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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 6, 2012

**PIANO VIRTUOSO PETER SERKIN PERFORMS WORKS BY  
WUORINEN, TAKEMITSU, WOLPE AND BEETHOVEN ON  
TUESDAY MAY 8 AT 8 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

***Sightlines:* A pre-performance talk will be given by UC Berkeley musicologist Rachana Vajjhala from 7:00-7:30 pm in Hertz Hall**

**BERKELEY, April 6, 2012**—Cal Performances presents the inimitable piano virtuoso **Peter Serkin** on **Tuesday May 8 at 8:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall**. Serkin is famed for his dominance of four centuries of piano repertoire. His concert will span three of these centuries, including **Charles Wuorinen**'s Adagio, which was written for him in 2011. Other selections are **Ludwig von Beethoven**'s *Diabelli* Variations, Op. 120 (c. 1820), **Stefan Wolpe**'s *Toccata* (1941) and **Toru Takemitsu**'s *For Away* (1973). Through his 50 year career, Serkin has explored all facets of piano performance, and is at home both in the classical repertoire and with explorative and avant-garde compositions. With an expansive musicality that finds connections in music other would overlook, *The New York Times* claimed "Mr. Serkin's interpretive style is so thoughtful and distinctive that disparate works seem to have similarities in his hands, which might not be apparent otherwise."

Born in New York City in 1947 **Peter Serkin** hails from an impressive musical legacy; his grandfather was the acclaimed violinist Adolf Busch and his father the pianist Rudolf Serkin. He began studying at the Curtis Institute of Music at age 11 and was guided by many master pianists, including Mieczyslaw Horszowski, Lee Luvisi, Ernst Oster, Marcel Mosey, Karl Ulrich Sahnabel and his father. His professional career started in 1959 when he performed with the Marlboro Music Festival and debuted in New York City. His impressive performances led to invitations by the Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestra. Since then he has worked with some the world's leading conductors, Pierre Boulez, James Levine and Daniel Barenboim to name a few. He has performed with leading national orchestras such as the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Boston, Chicago Symphonies, as well as orchestras abroad such as the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonics and

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the Deutsche Symphony Orchestra. He has performed at the most prestigious venues including Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall and has given hundreds of concerts international in cities like Shanghai, Tokyo, Paris and London. As a strong advocate for new music and has had works written for him by leading contemporary composers Elliot Carter, Toru Takemitsu and Charles Wuorining. His wide interest in music includes many chamber collaboration with musicians such as include Yo-Yo Ma, Pamela Frank, Jaime Laredo, Andras Schiff, Alexander Schneider, Guarneri String Quartet and the Budapest String Quartet. Serkin also regularly performs in music festivals such as Tanglewood, Gilmore international keyboard festival Saito Kinene Festival in Matsumoto (Japan).

Serkin's powerful and exquisite playing has lead to many awards including three Grammys, the prestigious Perion Internazionale Musicale Chigiana Award and Deutsche Schallplatten. The pianist currently holds an honorary doctorate from New England Conservatory. He has previously taught at Julliard School of Music and his alma mater Cutis Institute of Music and is on the faculty of Bard Conservatory of Music.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Ticket prices for **Peter Serkins** in recital on **Tuesday May 8 at 8 p.m. in Hertz Hall** are priced at **\$60.00**, subject to change. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at [calperformances.org](http://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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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Bank of America for their major support of the Season.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Tuesday, May 8, at 8:00 p.m**

**Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**

*Recital*

**Peter Serkins**, piano

**Program:**

Wolpe/Toccat

Takemitsu/*For Away*

Charles Wuorinen/Adagio (2011)

Beethoven/*Diabelli* Variations Op. 120

**Tickets: \$60.00**, subject to change, and are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org); and at the door.

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