

CONTACT:  
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714  
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu  
Joe Yang 510.642.9121  
scyang@calperfs.berkeley.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 2, 2007

**THE CONSUMMATE ARTISTRY OF THE TAKÁCS QUARTET RETURNS TO  
CAL PERFORMANCES FOR TWO SUNDAY RECITALS DECEMBER 2 AND  
MARCH 16 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

**SIGHTLINES PRE-PERFORMANCE TALKS WILL BE GIVEN BY UC BERKELEY  
MUSICOLOGIST NOEL VERZOSA ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2; AND BY SAN FRANCISCO  
STATE UNIVERSITY MUSIC LECTURER PAUL M. ELLISON ON SUNDAY, MARCH 16.**

**BERKELEY, November 2, 2007**—Treasured by music lovers for performances that exude “authority, intensity, and deep musical understanding” (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*), the **Takács Quartet** returns to Cal Performances for two engagements **Sunday, December 2** and **Sunday, March 16** at **3:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall**. Pianist **Joyce Yang** joins **Edward Dusinberre** (violin), **Károly Schranz** (violin), **Geraldine Walther** (viola), and **András Fejér** (cello) for the December 2 program, which will include a continuation of the quartet’s focus on Haydn with his **Quartet in C major, Op. 74, No. 1**; **Schumann’s Piano Quintet in E-flat minor, Op. 44**; and **Bartók’s Quartet No. 5**, which has earned the group enormous praise.

On Sunday, March 16, the Takács Quartet will continue its epic exploration of the Beethoven quartet cycle, which the group began at Cal Performances three seasons ago. The program includes **Quartet in C major, Op. 59, No. 3**, the last installment in Beethoven’s trio of *Razumovsky* string quartets; and **Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 130** with the stirring *Grosse Fugue, Op. 133*, which Beethoven wrote between 1825 and 1826, by which time he had become completely deaf.

*Sightlines* pre-performance talks will be given by UC Berkeley musicologist **Noel Verzosa** on Sunday, December 2, from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. at Hertz Hall; and with San Francisco State University music history lecturer **Paul M. Ellison** on Sunday, March 16, from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. at Hertz Hall. These events are free to ticket holders.

-MORE-

## TAKÁCS QUARTET

The Takács Quartet, based in Boulder, Colorado, gives 80 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 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."

Takács Quartet 2007/2008 highlights include four concerts at Carnegie Hall: *Everyman*, inspired by Philip Roth's novel, in which the group will perform with Academy Award-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, and a three concert series focusing on Haydn and Brahms. The quartet will tour with pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet. In North America, Takács Quartet will perform in over 30 cities; European tours include performances in Vienna, Amsterdam, Lisbon, Frankfurt and Brussels. In May 2008, the quartet will perform a new piece by James Macmillan, commissioned by the South Bank Centre in London.

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. Of the original ensemble, violinist Károly Schranz and cellist András Fejér remain. Violinist Edward Dusinberre 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.

### **JOYCE YANG**

Praised by *The Washington Post* as “a real find”, pianist **Joyce Yang** “plays with poise, brilliance and solid muscular power that rarely seemed forced.” At 19 years old, Yang was awarded the silver medal at the Twelfth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. She has appeared with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Mann Center, the Chicago Symphony at the Ravinia Festival, the Aspen Symphony and she opened the season of the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center. In 2006, Yang made her New York Philharmonic debut with Lorin Maazel in Avery Fischer Hall, preceded by concerts with them in Korea. Her previous seasons include engagements with the symphonies of Houston, Indianapolis, Fort Worth, Colorado, Kansas City, Colorado Springs and Orlando, as well as numerous recitals throughout North America and in Europe.

Born in Seoul, Korea, Yang received her first piano lessons at age four from her aunt. She quickly took to the instrument, which she received as a birthday present, and over the next few years won several national piano competitions in Korea. By ten, she had entered the Korean National Conservatory and subsequently made a number of concerto and recital appearances in Seoul and Taejon. In 1997, Yang moved to the United States to begin studies at the pre-college division of the Julliard School of Music in New York.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Both performances are sold out. Tickets for the **Takács Quartet** on **Saturday, December 2** and **Sunday, March 16** at **3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$46.00** and may become available due to last minute returns. Please check with the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability. If available, half-price tickets are offered 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.calperformances.net](http://www.calperformances.net).

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, and all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. For more information call 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

# # #

Cal Performances' 2007/2008 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC is Cal Performances' 2007/2008 media sponsor.

# # #

**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Saturday, December 2 at 3:00 p.m.**

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

*Chamber Music*

**Takács Quartet**

with **Joyce Yang**, piano

**Edward Dusinberre**, violin

**Károly Schranz**, violin  
**Geraldine Walther**, viola  
**András Fejér**, cello

**Program:**

Haydn/Quartet in C major, Op. 74  
Bartók/Quartet No. 5  
Schumann/Piano Quintet in E-flat major, Op. 44

**Tickets: This performance is sold out.** Tickets are **\$46.00** and may become available due to last minute returns. Call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability.

###

**Sunday, March 16 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 C major, Op. 59, No. 3, "*Razumovsky*"  
Quartet in B-flat major, Op.130 with "*Grosse Fugue*," Op. 133

**Tickets: This performance is sold out.** Tickets are **\$46.00** and may become available due to last minute returns. Call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability.

---

- Cal Performances -