

CONTACT:
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714
ckellogg@calperformances.org
Joe Yang 510.642.9121
scyang@calperformances.org

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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE
VIENNA PHILHARMONIC
IN THREE CONCERTS CONDUCTED BY SEMYON BYCHKOV
FRIDAY–SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25–27, AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**The inaugural Orchestral Residency includes works by Schubert, Wagner,
Bartók, Brahms and Mahler**

***Sightlines:* Special one-hour talk by the orchestra's chairman Clemens Hellsberg, on
Friday, February 25, plus pre-performance talks with the artists on
Saturday & Sunday, February 26 & 27**

BERKELEY, January 18, 2011—Cal Performances is pleased to present the legendary **Vienna Philharmonic** with conductor **Semyon Bychkov** in an historic three-performance concert residency at **Zellerbach Hall** on **Friday, February 25** at **8:00 p.m.**, **Saturday, February 26**, at **8:00 p.m.**, and **Sunday, February 27**, at **3:00 p.m.** This is the first time since 1987 that the ensemble has performed in the Bay Area. On February 25, Maestro Bychkov will lead the orchestra in **Franz Schubert's Symphony No. 2 in B-flat major, D. 125**, on a program with the **Prelude & Liebestod** from **Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*** and the Suite from **Béla Bartók's *The Miraculous Mandarin***. The following evening, the orchestra returns with **Robert Schumann's Symphony No. 2 in C major, Op. 61**, and **Johannes Brahms's Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 73**, a work that was premiered by the Vienna Philharmonic in 1877. The final concert features **Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 6 in A minor** (“Tragic”). In his recent appearance as guest conductor of the San Francisco Symphony, Bychkov was applauded for mixing “raw energy with finesse, yielding potent and often eloquent readings of the orchestral repertoire” (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

This engagement marks the inauguration of a new annual program of orchestral residencies at Cal Performances. “With my experience at the Chicago Symphony and the New York Philharmonic, I have lived firsthand the fundamental positive role orchestras play in our society,” said Cal Performances Director **Matías Tarnopolsky**. “It is my hope that we can regularly bring the world’s leading orchestras to Berkeley with the idea that our experience will

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include not only their musicianship in the concert hall, but their interaction with young musicians and audiences here. To begin the Cal Performances' Orchestra Residency with the Vienna Philharmonic is a dream come true.”

A special one-hour *Sightlines* pre-performance talk will be given by the orchestra's chairman **Clemens Hellsberg** on Friday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall. There will also be two 30-minute pre-performance talks with the artists on Saturday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 27 at 2:00 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall.

Cal Performances, in conjunction with UC Berkeley Department of Music, is planning a full array of educational events for University students. Orchestra members will work directly with Department of Music students, including leading section instrumental sectionals for student musicians of the University Symphony Orchestra. Students will be able to attend a dress rehearsal of the Vienna Philharmonic and there will be a chamber music concert for a select student audience.

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC

Considered one of the finest orchestras in the world, the **Vienna Philharmonic** has a rich 160-year musical history that can be traced back to 1842, when Otto Nicolai formed the Philharmonische Academie. The Academie was grounded in a revolutionary policy—one of democratic self-determination and entrepreneurial initiative undertaken by an orchestra as a partnership—which still continues today.

When Otto Nicolai left Vienna permanently in 1847, the young enterprise almost collapsed, having lost in one person both its artistic and administrative leader. A dozen years of stagnation followed before a new innovation brought about the long-awaited change of fortune. In 1860, Carl Eckert became conductor and gave a series of four subscription concerts and since then the orchestra has given concerts continuously.

The orchestra subsequently performed under the leadership of Otto Dessoff, and during his time the repertoire was consistently enlarged, important organizational principles (music

archives, rules of procedure) introduced and the orchestra moved to its third home, the Goldener Saal in the Musikverein building in Vienna. The location, at which it still performs today, has proved to be the ideal venue with its acoustical characteristics influencing the orchestra's style and sound. In 1875, Hans Richter became conductor, and the Vienna Philharmonic firmly established itself as an ensemble of world renown and unique tradition. This was helped through its associations with Wagner, Verdi, Bruckner, Brahms, Liszt and others, all of whom performed with the orchestra, either as conductors or soloists. During Richter's tenure, which has become known as the Golden Age, Brahms's Second and Third, as well as Bruckner's Eighth Symphony were premiered.

