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**TAKÁCS QUARTET RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES
WITH TWO SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERTS
OCTOBER 11 & FEBRUARY 14 AT HERTZ HALL**

Sightlines: Pre-concert talk by UC Berkeley Professor Nicholas Mathew, October 11 at 2:00 p.m.

BERKELEY, September 11, 2009—The dynamic, fiery sound of the **Takács Quartet** returns to **Hertz Hall** for two concerts on **Sunday, October 11** and **Sunday, February 14** at **3:00 p.m.** Recognized as one of the world's premier string quartets, the Grammy Award-winning group, comprising **Edward Dusinger** (violin), **Károly Schranz** (violin), **Geraldine Walther** (viola) and **András Fejér** (cello), is acclaimed for its expressive musical personalities. On their sense of spontaneity in the rigorously defined structure of the classical string quartet, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* commented: "If fireworks could be translated into chamber music, that would describe the explosive Takács Quartet." The Sunday, October 11 program includes one of **Joseph Haydn**'s best-known mature works, the Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 71, No. 1, written in London on commission from Count Anton Apponyi; **Dmitri Shostakovich**'s Quartet No. 11 in F minor, Op. 122; and the Quartet in A minor, Op. 41, No. 1, by **Robert Schumann**. On Sunday, February 14, 2010, the group performs another of **Joseph Haydn**'s "Apponyi" Quartets, the D major, Op. 71, No. 2; the West Coast premiere of British composer **James MacMillan**'s Quartet No. 3, written for the ensemble; and the Quartet in F major, Op. 41, No. 2, by **Robert Schumann**, the companion piece to Schumann's work presented October 11.

Sightlines pre-performance talks will be given by UC Berkeley Department of Music professor **Nicholas Mathew** on Sunday, October 11, from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. at Hertz Hall. These events are free to ticket holders.

TAKÁCS QUARTET

Based in Boulder, Colorado, the **Takács Quartet** gives over 90 concerts a year worldwide. In addition to the composers presented in the Berkeley concerts, the group's

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repertoire ranges from Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert to Bartók, Britten, Dutilleux, Janáček and Sheng. The quartet has performed in virtually every music capital in North America, Europe, Australia 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, often performing twice a season and always to sold-out audiences. The ensemble is also known for its award-winning recordings on the Decca label, including its CD of the complete Beethoven quartet cycle, which has been given 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 the Beethoven quartet cycle, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* wrote, “[t]he 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 2009/10 highlights include multiple performances at the South Bank Centre in London, built around cycles of the complete Beethoven quartets, and in Madrid; performances throughout Europe of works composed last year for them by Wolfgang Rihm, James Macmillan and John Psathas; their first concert in St. Petersburg; and a North American tour of over 40 concerts.

Known for their innovative programming, in 2007 the Takács Quartet performed *Everyman* in Carnegie Hall, inspired by the Philip 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 James Macmillan. The Takács has performed a music and poetry program on a United States tour with Robert Pinsky, the country's 39th Poet Laureate.

Through Hyperion Records, with whom they signed in 2005, the Takács Quartet recently released a recording of the Brahms Quartet in A minor, Op. 51, No. 2, and Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34, with Stephen Hough. In May 2009, the ensemble's performances of Schumann's works in the South Bank Centre culminated in a recording of the piano quintet with Marc-André Hamlin which will be released later this year. The group's recording of the complete Haydn "Apponyi" Quartets, Op. 71 and 74, is due out in early 2011.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Takács Quartet** on **Sunday, October 11, 2009**, and on **Sunday, February 14, 2010**, at **3:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall** are priced at **\$52.00**. 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, October 11 at 2:00 p.m.
SIGHTLINES

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College Ave, Berkeley

Pre-performance talk by Professor Nicholas Mathew, UC Berkeley 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, October 11 at 3:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

Chamber Music

Takács Quartet

Edward Dusinberre, violin

Károly Schranz, violin

Geraldine Walther, viola

András Fejér, cello

Program: Haydn/Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 71, No. 1; Shostakovich/Quartet No. 11 in F minor, Op. 122; Schumann/Quartet in A minor, Op. 41, No. 1

Tickets: \$52.00, 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.

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Sunday, February 14 at 3:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

Chamber Music

Takács Quartet

Edward Dusinberre, violin

Károly Schranz, violin

Geraldine Walther, viola

András Fejér, cello

Program: Haydn/Quartet in D major, Op. 71, No. 2; James MacMillan/Quartet No. 3 (West Coast premiere); and Schumann/Quartet in F major, Op. 41, No. 2

Tickets: \$52.00, 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.

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