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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 18, 2012

**PIANIST NICOLAS HODGES GIVES THE
WEST COAST PREMIERE OF *GIGUE MACHINE*
ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 27 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

**HARRISON BIRTWISTLE'S *GIGUE MACHINE* WAS CO-COMMISSIONED BY
CAL PERFORMANCES AND CARNEGIE HALL**

BERKELEY, December 18, 2012—"With an energy that sometimes defies belief," (*The Guardian*) pianist Nicolas Hodges comes to Hertz Hall on Sunday, January 27 at 3:00 p.m. His program features the West Coast premiere of Sir Harrison Birtwistle's *Gigue Machine* (2011), which was written for Hodges. The concert will also include Claude Debussy's cool and virtuosic Etudes, Books I and II (1915), Ferruccio Busoni's Giga, Bolero e Variazione (Study after Mozart – Book 3 of *An die Jugend*) (1909), and Igor Stravinsky's tour de force, Three Movements from *Pétrouchka* (1921). "Hodges is a refreshing artist: he plays the classics as if they were written yesterday, and what was written yesterday as if it were already a classic" (*Tempo*).

Pianist Nicolas Hodges was born in London in 1970. He studied piano at Cambridge University with Robert Bottone, and other teachers have included Susan Bradshaw and Sulamita Aronovsky. Hodges has developed into an adventurous recitalist; "Hodges played this difficult music...with uncanny confidence," said the *Los Angeles Times* of a typically varied Hodges recital. Hodges' discography is similarly broad and challenging. In addition to recital performance and recording, Hodges has performed with the Chicago Symphony, the BBC Symphony, the Stockholm Philharmonic, the Tokyo Philharmonic, and many more. He has performed under the baton of today's leading conductors including Daniel Barenboim, James Levine, Leonard Slatkin and James Levine.

Contemporary composers including Elliott Carter, Beat Furrer, Wolfgang Rihm, Salvatore Sciarrino and Birtwistle have written works for Hodges; he has also worked closely with composers including John Adams, Oliver Knussen, Olga Neuwirth and Stockhausen. Hodges is professor of piano at the Musikhochschule in Stuttgart, Germany, where he educates young pianists on the

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relationship between performance of standard repertoire and contemporary works. One of his stated goals is to help young composers demystify the complexities of writing for the piano. For additional information, visit nicolashodges.com.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for Nicolas Hodges, piano, on Sunday, January 27 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$42.00**, subject to change. 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 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://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php> or call (510) 642-9988.

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Funded by the Koret Foundation, this performance is part of Cal Performances' 2012/13 Koret Recital Series, which brings world-class artists to our community.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, December 12 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Koret Recital Series
Nicolas Hodges, piano

Program:

Debussy/*Etudes* Books 1 & 2

Busoni/*Giga, Bolero e Variazione* (Study after Mozart – Book 3 of *An Die Jugend*)

Birwistle/*Gigue Machine* (West Coast premiere)

Stravinsky/*Three movements from Pétrouchka*

Tickets: are \$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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