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**CAL PERFORMANCES ANNOUNCES THE
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION & GALA, MAY 12, 2006 AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**Mark Morris Dance Group, John Adams, Michael Tilson Thomas with Lisa
Vroman, and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra Perform in Honor of
100 Years of Arts Presenting on the UC Berkeley Campus**

**CHEZ PANISSE FOUNDER ALICE WATERS AND DESIGNER STANLEE GATTI
PARTNER TO CREATE SUMPTUOUS GALA FESTIVITIES**

BERKELEY, December 7, 2005 – Hundreds of artists from the worlds of dance, music and theater will appear on Zellerbach Hall stage to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Cal Performances on Friday, May 12, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. Cal Performances' origin is marked by the May 17, 1906 appearance of actress Sarah Bernhardt at the Hearst Greek Theatre, a benefit for the victims of the San Francisco earthquake and fire in April of that year. The Centennial Celebration & Gala will be co-chaired by **Ann Getty** and Ambassador **Kathryn Hall** and will feature **Mark Morris** and the **Mark Morris Dance Group, John Adams, Michael Tilson Thomas, Lisa Vroman, Alarm Will Sound,** and the **San Francisco Opera Orchestra**, plus more than 200 vocalists from the **University Chorus, UC Alumni Chorus** and the **Ensemble of the Piedmont Children's Choirs**, under the baton of Cal Performances' Director **Robert Cole**. Culinary impresario **Alice Waters** and premier party planner **Stanlee Gatti** will create pre- and post-performance delights worthy of 100 years of the best performing arts the world has to offer.

“Cal Performances' vitality and enormous legacy of excellence since 1906 have benefited the entire Bay Area and influenced the arts nationwide,” comments Robert Cole, who celebrates his 20th year of leadership in 2006. “It's an honor for us all—artists, staff, Board of Trustees, and audiences—to be associated with this institution and present for this significant milestone. We will toast all that's gone before us and herald the beginning of the next century of artistic achievement in Berkeley.”

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PROGRAM

No other artist has performed more often at or received more commissions from Cal Performances than the choreographer and creative force known as **Mark Morris**. First performing in Berkeley in 1987, the Mark Morris Dance Group's (MMDG) frequent visits often include world premieres, beginning with *World Power*, set to music by Lou Harrison, in 1995. Past seasons have also witnessed the West Coast premiere of Morris's production of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (1995); the world stage premiere of *Falling Down Stairs*, set to Bach's Suite No. 3 for Unaccompanied Cello, performed by cellist Yo-Yo Ma (1997); the world premiere of *Rhymes With Silver*, with a score commissioned by Cal Performances from Lou Harrison (1997); and the American premiere of Morris's production of Rameau's comic opera-ballet *Platée* (1998). Over the years the list of world premieres has continued to grow: *Something Lies Beyond the Scene* as well as *Kolam*, a work commissioned by Cal Performances as part of Yo-Yo Ma's *Silk Road Project* (2002); *All Fours* (2003); *Rock of Ages* (2004); and *Candleflowerdance* (2005), among many others.

Mark Morris Dance Group, celebrating its own 25th anniversary this year, opens the May 12 Centennial Celebration & Gala performance with two works: first, Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham and Mark Morris will perform *From Old Seville* (2001), set to music by Manuel Requiebro, a work London's *Telegraph* enjoins "there's nothing for it but to grin with glee" ; and a reprise of Morris's 2001 opus *V*, hailed "one of the few great works that modern dance has produced in a decade" (*The New York Times*), set to Schumann's Quintet in E-flat for piano and strings.

Excerpts from **John Adams's** *I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I Saw the Sky*, with libretto by June Jordan and originally staged by Peter Sellars, will follow the MMDG on the May 12 program. Commissioned by Cal Performances, the songplay received its world premiere in 1995 in Berkeley before embarking on an international tour. One of America's most admired and frequently performed composers, Adams is a musician of enormous range, producing both operatic and symphonic works. His music has played a key role in moving contemporary musical aesthetics toward a more expansive and expressive language. Adams taught for ten years at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music before serving as Composer in Residence at

the San Francisco Symphony from 1982 to 1985. Collaborations with poet Alice Goodman and Sellars resulted in two operas, *Nixon in China* and *The Death of Klinghoffer*. His newest opera, *Dr. Atomic*, again a collaboration with Sellars, premiered at the San Francisco Opera in fall 2005. Adams has been the subject of three documentary films and the recipient of numerous awards including the Pulitzer Prize for *On the Transmigration of Souls* commemorating the first anniversary of The World Trade Center attacks. A resident of Berkeley, Adams maintains an active conducting schedule leading some of the greatest orchestras in the world.