The Vienna Philharmonic performed abroad for the first time at the World Exhibition in Paris in 1900 with Gustav Mahler conducting. The orchestra, officially recognized by the Austrian government as an association in 1908, did not start touring with any regularity until 1922 when Felix von Weingartner led the orchestra to distant lands such as South America.

The orchestra's importance is best illustrated by the statements of countless pre-eminent musical personalities of the past. Richard Wagner described the orchestra as being one of the most outstanding in the world; Anton Bruckner called it "the most superior musical association"; Johannes Brahms counted himself as a "friend and admirer"; Gustav Mahler claimed to be joined together through "the bonds of musical art"; and Richard Strauss summarized these sentiments by saying: "All praise of the Vienna Philharmonic reveals itself as understatement."

The Vienna Philharmonic has made it its mission to communicate the humanitarian message of music into the daily lives and consciousness of its listeners. In 2005, the Vienna Philharmonic was named Goodwill Ambassador of the World Health Organization. The musicians endeavor to implement the motto with which Beethoven, whose symphonic works served as a catalyst for the creation of the orchestra, prefaced his *Missa Solemnis*: "From the heart, to the heart."

SEMYON BYCHKOV

Semyon Bychkov was born in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) in 1952 and studied at the Glinka Choir School for ten years. Later, he studied at the Leningrad Conservatory with Ilya Musin, a legendary conducting teacher whom he considers to be one of the most significant influences in his life. Bychkov's studies with Musin enhanced his own innate musicality, leading to his winning the 1973 Rachmaninoff Conducting Competition. Two years later, at 22, he immigrated to the United States. Once Bychkov was settled, his career took off rapidly. After becoming conductor of the Mannes College Orchestra in New York, he received an invitation to conduct the closing concert at the Spoleto USA Festival. Two weeks later, he was asked to conduct *Il trovatore* at ArtPark, with the Buffalo Philharmonic. The concert marked the start of a ten year relationship; first as associate conductor, then as principal guest conductor, then in 1985 as music director, succeeding Julius Rudel.

In 1989, Bychkov was invited to become music director of the Orchestre de Paris, which he led from 1989 to 1998. By the mid-1980s, he had already established contacts with many important European orchestras and opera houses, and had begun recording for Philips (initially with the Berlin Philharmonic). In 1997, Bychkov became chief conductor of WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne, a post from which he recently retired. At the time Semyon Bychkov became chief conductor in Cologne, he was appointed chief conductor of the Dresden Semperoper, a post he held until 2002.

Semyon Bychkov has enjoyed many long-term relationships with the world's most renowned opera houses, including the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera House, La Scala, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Semperoper and Palais Garnier (Paris) and has had conspicuous success with the world's most demanding opera audiences at the Vienna State Opera. In addition to his permanent posts in America and Europe, Bychkov has enjoyed fruitful and fulfilling relationships with many of the world's great orchestras, including the Berlin, Vienna and New York Philharmonics and the Chicago Symphony.

He has come to the Bay Area numerous times to conduct the San Francisco Symphony. About a 2009 concert with the San Francisco Symphony, *San Francisco Chronicle* wrote:

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“Bychkov gives a little hand gesture here, a little nod there, and the orchestra responds with an exquisite blend of rich sonority and rhythmic nuance...I’ve never heard it played so beautifully.”

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for The **Vienna Philharmonic**, on **Friday, February 25, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.**; **Saturday, February 26 at 8:00 p.m.**; and **Sunday, February 27 at 3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at \$65.00, \$90.00, \$150.00, \$185.00 and \$225.00. 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 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances’ 2010/11 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, February 25 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 26 from 7-7:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 27 2-2:30 p.m.

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

SIGHTLINES

A special one-hour *Sightlines* pre-performance talk will be given by the orchestra's chairman **Clemens Hellsberg** on Friday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m. Pre-performance 30-minute talks by the artists will be given on Saturday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 27 at 2:00 p.m. *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 event ticket holders.

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Friday, February 25, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 26, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 27, 3:00 p.m.

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

Orchestra

Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra
Semyon Bychkov, conductor

Program:

Schubert/Symphony No. 2 in B-flat major, D. 125
Wagner/Prelude & Liebestod from *Tristan and Isolde*
Bartók/*The Miraculous Mandarin*
Schumann/Symphony No. 2 in C major, Op. 61
Brahms/Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 73
Mahler/Symphony No. 6 in A minor ("Tragic")

Tickets: \$65.00, \$90.00, \$150.00, \$185.00 and \$225.00 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.

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