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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS KREMERATA BALTICA,
LED BY LATVIAN VIOLINIST GIDON KREMER, PERFORMING
BEETHOVEN AND CONTEMPORARY CHAMBER MUSIC
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 AT 3:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2010—**Kremerata Baltica**, a chamber orchestra consisting of “extraordinary young players from the Baltic States” (*Los Angeles Times*) and led by renowned violinist **Gidon Kremer**, will combine a classical masterpiece with new works on **Sunday, October 31 at 3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Kremerata Baltica’s program will feature recent works by a global roster of living composers: Estonian **Arvo Pärt**, Lithuanian **Raminta Šerkšnytė**, Englishman **Michael Nyman**, Russian **Lera Auerbach**, and Latvian **Georgs Pelecis**. Also on the program is **Ludwig van Beethoven’s** String Quartet No. 14.

The Grammy Award–winning Kremerata Baltica is characterized by its youth—the average age of the musicians is 27—and by its international nature. All members of the group hail from the Baltic countries of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. Praised for performing with “flair, intensity, precision, and delicacy” (*The Independent*), Kremerata Baltica is sponsored by all three Baltic countries and therefore is a *de facto* cultural ambassador for the region. Kremer, founder, soloist, and artistic director, has described the group as “a musical democracy...open-minded, self-critical, a continuation of my musical spirit.”

PROGRAM

Kremerata Baltica will open its concert with a collection of pieces that appear on its latest Nonesuch recording, *De Profundis*, released on September 14, 2010. Gidon Kremer has dedicated the CD to all people who refuse to be silenced, and in particular the imprisoned Russian entrepreneur **Mikhail Khodorkovsky**. The album consists of 12 pieces, of which the group will play five in Berkeley: *Passacaglia*, by Estonian minimalist composer **Arvo Pärt** (b. 1935); *De Profundis* by Lithuanian composer and pianist **Raminta Šerkšnytė** (b. 1975), from which the album takes its name; *Trysting Fields* by English composer, film scorer, and pianist **Michael**

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Nyman (b. 1944); *Dialogues on Stabat Mater* by the Russian pianist and composer **Lera Auerbach** (b. 1973); and *Flowering Jasmine* by Latvian music professor and composer **Georgs Pelecis** (b. 1947). Kremer has said that “each of the...pieces selected for this album sends its own individual message to the listener, one that my colleagues from Kremerata Baltica and I have tried to illuminate.”

Ludwig van Beethoven’s String Quartet No. 14 in C-sharp minor, Op. 131, makes up the second half of Kremerata Baltica’s concert. This work, which is sometimes played in arrangement by larger ensembles such as the Kremerata Baltica, is dedicated to Baron Joseph von Stutterheim and is considered the last of Beethoven’s experimental quartets. It consists of seven movements (as opposed to the traditional four) and is played without pauses. By some accounts, Beethoven considered it his favorite quartet, and it is frequently praised as the epitome of Beethoven’s late-period style.

KREMERATA BALTICA

Kremerata Baltica was founded in 1997 by Latvian violinist Gidon Kremer “as a birthday present to myself” on his 50th birthday. The musicians hail from Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, three countries that are geographic neighbors—together they are called the Baltic States—but which have distinct national identities. Cultural organizations in the governments of all three nations help support the ensemble.

Kremer specifically formed a group with skilled young musicians to tap into the exuberance, energy, and joy of youth. The group’s members range in age from 19 to 33 years and average 27 years of age; half of them are professional working musicians and half are still students. All are chosen through a rigorous audition, and play together as a stable ensemble; members also split off into smaller chamber groups, performing as Kremerata Musica.

The ensemble, which tours at least five times a year and has played nearly 1,000 concerts since its founding, is well known for its creative programming. While it has mastered the mainstream chamber orchestra repertoire, it also plays music of contemporary composers and has given numerous world premieres of pieces by Giya Kancheli, Pēteris Vasks, Leonid Desyatnikov,

and Alexandr Raskatov. While Kremer serves as artistic director and plays with the group as soloist, Kremerata Baltica has also performed with such soloists and conductors as Vladimir Ashkenazy, Christoph Eschenbach, Kent Nagano, Sir Simon Rattle, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Jessye Norman, Mischa Maisky, Oleg Maisenberg, David Geringas, Heinrich Schiff, and Heinz Holliger.

Kremerata Baltica has recorded 19 albums for the Nonesuch and Deutsche Grammophon labels, including *Eight Seasons* (2000), which coupled Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* with Astor Piazzolla's *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*. Another acclaimed album is the 2002 Grammy Award-winning *After Mozart*, which blended the music of Leopold and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with three contemporary works inspired by them; and single-composer albums of works by Dmitri Shostakovich, Franz Schubert, George Enescu, and others.

GIDON KREMER

Gidon Kremer was born in Riga, Latvia, the son and grandson of distinguished string players. He entered the Riga Music School at age seven and later studied with David Oistrakh at the Moscow Conservatory. He won many awards as he rose through the ranks of international violin soloists, including first prize at the International Tchaikovsky Festival in 1970 and an appearance at the Salzburg Festival in 1976. In 1981, he founded the Lockenhaus Chamber Music Festival in Austria with the goal of presenting new and unconventional works, and in 1997 at Lockenhaus he introduced Kremerata Baltica to the world.

Kremer has been called “one of the truly interesting musicians among us today” (*New York Times*). As a violinist, his repertoire includes the standard Classical and Romantic violin works as well as music by 20th and 21st century masters—in particular, Russian and Eastern European composers. He has appeared on more than 100 recordings, and has won awards for his albums, including the Grand Prix du Disque, the Deutscher Schallplattenpreis, and the Premio dell'Accademia Musicale Chigiana. Kremer is also author of four books written in German, in which he discusses his artistic philosophy. One of these books has been translated into Russian, Latvian, French, and Japanese.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Kremerata Baltica**, with **Gidon Kremer**, artistic leader and violin soloist on **Sunday, October 31**, in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$42.00**, **\$56.00**, **\$64.00**, and **\$72.00**. 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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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, October 31 at 3:00 p.m.

Chamber Music
Kremerata Baltica

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

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Gidon Kremer, artistic leader and violin soloist

Program:

Pärt/*Passacaglia*

Šerkšnytė/*De Profundis*

Nyman/*Trysting Fields*

Auerbach/*Dialogues on Stabat Mater*

Pelecis/*Flowering Jasmine*

Beethoven/*String Quartet No. 14 in C-sharp minor, Op. 131*

Tickets: \$42.00, \$56.00, \$64.00, and \$72.00, 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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