Alarm Will Sound, a 20-member ensemble committed to innovative performances and recordings of today's music, will perform excerpts from *I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I Saw the Sky*. The group has established a reputation for performing demanding music with energetic virtuosity, "equal parts exuberance, nonchalance and virtuosity" (*London Financial Times*).

Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT), Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) since 1995, will tender another facet of his immense talent for the May 12 Centennial Celebration when he joins soprano **Lisa Vroman**, star of the San Francisco and Broadway productions of *Phantom of the Opera*, at the piano. As conductor of the SFS, MTT's participation in the Centennial Celebration & Gala is particularly meaningful: The SFS's relationship with the University and Cal Performances began in 1912 when the orchestra first performed at the Hearst Greek Theatre. The SFS returned regularly until 1980 led by an impressive roster of notable conductors, including Alfred Hertz, Pierre Monteux, Josef Krips, and Seiji Ozawa. Along with his post in San Francisco, MTT serves as Principal Guest Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, where he served as Principal Conductor for seven years.

Lisa Vroman has appeared on Broadway in *Aspects of Love* and *Les Misérables*. She performed in Stephen Sondheim's Emmy Award-winning *Sweeney Todd in Concert* with Patti Lupone and George Hearn and made her Hollywood Bowl debut singing and dancing opposite Dick Van Dyke in *Mary Poppins*. Drawing on a repertoire from Stravinsky to Weill, she has sung with orchestras across North America. She has performed with Michael Tilson Thomas at

the piano and on the podium, including the celebration to honor MTT's 60th birthday at Davies Symphony Hall. MTT and Vroman's repertoire will be announced.

The May 12 Centennial Celebration performance will conclude with Cal Performances' Director **Robert Cole** conducting the **San Francisco Opera Orchestra** and the combined vocal forces of the **University Chorus**, **UC Alumni Chorus** and the **Ensemble of the Piedmont Children's Choirs** in excerpts from Richard Wagner's *Der Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and Arrigo Boito's Prologue to *Mefistofele*. In 1957, Cal Performances celebrated a major renovation of the Greek Theatre with a production of Puccini's *Turandot* by the San Francisco Opera (SFO). The program was so successful that the SFO would return for 12 consecutive seasons, and in 1978, the campus honored the 75th anniversary of the building with a grand celebration featuring tenor Luciano Pavarotti and the SFO led by Kurt Herbert Adler. The 200 voice choir will be comprised of the University Chorus, under the direction of **Marika Kuzma**, the UC Alumni Chorus, under the direction of **Mark Sumner**, and 46 East Bay 12-15 year-olds from the Ensemble of the Piedmont Children's Choirs, under the direction of **Robert Geary**.

CENTENNIAL GALA

Ann Getty is the Honorary Chair of Cal Performances' Centennial Celebration & Gala, with former Ambassador to Austria **Kathryn Hall** serving as Celebration Event Chair. The Celebration & Gala festivities begin with cocktails at 6:00 p.m., with the performance following at 7:30 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. A post-performance dinner caps off the evening. **Alice Waters**, one of the world's most creative and influential culinary forces, will create the menu for the pre-performance cocktail reception and post-performance dinner. Waters, the founder of Berkeley's legendary Chez Panisse—and a Cal grad—created a revolutionary California cuisine through her advocacy for fresh and simple ingredients. She is the Founder and Director of the Chez Panisse Foundation, a Visiting Dean at the French Culinary Institute, an Honorary Trustee of the American Center for Food, Wine and the Arts in Napa, and Board Member of the San Francisco Ferry Plaza Farmers Market. The sure-to-be-memorable décor will be the work of master party guru **Stanlee Gatti**. Former San Francisco Arts Commission president, Gatti considers party giving an art form and will bring his vast design experience and sense of glamour to the Centennial Celebration & Gala.

