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**ACCLAIMED SCHAROUN ENSEMBLE BERLIN MAKES ITS
CAL PERFORMANCES' DEBUT WITH A U.S. PREMIERE AND
TWO CLASSICS SUNDAY, MARCH 6 AT 3:00 P.M. AT HERTZ HALL**

BERKELEY, February 2, 2011—The “insightful, elegant and robust” (*The New York Times*) **Scharoun Ensemble Berlin** will make its first appearance at Cal Performances **Sunday, March 6 at 3:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall** with a program that includes works by **Franz Schubert** and **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** and a United States premiere by **Keeril Makan**. An offshoot of the famed Berlin Philharmonic, the octet of musicians is composed of founding members **Stefan de Leval Jezierski**, French horn, and **Peter Riegelbauer**, bass; plus **Alexander Bader**, clarinet; **Markus Weidmann**, bassoon; **Wolfram Brandl** and **Rachel Schmidt**, violin; **Micha Afkham**, viola; and **Richard Doven**, cello. The group will perform Schubert's Octet in F major, a signature work of the ensemble; chamber favorite Mozart's Clarinet Quintet in A major; and a premiere work *Tender Illusions* by recent Luciano Berio Rome Prize Fellow Makan. This mix of compositions furthers the group's artistic mission to bridge the gap between classic compositions of centuries past and contemporary works of the 21st century. Commenting on a recent concert, the *Brisbane Times* praised Scharoun Ensemble Berlin for “musicianship [that] impressed from the opening bars.”

Schubert's Octet in F major, D.803, was written in 1824 and is the largest chamber work by Schubert with six movements unfolding for an hour. One of the ensemble's trademark works, it was on the program of the group's inaugural concert in 1983. Reconstituting itself into a quintet, the musicians will play Mozart's Clarinet Quintet in A major. One of Mozart's final works, the composition was written for his longtime Viennese friend Anton Stadler, who played a unique low-range clarinet and, as such, the piece is often performed transposed up to modern clarinet range.

The new composition, *Tender Illusions* (2010), was written by Keeril Maken, who earned his Ph.D. in composition from UC Berkeley. The work has a connection to Schubert's Octet.

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While both compositions share the same instrumentation and even identical opening chords, *Tender Illusions* creates “an alternate reality, a path not taken,” explained the composer recently. Maken has received awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Fromm Foundation, the Gerbode Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, Meet the Composer and ASCAP. His latest album, *In Sound*, was released on the Tzadik label in 2008 with performances by the Kronos Quartet and Paul Dresher Ensemble. Currently, Maken lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and works as an Associate Professor at MIT.

Scharoun Ensemble Berlin was founded as a satellite ensemble of the Berlin Philharmonic. The group was named in memory of Hans Scharoun, the architect of the Berliner Philharmonie concert hall who created a new standard in the world with its acoustic and interactive design. The group’s eight members, all of whom also play in the Berlin Philharmonic, often welcome guest artists, composers and conductors from its parent organization. Scharoun Ensemble Berlin has been led by acclaimed conductors such as Claudio Abbado, Daniel Barenboim, Sir Simon Rattle, Peter Eötvös and Pierre Boulez, and collaborates with other artists including vocalist Thomas Quasthoff, Annette Dasch, Simon Keenlyside and Barbara Hannigan. The ensemble hosts the Zermatt Festival, its own music festival in the Swiss mountains, which allows the ensemble to mentor a younger generation of musicians.

The ensemble has a varied repertoire that includes modern works by Hans Werner Henze, György Ligeti, Isang Yun and György Kurtág, among others; the group also commissions new works from many leading contemporary composers. As an octet, the Scharoun Ensemble Berlin has the advantage of mobility, while its range of instruments, from strings to wind, help to create rich sounds that echo the full diversity of an orchestra.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Scharoun Ensemble Berlin** on **Sunday, March 6** at **3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$52.00**. 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 two 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 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:
CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

Sunday, March 6 at 3:00 p.m.

**Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley**

Chamber Music
Scharoun Ensemble Berlin

Program:
Schubert/ Octet in F major, D. 803
Mozart/ Clarinet Quintet in A major
Makan/ *Tender Illusions* (U.S. premiere)

Tickets: \$52.00 for all performances; 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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