

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE ZEHETMAIR QUARTET
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 8:00 P.M. IN FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

BERKELEY, October 9, 2003 – Violinist **Thomas Zehetmair**'s distinguished quartet (**Matthias Metzger**, 2nd violin; **Ruth Killius**, viola; and **Francoise Groben**, cello) comes to Cal Performances **Saturday, November 15 at 8:00 p.m.** performing in First Congregational Church. "The violinist Thomas Zehetmair, who enjoys a major solo career, has inspired all three of his colleagues to play with provocative, protean expressivity," hails *The New Yorker* of this outstanding ensemble. While each member individually pursues their own career separately, the ensemble gathers for week-long rehearsal intensives before touring annually. Their November 15 program includes **J.S. Bach**'s Choral Vor Deinen Thron Tret'ich; **Benjamin Britten**'s String Quartet No. 3, Op. 94; and **Franz Schubert**'s String Quartet in G major, D 887.

Thomas Zehetmair founded the **Zehetmair Quartet** in 1997 with three of his longstanding chamber music partners. Since the Quartet's first widely acclaimed appearances in March 1998 (Lisbon, Cologne, Leipzig, Salzburg, and Munich), the Zehetmair Quartet has established itself one of the leading string quartets in the world. The Quartet's first CD recording for ECM in 2001 is comprised of Karl Hartmann's First and Bela Bartók's Fourth String Quartets. Their newest CD, released in January 2003 also for ECM, is dedicated to the String Quartets of Robert Schumann.

Thomas Zehetmair was born in Salzburg. He studied at the Mozarteum with his father and later took master classes with Franz Samokyl, Max Rostal and Nathan Milstein. Zehetmair made early debuts at the Salzburg Festival (1977) and the Vienna Musikverein (1979). He is now a regular guest of the world's finest orchestras, working with distinguished conductors including Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Simon Rattle, Christoph von Dohnanyi, and Heinz Holliger. His chamber music partners have included Alfred Brendel, Heinrich Schiff and Gidon Kremer,

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and he has recorded for Teldec, Berlin-Classics, EMI and Phillips. He took his first appointment as artistic director of the Northern Sinfonia in fall 2001.

Matthias Metzger (violin) studied with Ulf Hoelscher at the Musikhochschule in Karlsruhe, taking part in the master classes of Reinhard Goebel, Robert Soetens, Victor Pikaizen, Gerhard Schulz and Roman Nodel, and the interpretation classes of Nikolaus Harnoncourt. He was appointed leader of the Schlierbach Chamber Orchestra in 1987, and of the Heidelberg Symphony Orchestra in 1993. Metzger performs regularly as soloist and in chamber music, with partners including Christian Zacharias, Michael Ponti, and Gerrit Zitterbart.

Violist **Ruth Killius** studied with Ulrich Koch and Kim Kashkashian. From 1993-1996 she was principal viola player of the Camerata Bern. Killius performed as soloist of the Mozart Sinfonia Concertante with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Residentie Orkest in the Hague, the Basel Sinfonie Orchester, and on tour in South America and Russia with the Orchestra of the 18th Century. She regularly plays chamber music with the Ensemble Aventure, Heinz Holliger and Thomas Demenga. Killius has held a professorship at the Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz since 2001.

Françoise Groben studied cello with Boris Pergamenschikow at the Cologne Musikhochschule and subsequently with William Pleeth, Daniel Shaffran, and members of the Amadeus Quartet. In 1990 she won 2nd prize in the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, and was awarded special prizes by the Soviet Artists' Federation and the Moscow Virtuosi. Since then she has received invitations to major festivals and orchestras including the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the NHK Tokyo, Leningrad Philharmonic, Jerusalem Symphony, and the Russian State Orchestra, and made CD recordings for Capriccio, EMI, and Naxos.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Zehetmair Quartet** on **Saturday, November 15** at **8:00 p.m.** in First Congregational Church are priced at **\$42.00**. Performance 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

Saturday, November 15 at 8:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Chamber Music
Zehetmair Quartet

Program:

Bach/Choral Vor Deinen Thron Tret'ich
Britten/String Quartet No. 3, Op. 94
Schubert/String Quartet in G major, D 887

Tickets: \$42.00, 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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