

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
TAKÁCS QUARTET
INAUGURATING BEETHOVEN STRING QUARTET CYCLE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 AT 3:00 P.M.
SUNDAY, APRIL 3 AT 3:00 P.M.

"The consummate artistry of the Takács is simply breathtaking."
-- *The London Guardian*

BERKELEY, December 23, 2004 – One of the world's premiere chamber groups, the extraordinary **Takács Quartet's** annual visits have become highlights of the Bay Area music calendar. One of the few ensembles capable of expressing the full range of passions in a great composer's *oeuvre*, the Takács is now tackling the entire Beethoven cycle with their exceptional verve and precision. They begin the cycle on **Sunday, February 6 at 3:00 p.m** in **Hertz Hall** with Beethoven's String Quartet No. 2 in G major, Op. 18, *Compliments*; String Quartet No. 11 in F minor, Op. 95, *Serioso*; String Quartet No. 13 in B-flat major, Op. 130 (with Finale), *Lieb*. They continue on **Sunday, April 3 at 3:00 p.m.** with Beethoven's String Quartet No. 6 in B-flat major, Op. 18; String Quartet No. 7 in F major, Op. 59, *Rasumovsky*; String Quartet No. 16 in F major, Op. 135. As the start of a cycle, these two all-Beethoven concerts feature selections from the ensemble's recordings of the early and middle quartets, the latter of which won 2002 *Gramophone* and Grammy awards.

Free *Sightlines* talks will be given by Joseph Kerman, Professor Emeritus, Department of Music, UC Berkeley on Sunday, February 6 at 2:00 p.m. and by musicologist Arman Schwartz, Department of Music, UC Berkeley on Sunday, April 3 at 2:00 p.m.

The Takács Quartet

In the nearly 30 years since its founding, the **Takács Quartet** has built a remarkable reputation for artistry of the highest caliber. Takács was formed in 1975 by **Gabor Takács-Nagy, Károly Schranz, Gabor Ormai** and **András Fejér** while all four were students at Budapest's Liszt Academy. Today, violinist **Edward Dusinberre** and violist **Roger Tapping**

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have continued where Takács-Nagy and Ormai left off. The Quartet is based in Boulder, Colorado where it has held a residency at the University of Colorado since 1983. The Takács is a resident quartet at the Aspen Festival and its members are also Visiting Fellows at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and, beginning with the 2005/2006 season, will become Associate Artists of the South Bank Center in London. In 2001, The Takács Quartet was awarded the Order of Merit of the Knight's Cross of the Republic of Hungary.

The Takács Quartet has performed repertoire ranging from Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert to Bartók, Britten, Dutilleux, and Janáček 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 ensemble is also known for its award-winning recordings on the Decca label, including its 2-CD set of Beethoven's three *Rasumovsky* String Quartets, Op. 59 and Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 74, *Harp*, which won the Grammy Award and the Gramophone Award for Best Chamber Performance in 2002. The album was the first installment of the Takács Quartet's recordings of the complete Beethoven Quartet cycle in three sets, the second of which (the Early Quartets, Op. 19) was released in January 2004. The Quartet's third and final CD of the late quartets plus Op. 95 and the *Grosse Fugue*, which completes the cycle, is scheduled for release in 2005. 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."

Highlights of the Takács Quartet's 2004/2005 season include performances of the complete Beethoven String Quartet cycle in six concerts at The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York, as well as the completion of its three-year cycle of performances of the quartets presented by The Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall's Reinberger Chamber Hall. The Quartet also performs the entire Bartók String Quartet cycle in Ann Arbor, Pittsburgh and Tucson, and gives concerts of works ranging from Haydn, Beethoven, and Mendelssohn to Bartók and Borodin in Vancouver, Montreal, Washington DC, Atlanta, Houston, Richmond, and Princeton, among other cities in North America. The Quartet toured Australia and New Zealand in November 2004, and in May 2005 the Quartet returns to London's Wigmore Hall and performs in Lisbon, Paris, Venice and Milan, among other cities in Europe.

In addition to performances of the Beethoven, Bartók, Brahms and Schubert cycles in cities around the world, recent notable Takács Quartet appearances have included the world premiere performance of Bright Sheng's Quartet No. 3; the world premiere of Su Lian Tan's *Life in Wayang*; a fourteen-city U.S. tour with the thirty-ninth 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.

Signed to an exclusive contract with Decca/London in 1988, the Takács Quartet has made sixteen recordings for the label of works by Beethoven, Bartók, Borodin, Brahms, Chausson, Dvořák, Haydn, Mozart, Schubert and Smetana. The ensemble's recording of the six Bartok String Quartets received the 1998 *Gramophone* Award for chamber music and, in 1999, was nominated for a Grammy. In addition to the Beethoven String Quartet cycle recording, the ensemble's other Decca recordings include Dvořák's String Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 51 and Piano Quintet in A Major, Op. 81 with pianist Andreas Haefliger; Schubert's *Trout Quintet* with Mr. Haefliger, which was nominated in 2000 for a Grammy Award; string quartets by Smetana and Borodin; Schubert's Quartet in G Major and *Notturmo* Piano Trio with Mr. Haefliger; the three Brahms String Quartets and Piano Quintet in F Minor with pianist András Schiff; Chausson's Concerto for Violin, Piano and String Quartet with violinist Joshua Bell and pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet; and Mozart's String Quintets, K515 and 516 with Gyorgy Pauk, viola.

TICKET INFORMATION

Stage seating has been added to accommodate demand for this very popular ensemble. Tickets for **Takács Quartet on Sunday, February 6 at 3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$42.00** and 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, February 6 at 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. **Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**
Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

Sightlines:

Pre-performance talk by Joseph Kerman, Professor Emeritus, Department of Music, UC Berkeley. *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. These events are free to ticketholders.

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Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

Chamber Music
Takács Quartet

Program:

Beethoven String Quartet No. 2 in G major, Op. 18, *Compliments*
String Quartet No. 11 in F minor, Op. 95, *Serioso*
String Quartet No. 13 in B-flat major, Op. 130 (with Finale), *Lieb.*

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 String Quartet No. 7 in F major, Op. 59, *Rasumovsky*
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