

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 17, 2004

CONTACT:  
Kimberly Burns 510.643.6714  
kburns@calperfs.berkeley.edu  
Christina Kellogg 510.642.9121  
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**  
**YO-YO MA & EMANUEL AX**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 7:00 PM**  
**IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

"With Yo-Yo Ma...one is left bewildered. He commands an enormous range of colors and effects on the cello...the sounds he produces are always perfect." – *New York Times*

"[Ax's] greatness, his overwhelming authority as musician, technician and probing intellect emerge quickly as he plays." – *Los Angeles Times*

**BERKELEY, November 17, 2004** – World-renowned virtuosos and frequent collaborators **Yo-Yo Ma** and **Emanuel Ax** will perform an all Beethoven program at Cal Performances **December 9 at 7:00 pm** in Zellerbach Hall. Pianist Ax and cellist Ma have performed and recorded together many times since they met at Julliard more than 29 years ago. Arguably two of the best-loved and best-known classical musicians in the world, Ma and Ax bring a singular passion and legendary musicianship to their performances. The *New York Times* writes of their duo recitals "Ma and Ax blend clarity and togetherness...in a field with more than its share of jealousy, backstabbing and mean-spiritedness, these are two genuinely decent human beings." Their Cal Performances program will include Twelve Variations in F Major on "Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen" from Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Op. 66; Sonata No. 1 in F Major, Op. 5, No. 1; Sonata No. 4 in C Major, Op. 102, No.1; Seven Variations in E-Flat Major on "Bei Männern, welche fühlen" from Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, WoO. 46; and Sonata No. 3 in A Major, Op. 69.

**Yo-Yo Ma**

Cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** was born to Chinese parents living in Paris. He began to study the cello with his father at age four, and soon after came with his family to New York, where he spent most of his formative years. As a young man he enrolled in The Juilliard School where he studied principally with Leonard Rose. After Juilliard he pursued a liberal arts education at Harvard University and graduated in 1976. Ma's discography of nearly 50 albums (including 14 Grammy winners) reflects his wide-ranging interests. In addition to the standard concert repertoire, the cellist has made several recordings that defy categorization, among them *Hush* with Bobby

-MORE-

McFerrin; *Appalachia Waltz* and *Appalachian Journey* with Mark O'Connor and Edgar Meyer; and *Piazzolla: Soul of the Tango*. His diverse musical pursuits are also reflected in the ambitious Silk Road Project and his newest recording, *Obrigado Brazil*. Mr. Ma lives in Massachusetts with his wife and two children. He plays a 1733 Montagnana cello from Venice and the 1712 Davidoff Stradivarius.

### **Emanuel Ax**

Acclaimed pianist **Emanuel Ax** is renowned for his poetic temperament and exceptional range. He was born in Lvov, Poland, and moved with his family to Winnipeg, Canada at a young age. He attended the pre-college division at Juilliard, and studied French at Columbia University. He first entered the public spotlight in 1974 at age 25, when he won the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Tel Aviv. In 1975, he received the Michaels Award of Young Concert Artists. He won the coveted Avery Fisher Prize in 1979. Since that time, he has become one of the most prominent pianists in the world. His career includes appearances with major symphony orchestras worldwide, recitals in the most celebrated concert halls, and a variety of chamber music collaborations with such artists as Young Uck Kim, Cho-Liang Lin, Yo-Yo Ma, Peter Serkin and Jaime Laredo; he was a frequent collaborator with the late Isaac Stern.

An active commissioner and performer of new music, Ax gave the world premiere of John Adams' *Century Rolls* with the Cleveland Orchestra in 1997, the European premiere with the Concertgebouw Orchestra in 1998, and the New York premiere with the Cleveland Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in 2000. In recent years Ax has turned his attention toward the music of 20<sup>th</sup>-century composers, performing works by such diverse figures as Sir Michael Tippett, Hans Werner Henze, Paul Hindemith, Ezra Laderman, Peter Lieberson, Joseph Schwantner, William Bolcom, André Previn and Aaron Copland.

Ma and Ax have collaborated on a series of acclaimed recordings and recitals. As a duo they have won three Grammy awards for the Beethoven and Brahms sonatas for cello and piano. The pair has also teamed with Richard Stoltzman for a Grammy award-winning album of clarinet trios and with Pamela Frank, Rebecca Young and Edgar Meyer for the Schubert "Trout" Quintet. The Ax-Stern-Laredo-Ma Quartet has recorded the piano quartets of Beethoven, Brahms, Dvorák, Fauré, Mozart and Schumann.

### TICKET INFORMATION

*This engagement is sold-out.* Tickets for Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax for Thursday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. are priced at \$50.00, \$75.00, \$100.00 and \$150.00, and may become available due to last minute returns. Call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability.

###

*San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Francisco* magazine, and KDFC Classical 102.1 FM are season media sponsors of Cal Performances' 2004/05 performing arts season.

Cal Performances' 2004/2005 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

###

### CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

#### CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Thursday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley**

#### *Special Event*

**Yo-Yo Ma**, cello & **Emanuel Ax**, piano

#### **Program:**

Beethoven/ Twelve Variations in F Major on "Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen" from Mozart's  
*Die Zauberflöte*, Op. 66  
Sonata No. 1 in F Major, Op. 5, No. 1  
Sonata No. 4 in C Major, Op. 102, No. 1  
Seven Variations in E-Flat Major on "Bei Männern, welche fühlen" from Mozart's  
*Die Zauberflöte*, WoO. 46  
Sonata No. 3 in A Major, Op. 69.

**Tickets:** *This engagement is sold-out.* Tickets for Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax for Thursday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. are priced at \$50.00, \$75.00, \$100.00 and \$150.00, and may become available due to last minute returns. Call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability.