FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 27, 2012

MARIN ALSOP & THE BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA COME TO ZELLERBACH HALL FOR TWO DISTINCT CONCERTS ON FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 30 & 31

Programs include Jennifer Higdon's Grammy-winning *Percussion Concerto* with Colin Currie (March 30); and Richard Einhorn's 1994 *Voices of Light* performed to Carl Dreyer's 1928 film *The Passion of Joan of Arc* (March 31)

SchoolTime: *LIFE: A Journey Through Time* sets dramatic nature photography to a Philip Glass score in a one-hour daytime performance for school children on March 30

Sightlines: A conversation between Marin Alsop and Matias Tarnopolsky on March 31

BERKELEY, February 27, 2012—The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, led by maestra Marin Alsop, comes to Cal Performances for a two-day residency on Friday and Saturday, March 30 and 31 at 8:00 p.m., and will feature two notable concerts in Zellerbach Hall, each presented one-night-only; a SchoolTime performance for children; and other community events. Alsop, a champion of living composers' work, is the first woman to lead a major American symphony orchestra. "With her kinetic conducting style and affinity for jazzy contemporary music, Ms. Alsop brings rhythmic verve to everything she performs," applauded *The New York Times*, "The orchestra sounds terrific". The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra is one of the most celebrated ensemble in the United States and is a leader in both modern and classical music today.

THE PROGRAMS

On <u>Friday, March 30 at 8:00 p.m.</u> the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra will open with **Aaron Copland**'s iconic *Fanfare for the Common Man*. Copland's work will be paired with *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman* by American composer **Joan Tower**. This five-part piece was written between 1987 and 1993. Tower's rich fanfares match Copland's own, together illuminating two views of the free human spirit. Scottish percussionist virtuoso **Colin Currie** will join the orchestra for Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Jennifer Higdon**'s *Percussion Concerto*. Written for and dedicated to Currie in 2009, the solo part uses a battery of percussion

instruments—vibraphone, marimba, brake drum, wood blocks and gongs—and is particularly remarkable for its stunning and difficult cadenza.

The concert will conclude with **Sergei Prokofiev**'s **Symphony No. 5**, composed in one energetic month in 1944. The Russian composer said the work was created, "to sing the praises of the free and happy man—his strength, his generosity and the purity of his soul." The richly melodic work is one of the great orchestral compositions of the 20th century.

On <u>Saturday</u>, <u>March 31 at 8:00 p.m.</u>, the Orchestra will be joined by the **UC Choral Ensemble**, directed by **Mark Sumner**, and will perform *Voices of Light*, a 1994 work by American composer **Richard Einhorn**. Einhorn wrote *Voices of Light* over a six year period, after viewing **Carl Theodor Dreyer**'s 81-minute silent film, *The Passion of Joan of Arc*. In this theatrical production, Dreyer's 1928 film will be shown as Einhorn's composition is performed by the orchestra, chorus and soloists. Also included is a digital audio recording—made by the composer himself—of the ringing bell in Joan of Arc's home church in France. The libretto for this haunting work comes from ancient writings by Joan of Arc and female medieval mystics.

A one hour SchoolTime concert will be given on Friday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Alsop and the orchestra will perform *LIFE: A Journey Through Time*. This multimedia experience features hundreds of projected nature photographs by *National Geographic* photographer **Frans Lanting**, choreographed to a musical score by contemporary American composer **Philip Glass**. *LIFE: A Journey Through Time* debuted at the 2006 Cabrillo Music Festival under Marin Alsop. For further information about this concert, go to www.lifethroughtime.com.

To listen to Marin Alsop discuss these programs with Cal Performances Director Matias Tarnopolsky, go to http://www.calperformances.org/learn/watch_listen/#bso

There will be a Sightlines conversation between Marin Alsop and Cal Performances

Director Matias Tarnopolsky on Saturday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall. 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. This event is free to ticket holders.

A series of Education & Community Programs are being planned. Further information will be released at a later date. For more information, go to http://www.calperformances.org/performances/2011-12/orchestra/baltimore-symphony-orchestra.php.

