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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 17, 2021 <u>Press Room</u>

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY ANNOUNCES *CAL PERFORMANCES AT HOME;* FREE STREAMING SERIES OF SELECT PERFORMANCES RECORDED LIVE IN ZELLERBACH HALL

The first releases in the series, available to stream on demand for a limited time each, are:

- Danish String Quartet performing Schubert's String Quartet in G major, Jan. 13–19
 - Caleb Teicher & Company and Conrad Tao's *More Forever*, Jan. 20–26
 - Kronos Quartet with special guest Mahsa Vahdat, Jan. 27–Feb. 2

Each of these three performances is accompanied by an artist interview with Cal Performances Executive and Artistic Director Jeremy Geffen

More performances will be announced at a later date

Berkeley, December 17, 2021 — Cal Performances announces today the return of *Cal Performances at Home*, the ambitious on demand performing arts streaming series, originally conceived during the pandemic to allow patrons to experience main stage arts performances virtually. Since the current Cal Performances season is centered around live performance, this new presentation of *Cal Performances at Home* serves as an expansion of this season's programming by offering viewers free access to concerts filmed in front of live audiences in Zellerbach Hall.

The first three video streams to be offered are <u>the Danish String Quartet's performance of</u> <u>Schubert's String Quartet in G major</u>, available Jan. 13–19; <u>the Bay Area premiere of *More Forever*</u>, a collaboration between Caleb Teicher & Company (dance) and Conrad Tao (piano), available Jan. 20–26; and <u>Kronos Quartet performing with special guest vocalist Mahsa Vahdat</u>, which is part of the <u>Illuminations "Place and Displacement" series</u> and includes the world premiere performance of a *Fifty for the Future* work by Cal Performances 2021-22 season artist–in–residence, Angélique Kidjo, available Jan. 27–Feb. 2. Each of these first three performances is paired with an accompanying *Beyond the Stage* video of a conversation between the artists and Cal Performances Executive and Artistic Director Jeremy Geffen. The initial three releases are timed to be made available during the month of January, when fewer live events are taking place. Other video streams will be announced throughout the winter and spring and will be selected on the criterion that they "collectively create a well-rounded offering that reflects the wide variety of programming our patrons enjoy," said Geffen.

"While we will continue to focus our primary efforts on creating the highest caliber of live performances for the remainder of this season, not all of our fellow arts supporters have felt comfortable coming back to in-person performances," said Geffen. "These recordings are valuable because they allow us to share the joy of these exceptional performances with even more people in our community, including those who are still hesitant to return to live performances."

Each video is offered for free with registration, though donations are welcomed to support this increased community access. Every registered individual will be able to watch the performances an unlimited number of times during the viewing period.

More details about *Cal Performances at Home* and registration to watch videos can be found at **calperformances.org/at-home**. Information about upcoming live performances is available at **calperformances.org/2021-22-season**. Details about Cal Performances' extensive commitment to COVID-19 safety for in-person performances is posted at **calperformances.org/safety-first**.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE: CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS

Cal Performances at Home on demand video

Chamber Music Danish String Quartet Available to view January 13–19, 2022

Program: Schubert/String Quartet in G major, D. 887

This performance is an excerpt from a concert filmed in front of a live audience in Zellerbach Hall on October 10, 2021. The concert launched the Danish String Quartet's *Doppelgänger* project, a threeseason initiative co-commissioned by Cal Performances. Each of the quartet's *Doppelgänger* performances pairs a Schubert string quartet with a newly commissioned work. In this excerpt, the group performs Schubert's final string quartet (D. 887 in G major). The Danish String Quartet's next live performance in Berkeley this season, taking place on April 29, 2022, pairs Schubert's *Death* Cal Performances / Cal Performances at Home Returns with Free On Demand Video Streams page 3

and the Maiden quartet with the Bay Area premiere of a new work by Finnish composer Lotta Wennäkoski.

Cal Performances recorded a conversation between the Danish String Quartet and Executive and Artistic Director Jeremy Geffen discussing the group's new *Doppelgänger* project, commissioning composers, the emotional and formal challenges of performing pieces by Schubert, and the physical challenges of performing live music in <u>this</u> *Beyond the Stage* artist talk.

Tickets: Tickets for Cal Performances at Home video streams are free with registration at calperformances.org/at-home. Donations are welcomed.

Cal Performances at Home on demand video

Dance Caleb Teicher & Company with pianist Conrad Tao Available to view January 20–26, 2022

Program: More Forever

More Forever brings together dancer and choreographer Caleb Teicher with pianist and composer Conrad Tao in their Cal Performances debut. *More Forever* combines tap and Lindy Hop and is danced by Teicher and the members of their acclaimed company without tap shoes, in a 24-footsquare sandbox; Tao performs the piano and electronic score live. The performance was recorded in front of a live audience in Zellerbach Hall on December 5, 2021.

Dancer/Choreographer Caleb Teicher and pianist Conrad Tao spoke with Cal Performances Executive and Artistic Director Jeremy Geffen about how they met and started collaborating, how <u>YoungArts</u> Week played a part, the impact of *More Forever* as a true collaboration between composer and choreographer, where the idea of using sand came from, and how the pandemic may change audiences' perceptions of the piece in <u>this Beyond the Stage</u> artist conversation.

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Cal Performances at Home on demand video

New Music Kronos Quartet

with special guest Mahsa Vahdat Available to view January 27–February 2, 2022

Program: <u>Kronos Quartet</u> Peni Candra Rini (arr. Jacob Garchik)/*Maduswara* Terry Riley/Third movement from *This Assortment of Atoms – One Time Only!* Missy Mazzoli/*Enthusiasm Strategies* Angélique Kidjo (arr. Jacob Garchik)/*YanYanKliYan Senamido* (World Premiere)

<u>Kronos Quartet & Mahsa Vahdat</u> Mahsa Vahdat (arr. Sahba Aminikia)/*The Sun Rises* Mahsa Vahdat (arr. Atabak Elyasi)/*Vaya, Vaya* Mahsa Vahdat (arr. Sahba Aminikia)/*Placeless* Mahsa Vahdat (arr. Atabak Elyasi)/*I Was Dead*

As part of Cal Performances' season-long <u>Illuminations: "Place and Displacement"</u> series exploring the effects of migration and gentrification on individuals and communities, Kronos Quartet returned to Zellerbach Hall with the newest edition of its 50 for the Future project. With 40 compositions commissioned, premiered, and shared to date, the ongoing multi-year project features new works by an international and diverse group of composers, made available online with the goal of training students and emerging professionals in contemporary approaches to string quartet music. This concert features a world premiere of a composition by Cal Performances' 2021–22 season artist–in– residence, Angélique Kidjo, and the third movement from a new work by Terry Riley. For the second half of the concert, Kronos is joined by Mahsa Vahdat, a prominent performer of Persian vocal music, who collaborated with the quartet on their 2019 recording of *Placeless*. This project features melodies Vahdat has composed to classical poems by Hafez and Rumi, as well as contemporary texts by Iranian poets. The performance was recorded in front of a live audience in Zellerbach Hall on Thursday, December 2, 2021.

Kronos Quartet founder and violinist David Harrington and vocalist Mahsa Vahdat joined Cal Performances Executive and Artistic Director Jeremy Geffen for a filmed conversation about this concert, how it fits into the 2021–22 season *Illuminations* theme of "Place and Displacement," what inspired Vahdat's portion of the program, and how the artists came to collaborate, and more, in <u>this Beyond the Stage</u> artist talk.

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