FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 30, 2013

PIANIST <u>SHAI WOSNER</u> EXPLORES SCHUBERT AND WIDMANN IN A HERTZ HALL RECITAL ON NOVEMBER 24

Watch an Exclusive video of Wosner discussing Schubert

BERKELEY, October 30, 2013—Israel-born, Juilliard-trained pianist <u>Shai Wosner</u>, an acknowledged master of the solo piano works of Franz Schubert, will give a <u>Cal Performances</u> recital on Sunday afternoon, November 24 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall. Performing three disparate works by Schubert, and complementing them with a Schubert homage by contemporary German composer <u>Jörg Widmann</u>, Wosner will travel the vast range of the composer's emotions. "[H]is playing was lithe and articulate," said the *New York Times* in a review of a 2010 Schubert-themed program by Wosner. "The breathless energy of his conception was captivating."

Wosner will open his recital with Schubert's *Drei Klavierstück* (Three Piano Pieces), overshadowed musical cousins to the composer's more famous sets of Impromptus. Written in 1828 (a year after the Impromptus) but unpublished for 40 years, these compositions brim with emotional and formal complexity. *Idyll and Abyss*, subtitled "Six Schubert Reminiscences," by German clarinetist and composer Jörg Widmann follows. Written in 2009 for German pianist Siegfried Mauser, these six short fantasies evoke Schubert's emotional range in their melodies and stark shifts of mood. Schubert's Sonata No. 13, next on the program, was written around 1819 and published in 1829, after the composer's death. It is a generally serene work that evokes the Austrian countryside and has strong songlike elements. This contrasts with the last work on Shai Wosner's recital, Sonata No. 21, Schubert's final composition. This composition is awash in somber mystery, yet retains an ineffable calmness as the composer explores his own mortality.

Shai Wosner studied piano composition, theory, and improvisation as a child in Israel, and at the Juilliard School he became a student of Emanuel Ax. Wosner has performed in solo recital at famed venues including the Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center, been a frequent recital partner with violinist Jennifer Koh, violinist Veronka Eberle, and cellist Matthew Barley, and has performed chamber music with the Miró Quartet, Martin Fröst, Lynn Harrell, Cho-Liang Lin,

Pinchas Zukerman, and others. He has also appeared with orchestras worldwide, including the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, Barcelona, Berlin, Chicago, Cleveland, San Francisco, Seattle, and Vienna. His recordings on the Onyx and Cedille labels have been widely acclaimed. Wosner made his Cal Performances debut at the 2012 Fall Free For All.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for Shai Wosner, piano, on Sunday, November 24 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall are priced \$32.00, and are subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at http://www.calperformances.org; and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, November 24 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Recital

Shai Wosner, piano

Program:

Schubert/*Drei Klavierstück* D.946 Widmann/*Idyll and Abyss* (Six Schubert Reminiscences) Schubert/Sonata No.13 in A Major, D.664 Schubert/Sonata No. 21 in B-flat Major, D.960

Tickets are \$32.00, subject to change; they are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at calperformances.org; and at the door.

- Cal Performances -