

CONTACT:
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714
ckellogg@calperformances.org
Joe Yang 510.642.9121
jyang@calperformances.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 23, 2011

MUSIC LEGEND PIANIST HERBIE HANCOCK RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES SEPTEMBER 21 AT ZELLERBACH HALL

BERKELEY, August 23, 2011 — Grammy Award–winning jazz great **Herbie Hancock** leads a quartet featuring drummer **Vinnie Colaiuta**, bassist **James Genus** and guitarist **Lionel Loueke** at Cal Performances **Wednesday, September 21** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. “Music truly is the universal language,” says Hancock, who will be performing songs from his vast repertoire. “My hope is that the music will serve as a call for world harmony on all levels.” Now in his fifth decade as a performing artist, Hancock remains where he has always been: in the forefront of world culture, technology and music. The program will be announced from the stage.

HERBIE HANCOCK

Pianist and composer Herbie Hancock’s 50-year career as a recording artist is graced with a series of musical landmarks. Few other contemporary musicians have exhibited the wide range of interests and mastery of various genres that he has. At 71 Hancock still expresses the kind of irrepressible curiosity and restless creativity that keep pushing at the boundaries of modern music.

Born in Chicago, Hancock was a child piano prodigy who performed Mozart with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at age 11. At age 20, Herbie was discovered by trumpeter Donald Byrd, who asked him to join his group. Byrd also introduced Hancock to Alfred Lion of Blue Note Records, and after two years of session work with the likes of Phil Woods and Oliver Nelson, he signed to the legendary label as a solo artist. His 1963 debut album, *Takin’ Off*, was an immediate success, producing “Watermelon Man,” an instant hit at jazz and R&B radio. Also in 1963, Hancock received the call that was to change his life and fix his place in jazz history: an invitation to join the Miles Davis Quintet. During his five years with Davis, Hancock and his colleagues thrilled audiences and recorded classic after classic. Most jazz critics and fans regard this group, which included Wayne Shorter (tenor saxophone), Ron Carter (bass) and Tony

-MORE-

Williams (drums) as the greatest small jazz ensemble of the 1960s. Even after he left Miles's group, Herbie continued to appear on Davis's groundbreaking recordings *In a Silent Way* and *Bitches Brew*, which heralded the birth of jazz fusion.

After leaving Miles Davis in 1968, Hancock stepped full-time into the new electronic jazz-funk that was sweeping the world. In 1973 *Headhunters*, the second LP in his new deal with Columbia Records, became jazz's first platinum album. In 1980 Hancock introduced the young Wynton Marsalis to the world as a solo artist, producing the trumpeter's debut album. In 1983 a new pull to the alternative side led Hancock to a series of collaborations with Bill Laswell. The first, *Future Shock*, again struck platinum, with the single "Rockit" winning a Grammy for Best R&B Instrumental. The video of the track, created by Kevin Godley and Lol Creme, won five MTV awards. Hancock once again scaled the charts in 1994, when the British hip-hop group US3 sampled a classic Hancock Blue Note side, "Cantaloupe Island," for a track called "Cantaloop," which became a huge international hit. Hancock's masterwork *Gershwin's World*, recorded and released in 1998, brought artists from all over the musical spectrum together in a celebration of George Gershwin and his artistic milieu. Hancock's collaborators included Joni Mitchell, Stevie Wonder, Kathleen Battle, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Wayne Shorter and Chick Corea. *Gershwin's World* won three Grammy Awards, including Best Traditional Jazz Album and Best R&B Vocal Performance for Stevie Wonder's "St. Louis Blues." He joined with Roy Hargrove and Michael Brecker in 2002 to record a live concert album, *Directions in Music: Live at Massey Hall*, a tribute to John Coltrane and Miles Davis. In 2007, Hancock recorded and released *River: The Joni Letters*, which won him two Grammys for Best Contemporary Jazz Album and Album of the Year.

In addition to his artistic and commercial triumphs, which include the 1987 Oscar Award for his soundtrack to the film *Round Midnight*, 14 Grammy Awards, and countless other awards, Hancock has devoted himself to several educational and philanthropic endeavors. He founded the Rhythm of Life Foundation, dedicated to finding ways to help technology improve humanity. He is the Creative Chair for Jazz for the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, serves as Institute Chairman of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, is a founder of the International

Committee of Artists for Peace and was designated as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris this past summer.

Los Angeles-based drummer **Vinnie Colaiuta** is known for his innovative drumming style, which, combines with his theatrics and energy behind the drum set, makes him one of the most sought after drummers today. Originally from Brownsville, Pennsylvania, he began playing drums as a child and received his first full drum kit from his parents at age 14. After attending one year at the Berklee College of Music, Colaiuta relocated to Los Angeles to pursue his music career. His break came in 1978 when he joined Frank Zappa's band. After leaving Zappa, Colaiuta went on to work with a long list of notable rock and pop artists, including Joni Mitchell, Barbra Streisand, Chaka Khan and Jeff Beck. He has also appeared with many notable jazz musicians, including Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, Jimmy Haslip and Quincy Jones.

James Genus is one of the most versatile and in-demand bassist on the scene today. He is well known for his talents on both the acoustic and the electric bass. He attended Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), where he was introduced to Davis, Coltrane, Monk and the acoustic bass. During his latter years at VCU, he studied and played with pianist Ellis Marsalis, who furthered his musical knowledge. He moved to New York, where his first major gig was with Blue Note recording artists Out of the Blue. From there he moved on to play/record with such artists as Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, Michael Brecker, Branford Marsalis, Dianne Reeves, Ravi Coltrane and Dave Douglas. He is currently in the *Saturday Night Live* band while continuing to perform, produce and write music.

Described as "a gentle virtuoso" by *The New York Times*, West African guitarist **Lionel Loueke** was inspired by his brother, who taught him how to play during his late teenage years. Stops at the Ivory Coast's National Institute of Arts, Paris's American School of More Than Music and Boston's Berklee College of Music led Loueke to appearances on a series of high-profile recordings, including Terence Blanchard's *Bounce and Flow*, Charlie Haden's *Land of the Sun* and Herbie Hancock's *Possibilities*. In 2008, he released his first Blue Note album,

Karibu, and the following year Loueke guested on Magos Herrera's album *Distancia*. His second album for Blue Note, *Mwaliko*, appeared in early 2010.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Herbie Hancock** on **Wednesday, September 21**, at Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$30.00, \$42.00, \$52.00, \$68.00, \$76.00** and **\$85.00**. Tickets 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. 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 more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.org.

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; 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. Information is available at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

#

Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Bank of America for major support of the 2011/12 Season.

KDFC is our 2011/12 season media sponsors.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Wednesday, September 21, at 8:00 p.m.

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

Jazz

Herbie Hancock, piano

Lionel Loueke, guitar

James Genus, bass

Vinnie Colaiuta, drums

Program: Grammy Award-winning iconic jazz pianist Herbie Hancock returns; program to be announced from the stage.

Tickets: \$30.00, \$42.00, \$52.00, \$68.00, \$76.00 and \$85.00, 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.

– Cal Performances –