MARIN ALSOP

Marin Alsop was appointed music director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in 2005 and took the podium in 2007, making her the first woman to lead a full-time major American orchestra. She is known for energetic, expressive conducting, innovative programming of contemporary music and the support of women composers. Alsop was born in 1956 to professional classical musicians and began musical training at age two. Upon hearing one of Leonard Bernstein's Young People's Concerts at age nine she knew she would be a conductor. Alsop earned bachelor's and master's degrees in violin performance from the Juilliard School and began conducting studies with Carl Bamberger at age 23. In 1988 she won her first conducting position as associate conductor of the Richmond (Virginia) Symphony. She has since studied conducting with Harold Farberman, Leonard Bernstein, Gustav Meier, Seiji Ozawa and others.

In addition to conducting the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, where she is contracted through 2015, Alsop is Chief Conductor of the São Paulo (Brazil) Symphony Orchestra, Conductor Emeritus of the Bournemouth (UK) Symphony, Conductor Laureate of the Colorado Symphony and Music Director of California's Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, which regularly wins the ASCAP award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music. She has also guest-conducted top orchestras worldwide.

Alsop is the first conductor to be honored with a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, and her numerous and varied awards include *Gramophone*'s "Artist of the Year" award, The Royal Philharmonic Society's Conductor's Award, the Classical BRIT Award for Best Female Artist, a European Women of Achievement Award, a fellowship in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and an invitation to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Her recording

with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Colin Currie of Jennifer Higdon's *Percussion Concerto* won a 2010 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Classical Composition.

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra** was founded in 1916. It has been led by notable conductors, including Peter Herman Adler, Sergiu Comissiona, David Zinman and Yuri Temirkanov; Marin Alsop is its twelfth music director. In addition to year-round performances in Baltimore and North Bethesda, Maryland, the orchestra performs regularly at Carnegie Hall and has toured the Soviet Union (1987), Japan (1994, 1997 and 2002) and Europe (2001 and 2005). Its discography includes acclaimed recordings of Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* (nominated for the 2009 Grammy for Best Classical Album), a three-disc recording of Dvorák's symphony cycle (currently underway); and a recording of John Corigliano's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, "The Red Violin" with Joshua Bell (co-commissioned by the orchestra in 2003). In addition to its classical and contemporary activities, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra has an active Pops series, is a pioneer in online distribution of its recordings, leads extensive community outreach and education programs, and maintains a devoted nationwide following through its national and local broadcasts. Further information about the orchestra, go to bsomusic.org.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Marin Alsop, conductor, on Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$30.00 to \$86.00, subject to change. (Separate tickets are required for each event.) Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5.00 discount (Special Events excluded). For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior, and community rush tickets. For more information about discounts go to http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu/buy/discounts.php or call (510) 642-9988.

Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Bank of America for their major support of the Season.

KDFC is media sponsor of the 2011/12 Season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, March 30, at 11:00 a.m. SchoolTime

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

Orchestra

LIFE: A Journey Through Time Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Marin Alsop, conductor

Program: A one-hour performance for school children of *LIFE: A Journey Through Time* featuring photographs by National Geographic photographer Frans Lanting, set to an elegant musical score by composer Philip Glass and performed by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets: \$5.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988. SchoolTime events are open to students K-12 in Bay Area public and private schools. Supplemental study guides for the classroom are provided. For more information, email eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-0212.

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Friday, March 30, at 8:00 p.m.

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

Orchestra
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
Marin Alsop, conductor
Colin Currie, percussion

Program:

Copland/Fanfare for the Common Man Tower/Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman Higdon/Percussion Concerto Prokofiev/Symphony No. 5 in Bb major, Op. 100 **Tickets:** Range from \$30.00 to \$85.00, subject to change, and are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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Saturday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. Sightlines

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley CampusBancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

There will be a pre-performance talk between conductor Marin Alsop and Cal Performances Director Matias Tarnopolsky. *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. This event is free to ticket holders.

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Saturday, March 31, at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley CampusBancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Special Event
Voices of Light
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
Marin Alsop, conductor
Richard Einhorn, composer
UC Choral Ensemble
Mark Sumner, director

Program: The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra will perform *Voices of Light*, Richard Einhorn's music to accompany a screening of Carl Dreyer's 1928 silent film *The Passion of Joan of Arc*.

Tickets: Range from \$30.00 to \$85.00, subject to change, and are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

- Cal Performances -