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**THE VIRTUOSIC TAKÁCS QUARTET RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES FOR TWO
CONCERTS CONTINUING ITS EXPLORATION OF THE BEETHOVEN CYCLE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 AND SUNDAY MARCH 25 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

BERKELEY, October 20, 2006 – One of the world's premiere string quartets, the **Takács Quartet**, makes its annual visit to Berkeley with two concerts **Sunday, December 3 at 3:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, March 25 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall**. Comprised of **Edward Dusinberre** (violin), **Károly Schranz** (violin), **Geraldine Walther** (viola) and **András Fejér** (cello), the Takács Quartet continues traversing the entire Beethoven Quartet Cycle for the third season at Cal Performances. The program for Sunday, December 3, includes **Quartet in A major, Op. 18, No. 5; Quartet in C minor, Op. 18, No. 4; and Quartet in A minor, Op. 132** which was completed after a serious illness and which features a central movement titled “Hymn of thanksgiving to the divinity, from convalescent, in the Lydian mode.”

On Sunday, March 25 the Takács Quartet's exceptional verve and precision will be on display performing the **Quartet in F major, Op. 18, No. 1**, the composer's earliest published quartet; **Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 74**, nicknamed “Harp” because of Beethoven's use of pizzicatos; and **Quartet in C-sharp minor, Op. 131**, thought by many of be the culmination of his work after going to Vienna.

The Takács Quartet, based in Boulder, Colorado, where it has been in residence at the University of Colorado since 1983, is now entering its 31st season. The group has performed repertoire ranging from Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert to Bartók, Britten, Dutilleux, Janacek 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 ensemble is also known for its award-winning recordings on the Decca label, including, most recently, 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

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Brits Award for Ensemble Album of the Year (late quartets) and three Japan Record Academy Chamber Music Awards. Of their performances and recordings of these Quartets, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* wrote, "The Takács might play this repertoire better than any quartet of the past or present.

Takács Quartet 2006-2007 highlights include a return to Asia with concerts in Nagoya, Tokyo, Osaka and Seoul; a continuation of the complete Beethoven Cycle at Cal Performances and in Napa, California; concerts with pianist Stephen Hough in London, Valencia, Bilbao and Bristol: three concerts in London's Queen Elizabeth Hall; performances in New York, Beverly Hills, Denver, Albuquerque, Ann Arbor, Honolulu, Louisville, Princeton, Sarasota, Vancouver, Philadelphia, San Diego, Cincinnati, Washington, D.C., Tucson, Paris, Edinburgh, Utrecht and Darmstadt, among others; and two concerts each at the Aspen Festival and the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara.

Recent notable Takács Quartet appearances worldwide have included performances of the Beethoven Cycle in New York, Cleveland, London, Los Angeles, Paris and Sydney; the Bartók Cycle in Cleveland, London, Madrid, Seville, Valencia, New York, Berkeley and Tokyo; the Brahms cycle in London; the Schubert cycle in London, Lisbon and cities in Italy, the Netherlands and Spain; concerts in Japan; the world premiere performance of Bright Sheng's Quartet No. 3; the world premiere of Su Lian Tan's *Life in Wayang*; a 14-city U.S. tour with the 39th Poet Laureate of the United States, Robert Pinsky; and a collaboration with the Hungarian folk ensemble Muzsikás in a series of joint concerts exploring the connections between traditional Hungarian folk melodies and the works of Bartók and Kodály.

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. Violinist Edward Dusinger joined the Quartet in 1993 and violist Roger Tapping in 1995. Of the original ensemble, violinist Károly Schranz and cellist András Fejér remain. Violist Geraldine Walther replaced Mr. 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.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Takács Quartet** on **Sunday, December 3** and **Sunday, March 25** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$42.00**. Both concerts are sold-out; additional tickets may be released; check with the ticket office. 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

Sunday, December 3 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:

Beethoven/Quartet in A major, Op. 18, No. 5

Quartet in C minor, Op. 18, No. 4

Quartet in A minor, Op. 132

Tickets: \$42.00. This concert is sold-out; additional tickets may be released; check with the ticket office. 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.

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Sunday, March 25 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:

Beethoven/ Quartet in F major, Op. 18, No. 1

Quartet in E-flat major, Op.74, “*Harp*”

Quartet in C-sharp minor, Op. 131

Tickets: \$42.00. This concert is sold-out; additional tickets may be released; check with the ticket office. 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.
