspen, Berlin, Cheltenham, City of London, Mostly Mozart, Ravinia, Salzburg, Schleswig-Holstein and Tanglewood; the quartet has been coming to Berkeley since 1999. The ensemble is also known for its award-winning recordings on the Decca label, including its recording of the complete Beethoven Quartet cycle, which has been awarded a Grammy Award, two Gramophone Awards, the BBC Music Disc of the Year Award (late quartets), the Classical Brits Award for Ensemble Album of the Year (late quartets) and three Japan Record Academy Chamber Music Awards. Of Beethoven's Quartet Cycle, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* wrote, "The Takács might play this repertoire better than any quartet of the past or present."

The Takács Quartet was formed in 1975 at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest by Gabor Takács-Nagy, Károly Schranz, Gabor Ormai and András Fejér, while all four were students. Of the original ensemble, violinist Károly Schranz and cellist András Fejér remain. Violinist Edward Dusing joined the Quartet in 1993 and violist Roger Tapping in 1995. Violist Geraldine Walther replaced Tapping in August 2005. In addition to its residency at the University of Colorado, the ensemble is also a Resident Quartet at the Aspen Music Festival and School, and in 2005 its members were named Associate Artists of the South Bank Centre in London. In 2001, the Takács Quartet was awarded the Order of Merit of the Knight's Cross of the Republic of Hungary.

Takács Quartet 2008/2009 highlights include multiple performances at the South Bank Centre in London built around the music of Schumann; the world premiere and performances throughout Europe of a quartet written for them by Wolfgang Rihm; three concerts to celebrate the re-opening of New York's Alice Tully Hall, featuring the complete Bartok Cycle; and a June tour to Japan and Korea in.

Known for their innovative programming, in 2007 the Takács Quartet performed “Everyman” in Carnegie Hall, inspired by the Phillip Roth novel of the same title, with Academy Award-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman. In May 2008, the quartet performed a new piece commissioned by the South Bank by James Macmillan. Takács has performed a music and poetry program on a fourteen city US tour with the 39th Poet Laureate of the United States, Robert Pinsky.

Through Hyperion Records, with whom they signed in 2005, the Takács Quartet recently released a recording of the Brahms Quartet Op. 51 and Piano Quintet Op. 34. In May 2009 the ensemble’s performances of Schumann’s works in the South Bank Centre will culminate in a recording of the piano quintet with Marc-Andre Hamlin.

RICHARD STOLTZMAN

Clarinetist **Richard Stoltzman**’s virtuosity and musicianship have made him one of today’s most sought-after concert artists, showcasing his prowess as a soloist, recitalist and chamber performer, and innovative jazz musician on numerous festival and concert stages worldwide. In addition to the excitement he brings onstage with a talent and style that defy categorization, the two-time Grammy Award-winning performer boasts a discography numbering over 50 releases.

Stoltzman graduated from Ohio State University with a double major in Music and Mathematics, continuing his education with a Master of Music degree at Yale University and with a doctoral degree at Columbia University. A decade-long participation in the Marlboro Music Festival garnered him extensive chamber music experience, which subsequently led him to become a founding member of the noted ensemble TASHI, which made its debut in 1973. As a soloist, Stoltzman has achieved numerous milestones with his instrument, giving the first clarinet recitals ever in the histories of both the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall, and in 1986 becoming the first wind player to be awarded the Avery Fisher Prize. Additionally, he was awarded the prestigious Sanford Medal by the Yale School of Music, his alma mater.

PETER WYRICK

Associate Principal Cellist of the San Francisco Symphony **Peter Wyrick** was one of the last students of Leonard Rose at Juilliard. He has previously served as Principal Cellist of the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra at Lincoln Center, and as Associate Principal Cellist of the New York City Opera Orchestra. He was a member of the acclaimed Ridge String Quartet, whose recording of the Dvorak Piano Quintets with pianist Rudolf Firkusny won the French Diapason d'Or and was nominated for the 1993 Grammy Award for the Best Chamber Music Performance. He has performed as soloist with the San Francisco Symphony and as chamber musician and soloist with renowned chamber ensembles and orchestras throughout the world. Wyrick and his wife, violinist Amy Hiraga, live in Mill Valley with their two daughters.

TICKET INFORMATION

These performances are sold out. Tickets for the **Takács Quartet** on **Sunday, February 15** and on **Sunday, March 8, 2009** at **3:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall** are priced at **\$52.00** and may become available due to last-minute returns. Please check with the Cal Performances Ticket Office at 510.642.9988 for availability. All other tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at 510.642.9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at 510.642.9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.org.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10 for UCB students; \$15 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, February 15 at 2:00 p.m.

SIGHTLINES

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at College Ave, Berkeley

Pre-performance talk by musicologist Yael Braunschweig, UC Department of Music. *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. This event is free to ticket holders.

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Sunday, February 15 at 3:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

Chamber Music

Takács Quartet

with **Richard Stoltzman**, clarinet

Edward Dusinberre, violin

Károly Schranz, violin

Geraldine Walther, viola

András Fejér, cello

Program: Schumann/Quartet Op. 41 No. 3; Bartók/Quartet No. 2; Mozart/Clarinet Quintet in A major K. 581

Tickets: **This performance is sold out.** Tickets are **\$52.00** and may become available due to last minute returns. Call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability.

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Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

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SIGHTLINES

Bancroft Way at College Ave, Berkeley

Pre-performance talk by musicologist John Prescott. *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. This event is free to ticket holders.

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Takács Quartet

with **Peter Wyrick**, cello

Edward Dusinberre, violin

Károly Schranz, violin

Geraldine Walther, viola

András Fejér, cello

Program: Haydn/Quartet in F major, Op. 77, No. 2; Bartók/Quartet No. 3; Schubert/ Quintet in C major, D. 956

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