

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE ACCLAIMED
TAKÁCS QUARTET
WITH GUEST CELLIST NATASHA BROFSKY
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

Sightlines: Pre-concert talk by musicologist Roger Moseley at 2:00 p.m.

BERKELEY, December 20, 2001 – The extraordinary **Takács Quartet** returns **Sunday, February 3 at 3:00 p.m.** to Hertz Hall, following sold-out appearances on Cal Performances' 1999/00 and 2000/01 seasons. These "master interpreters...delivered it all with phenomenal pitch, great tonal allure and the spark of authority," wrote the *San Francisco Examiner* following the Takács' October 2000 performance with Andreas Haefliger. Violinist **Edward Dusinberre**, cellist **András Fejér**, violinist **Károly Schranz**, and violist **Roger Tapping** are joined this February by cellist **Natasha Brofsky** to perform **Schubert's** rarely heard String Quintet in C major. The program also includes **Beethoven's** String Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 18, No. 6 and **Ravel's** String Quartet in F major. A free *Sightlines* pre-concert talk by musicologist Roger Moseley of UC Berkeley's Department of Music will take place at 2:00 p.m., one hour prior to the performance.

The **Takács Quartet** was formed in 1975 by **Gabor Takács-Nagy, Károly Schranz, Gabor Ormai** and **András Fejér** while all four were students at Budapest's Liszt Academy. The Quartet first received international attention in 1977, winning first prize and the Critics' Prize at the International String Quartet Competition in Evian, France. The Takács subsequently won the gold medal at the 1978 Portsmouth and Bordeaux Competitions, and first prizes at the Budapest International String Quartet (1978) and the Bratislava competitions (1981). The Quartet made its North American debut tour in 1982. Today, violinist **Edward Dusinberre** and violist **Roger Tapping** have replaced Takács-Nagy and Ormai, and the ensemble is based in Boulder, Colorado, where it has held a residency at the University of Colorado since 1983. The Takács is a Resident Quartet at the Aspen Festival and its members are also Visiting Fellows at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. In January 2001, members of the Quartet were bestowed with the Order of Merit of the Knightcross by the Republic of Hungary.

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This season, after being featured at the Cliburn Festival, the Takács Quartet performs over 40 concerts in the United States and tours extensively in Europe. The Takács also performs Bartók cycles in Seville, Madrid, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, and Cleveland. At the Aspen Festival, the ensemble will perform a joint concert with the Hungarian gypsy ensemble, Muzsikás. In 2002/03, the Takács will give several concerts with pianist Garrick Ohlsson and will perform in Carnegie Hall and other major venues with Muzsikás.

The Takács Quartet records exclusively for Decca/London. Besides the Quartet's acclaimed recording of the Bartók cycle, recent releases include the Schubert "Trout" Quintet and Dvorák's Quartet Op. 51 and Piano Quintet Op. 81 with Andreas Haefliger. Currently, the ensemble is recording the entire Beethoven quartet cycle, to be completed in 2004. The ensemble was nominated for Grammy Awards in both 1999 and 2000, and its Bartók Quartet Cycle received *Gramophone* magazine's Chamber Music Recording of the Year in 1998.

Natasha Brofsky is cellist of the Peabody Trio, ensemble-in-residence at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. She performs regularly with the Trio throughout the United States, Canada, England, and on recordings for CRI and New World Records. Previously she held principal positions in the Norwegian Radio Orchestra and Norwegian Chamber Orchestra. Brofsky has performed as a member of the string trio Opus 3, the Colorado Chamber Players, and the Serapion Ensemble. With the Oslo Sinfonietta, she recorded Olav Anton Thommessen's cello concerto for Aurora Records. The cellist holds degrees from the Eastman School and Mannes College, and as a Fulbright Award recipient, she spent two years studying in London. She has appeared as a guest artist with the Takács Quartet in Spain, Italy, and the United States.

TICKET INFORMATION

This concert is sold out. Tickets for the **Takács Quartet** with **Natasha Brofsky** at **3:00 p.m. Sunday, February 3** in **Hertz Hall** are priced at **\$34.00** and may become available due to last-minute returns. Call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability.

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San Francisco Chronicle, *San Francisco* magazine, and KDFC Classical 102.1 FM are media sponsors of Cal Performances' 2001/02 performing arts season.

All Cal Performances programs are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Zellerbach Family Fund.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, February 3 at 2:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College, Berkeley

SIGHTLINES

Pre-concert talk by musicologist **Roger Moseley** of UC Berkeley's Department of Music. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. These events are free to ticketholders.

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Sunday, February 3 at 3:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College, Berkeley

Chamber Music

Takács Quartet

with **Natasha Brofsky**, cello

Program:

Beethoven/String Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 18, No. 6

Ravel/String Quartet in F major

Schubert/Quintet in C major, D 956

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