CAL PERFORMANCES

Cal Performances' origin is marked by the May 17, 1906 appearance of celebrated French stage star Sarah Bernhardt in Racine's *Phèdre* at the University of California's Hearst Greek Theatre, a benefit for the victims of the massive earthquake in April of that year. *Putnam's Monthly* called Bernhardt's performance "one of the great events in world dramatic history." Ever since that landmark event, Berkeley has witnessed a parade of stage luminaries and artistic triumphs. Variety has always been at the heart of performing arts presentation at Berkeley, and over the past century the assorted incarnations of committees that would become Cal Performances have overseen production of a great range of attractions. Appearances by such renowned performers as Luisa Tetrazzini, Margaret Anglin, Maude Adams, Ruth St. Denis, George Gershwin, Ralph Kirkpatrick, Dave Brubeck, Glenn Gould, Marcel Marceau, the Berliner Ensemble, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater demonstrate that Berkeley has sufficiently lived up to its reputation as "The Athens of the West."

In the past 20 years, the exceptional growth in arts presentation under the direction of Robert Cole has established Cal Performances as a leader in the international arts scene, and the kind of place where careers are made. European, Russian, Asian and South American artists vie for a coveted place on the season, and the public routinely enjoys the likes of the Kirov and Bolshoi Ballets & Orchestras, the Grand Kabuki Theater of Japan, the Gate Theater of Dublin, Mark Morris Dance Group and such stars as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Cecilia Bartoli, Maxim Vengerov and Yo-Yo Ma.

Robert Cole has served as Director of Cal Performances since 1986. He is also General Director of the Berkeley Festival & Exhibition, an international festival of early music which he founded in 1990. Prior to his appointment in Berkeley, Cole was Director of several performing arts centers in New York. He was previously Associate Conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and was Music Director and Executive Director of the Ballet Society of Los Angeles. Cole recently appeared as conductor with the Mark Morris Dance Group at Sadler's Wells in London, the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York and in Berkeley, California. He has also conducted concerts for the Lake Tahoe Summer Music Festival in Lake Tahoe, California and is Principal Guest Conductor of the Perm (Russia) Opera & Ballet Theater.

Cole is a graduate of the University of Southern California School of Music and studied conducting with Richard Lert in California, with Leonard Bernstein and Leon Barzin at the Tanglewood Music Center, and with Hans Swarowsky in Europe. In 1995, he was named a Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters by the Government of France.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Cal Performances' Centennial Celebration** performance only on **Friday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$48.00, \$68.00** and **\$90.00**. Performance tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount. Tickets for the **Centennial Celebration & Gala** performance plus pre- and post-performance events are **\$500.00 to \$1,000.00**, and are available through Cal Performances' Development Office at (510) 643-8783.

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Cal Performances' 2005/2006 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

The *Contra Costa Times* and Classical 102.1 KDFC are season media sponsors of the 2005/06 performing arts season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, May 12, 2006

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

CAL PERFORMANCES' CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION & GALA
HONORARY CHAIR: ANN GETTY
CELEBRATION EVENT CHAIR: AMBASSAOR KATHRYN HALL

6:00 p.m.: Cocktail Reception

7:30 p.m.: Performance in Zellerbach Hall

Post-performance: Dinner

Special Event

Cal Performances' Centennial Celebration & Gala

Program:

From Old Seville (2001); music by Manuel Requiebro, *A Esa Mujer*; choreography by Mark Morris

V (2001); music by Robert Schumann, Quintet in E-flat for piano and strings, Op.44; choreography by Mark Morris

Excerpts from *I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I Saw the Sky* (1995); music by John Adams; libretto by June Jordan; performed by Alarm Will Sound.

Michael Tilson Thomas, piano, with soprano Lisa Vroman

Choral selections from *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* by Richard Wagner and Prologue to *Mefistofele*, by Arrigo Boito, performed by the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, University Chorus, UC Alumni Chorus and the Ensemble of the Piedmont Children's Choirs, conducted by Robert Cole

Tickets for the Centennial Celebration performance: \$48.00, \$68.00 and \$90.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

Tickets for the Centennial Celebration & Gala pre- and post-performance events plus the performance: \$500-\$1,000, available through Cal Performances Development Office at (510) 643-8783.