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**PIANIST JONATHAN BISS BRINGS A RECITAL OF
BEETHOVEN MASTERWORKS AND A WEST COAST PREMIERE
TO CAL PERFORMANCES ON SUNDAY, APRIL 1 AT 3:00 P.M.**

**Sightlines: A pre-performance talk by UC Berkeley musicologist Rachana Vajjhala
will be given on April 1 at 2:00 p.m.**

BERKELEY, February 27, 2012—A rising star, pianist **Jonathan Biss** comes to **Zellerbach Hall** on **Sunday, April 1 at 3:00 p.m.** Biss brings his “unerring sophistication” (*The New Yorker*) to a program that will highlight seminal classics of the piano repertoire but will also include the West Coast premiere of a new work written for him by American composer **David Ludwig**. Included in the concert are three sonatas by **Ludwig van Beethoven**, C minor, Op. 10; No. 1, C-sharp minor Op. 27; No. 2, (*Moonlight*); and Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 81a, (*Les Adieux*), the latter of which is on a CD of Beethoven works Biss just released in January 2012. These works are separated by **Leos Janáček**'s *In the Mist* and Ludwig's *Lunaire Variations* (2012). Hailed for his musical intelligence, artistry and willingness to explore the edges of the piano repertoire, Biss will bring his unique perspective to these classic works.

There will be a Sightlines talk by UC Berkeley musicologist Rachana Vajjhala, April 1 at 2:00 p.m. at Hertz 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.

Jonathan Biss was born in 1980 into a family of musicians. At six he began studying with Evelyne Brancart at Indiana University and then at The Curtis Institute of Music with Leon Fleisher. Since his 2001 debut with the New York Philharmonic, Biss has performed with the foremost orchestras in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Last season he made his Carnegie Hall debut, and has performed in recital in many other prestigious halls worldwide.

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Biss just released the first CD in a series that will include all of Beethoven's piano sonatas. Previous recordings include solo and concerto work on multiple record labels. He has been awarded with the Leonard Bernstein Award, an Avery Fisher Career Grant and a Gilmore Young Artist Award, among others. More information about Jonathan Biss can be found at his website, jonathanbiss.com.

Composer **David Ludwig** and Biss met while students at The Curtis Institute of Music. Ludwig was named one of NPR's 2011 Top 100 Musicians under 40, and has been in residence at the Marlboro festival for multiple years. In addition to Biss, musicians who have commissioned work from Ludwig include Eighth Blackbird, Jennifer Koh and Jaime Laredo, and Daniel Matsukawa and the Philadelphia Orchestra. *Lunaire Variations* will have its world premiere in Aspen, Colorado, the week before the Berkeley engagement.

TICKET INFORMATION

Ticket prices for **Jonathan Biss** in recital on **Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall** are **\$42.00**, subject to change. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at 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 a complete listing of discounts <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, April 1 at 3:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

Recital

Jonathan Biss, piano

Program:

Beethoven/Sonata in C minor, Op. 10, No. 1, Sonata in C-sharp minor Op. 27, No. 2,
(*Moonlight*) and Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 81a, (*Les Adieux*)

Janáček/*In the Mist*

Ludwig/*Lunaire Variations* (West Coast Premiere)

Tickets: \$42.00, subject to change, and are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at calperformances.org; and at the door.

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