COUNTERTENOR <u>PHILIPPE JAROUSSKY</u> MAKES HIS CAL PERFORMANCES DEBUT WITH <u>JEANNETTE SORRELL</u> AND THE ACCLAIMED EARLY MUSIC ENSEMBLE <u>APOLLO'S FIRE</u> AT HERTZ HALL SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 AT 3:00 P.M.

The program *Handel & Vivaldi Fireworks* includes orchestral and arias by Handel and Vivaldi

BERKELEY, October 5, 2011—French countertenor **Philippe Jaroussky** makes his much anticipated Bay Area debut in a program demonstrating that his "sweet-toned, radiant voice" (The New York Times) is fully equipped to showcase the dramatic and technical ranges of George Frederic Handel and Antonio Vivaldi. The recital on Sunday October 30 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall features Apollo's Fire led by founder and music director Jeannette Sorrell in a program that includes Sorrell's arrangements of Vivaldi's Allegro from Concerto Grosso in D major and Concerto Grosso La Follia "Madness". Much of the music in the concert titled Handel & Vivaldi Fireworks was written for the great castrati of the 18th century, and gives Jaroussky an opportunity to showcase his impressive coloratura technique and sensitive, lyrical expressiveness. Works by Handel include arias from *Oreste*, *Il Parnasso in Festa*, *Imeno* and *Ariodante*; Vivaldi is represented by arias from *Catone in Utica*, *Giustino* and *Tito* Manlio. Orchestral works from both composers will round out the concert including Vivaldi's Violin Concerto in E-flat major, Op. 8, No. 5, *Tempesta di Mare*; and Handel's Prelude in A major, also arranged by Sorrell, and Chaconne from Terpsichore. Apollo's Fire comprises period instrument specialists from North America and Europe, and is celebrated for their fresh approach to baroque music and innovative programming.

PHILIPPE JAROUSSKY

Countertenor **Philippe Jaroussky** was born in Maisons-Laffitte, France, and as a child began playing the violin. At age 18, he won an award at the Versailles conservatory, but was steered away from the violin because his father thought he had started too late for a career. Upon hearing the countertenor Fabrice di Falco in 1996, he was inspired to sing in falsetto. He began studying voice with Nicole Fallien, specializing in the music of the 18th-century castrati and eventually received a diploma in Early Music from the Conservatoire de Paris. His first major engagement was in 1999 at the Royaumont and Ambronay Festivals, and since then he has appeared in productions and recitals worldwide. Jaroussky has won awards such as the Victoire de la Musique as outstanding new singer, and the 2008 ECHO "Singer of the Year." He frequently performs with the Jean Tubéry and Ensemble La Fenice and his own early music ensemble, Artaserse. Jaroussky records as a solo artist, and as part of Artaserse. Cecilia Bartoli exclaimed of the French countertenor, "When I heard Philippe Jaroussky for the first time, I was struck by his musicality and sensibility...There is a beauty in his phrasing and a delicacy, if not fragility in his soul, that touches the listener profoundly." More information about Jaroussky can be found online at jarousskyopium.com.

APOLLO'S FIRE

Apollo's Fire, acclaimed as "one of the nation's leading baroque orchestras" (*The Boston Globe*), was founded in 1992 by the young harpsichordist and conductor, **Jeannette Sorrell**. She created the ensemble on the baroque ideal that music should evoke passions in its listeners. They have quickly become a worldwide phenomenon, embarking on multiple international tours and playing to sold out audiences. Apollo's Fire had received the 1995 Noah Greenberg Award from the American Musicological Society, and were awarded the 1998 Northern Ohio Live Achievement Award for Classical Music. As a group they have released 17 commercial CDs, and are currently signed on the British label, AVIE.

Hailed as a pioneering voice in the new generation of early music conductors, Sorrell is an award-winning early music performer and orchestral conductor. As a harpsichordist, she studied with Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam, and took First Prize and the Audience Choice Award in the 1991 Spivey International Harpsichord Competition. As a conductor, she studied at the Tanglewood Music Festival under Leonard Bernstein and Roger Norrington and was a conducting fellow at the Aspen Music Festival. In 1992, she was a finalist for the Assistant Conductor post with the Cleveland Orchestra, which led to the founding of Apollo's Fire. She maintains a demanding touring and recording schedule with the ensemble. "Led by a brilliant harpsichordist, Jeannette Sorrell, the ensemble exudes stylish energy. . .a blend of scholarship and visceral intensity" (*Gramophone*). More information about Sorell and Apollo's Fire can be found at apollosfire.org.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Philippe Jaroussky** with **Apollo's Fire** on **Sunday**, **October 30**, **2011**, at **3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$60.00**. 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 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 three 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 on Cal Performances' Facebook page and at 510-642-9988; press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

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This concert is presented in association with the French American Cultural Society, San Francisco

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, October 30, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Early Music Philippe Jaroussky, countertenor Jeannette Sorrell, conductor and harpsichord Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra

Program:

Handel/"Agitato da fiere tempest" from *Oreste*; Orfeo's recit & aria "Ho perso il caro ben" from *Il Parnasso in Festa*; "Se potessero I sospir miei" from *Imeneo*; "Con l'ali di costanza" from *Ariodante*; Chaconne from *Terpsichore*

Handel (arr. Sorrell)/Prelude in A major

Vivaldi/Violin Concerto in E-flat major, Op. 8, No. 5, *Tempesta di Mare*; "Se mai senti spirati sul volto" from *Catone in Utica*; "Verdo con mio dilettto" from *Giustino*; "Frá le procelle" from *Tito Manlio*

Vivaldi (arr. Sorrell)/Allegro from Concerto Grosso in D major; Concerto Crosso La Folia "Madness"

Tickets: \$60.00, 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.

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