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**WORLD CELEBRATED TAKÁCS QUARTET RETURNS TO
CAL PERFORMANCES SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5,
AT 3:00 P.M. AT HERTZ HALL**

The program includes works by Haydn, Mendelssohn and Beethoven

***Sightlines:* Pre-concert talk by UC Berkeley Professor Nicholas Mathew,
December 5 at 2:00 p.m.**

BERKELEY, November 2, 2010—The dynamic, passionate sound of the **Takács Quartet** returns to **Hertz Hall** on **Sunday, December 5, at 3:00 p.m.** Recognized as one of the world's premier string quartets, the Grammy Award-winning group, comprising **Edward Dusinberre** (violin), **Károly Schranz** (violin), **Geraldine Walther** (viola) and **András Fejér** (cello), is acclaimed for its expressive musical personality. 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 program begins with **Joseph Haydn's** Quartet No. 56 in E-flat major, Op. 71, No. 3 (1793), one of the first works he composed specifically for public performance. In order to assure listening success, he gave the quartet an introduction, an ample dose of dramatic contrast and easily memorable themes. The other two works are set in A minor: **Felix Mendelssohn's** Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13, composed in 1827 when he was an 18-year-old yet fully mature artist exhibiting the influences of Mozart, Bach, Beethoven and **Ludwig van Beethoven's** Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132, written after a severe illness with composer notes on the score acknowledging gratitude to the Divine for healing and health.

Sightlines pre-performance talk will be given by UC Berkeley Department of Music Professor **Nicholas Mathew** on Sunday, December 5, from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. in 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. In addition to the composers presented in the Berkeley concerts, the group's 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: "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.

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 Hamelin will be released later this year. The group's recording of the complete Haydn "Apponyi" Quartets, Opp. 71 and 74, is due to be released in early 2011.

TICKET INFORMATION

These performances are sold out. Tickets for the **Takács Quartet** on **Sunday, December 5, 2010**, at **3:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall** are priced at **\$56.00** 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, December 5 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, December 5 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 No. 56 in E-flat major, Op. 71, No. 3; Mendelssohn/ Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13; Beethoven/ Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132

Tickets: **This performance is sold out.** Tickets are **\$56.00** 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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