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**THE DANISH STRING QUARTET MAKES ITS CAL PERFORMANCES
DEBUT ON NOVEMBER 17 IN HERTZ HALL IN A PROGRAM OF
MENDELSSOHN, BEETHOVEN, AND ABRAHAMSEN**

**A pre-performance talk will be given by Nicholas Mathew at
2:00 p.m. at Hertz Hall**

BERKELEY, October 25, 2013—Alex Ross of the *New Yorker* has called them “shaggy-haired Danes” and praised their “rampaging energy.” Hirsute, talented, and breathlessly exciting, [The Danish String Quartet](#) makes its debut at [Cal Performances](#) on Sunday, November 17 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall, presenting an emotion-packed concert of works by Felix Mendelssohn, Ludwig van Beethoven, and contemporary Danish composer Hans Abrahamsen. The musicians of the quartet—[Frederik Øland](#) and [Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen](#) (violins), [Asbjørn Nørgaard](#) (viola), and [Fredrik Schøyen Sjölin](#) (cello)—are “acutely tuned to one another,” says the *New York Times* “with every nuance, phrase and gesture beautifully wrought.”

A pre-performance talk by UC Berkeley music professor [Nicholas Mathew](#) will be given at 2:00 p.m. at Hertz Hall. This event is free to event ticketholders and is designed to enrich patrons’ experience.

The Danish String Quartet’s Berkeley concert opens with String Quartet No. 1, “Ten Preludes,” by [Hans Abrahamsen](#). Composed in 1973 when the Dane was just 21 years old, the work consists of ten intricately linked short “stories” that range from melodious to eruptive, yet remain a cohesive whole. Felix Mendelssohn’s String Quartet No. 2, a work written in 1827 when the composer was just a teenager, follows. Richly romantic, Mendelssohn’s quartet is based on his own love song, and descended structurally from Beethoven’s late string quartets. One of those late Beethoven quartets, No. 15, written in 1825, concludes the program. The music in Beethoven’s work reflects the ill health and slow recovery that marked the composer’s last years, and is structured around a rapturous *Adagio* that Beethoven subtitled a “holy song of thanks.”

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The Danish String Quartet takes its music seriously, but the group's roots and energy are based in the sheer joy and pleasure of playing. Their story begins in a summer music camp in the Danish countryside, where violinists Øland and Sørensen and violist Nørgaard met and played music and soccer together. Professor [Tim Frederiksen](#) of the Royal Academy of Music in Copenhagen began coaching the boys in 2001, when they were teenagers, and in 2002 the quartet debuted at the Copenhagen Festival (as the Young Danish String Quartet). They subsequently won the Danish Radio P2 Chamber Music Competition in 2004 and became Danish Radio's artists-in-residence in 2006. In 2008 Norwegian cellist Sjölin joined the quartet—"generously adding to the amount of beard and general Vikingness of the group," the players quipped on their website—and in 2009 the quartet won First Prize, the 20th-Century Prize, the Beethoven Prize, the Sidney Griller Award, and the Menton Festival Prize in the Eleventh London International String Quartet Competition. In its most recent accolades, the quartet was named one of BBC Radio 3's 2013 New Generation Artists and has been appointed to the CMS Two program for 2013–2014 by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. The Danish String Quartet has made two recordings of works by Danish composer Carl Nielsen and recorded a disc of Haydn and Brahms quartets for AVI. The group has finished two recordings that await release: one of works by Brahms and Robert Fuchs with clarinetist [Sebastian Manz](#) for AVI, and one of Scandinavian folk music that will be released independently.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for The Danish String Quartet on Sunday November 17 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall are priced at \$42.00 subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at <http://www.calperformances.org>; and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their major support of the Season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, November 17, at 2:00 p.m.

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

Pre-performance talk by Professor Nicholas Mathew, UC Berkeley Department of Music. This pre-performance discussion is designed to enrich the concertgoer's experience. These talks are free to event ticketholders.

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Sunday, November 17, at 3:00 p.m.

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

Chamber Music

The Danish String Quartet
Frederik Øland, violin
Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen, violin
Asbjørn Nørgaard, viola
Fredrik Schøyen Sjölin, cello

Program:

Abrahamsen/String Quartet No. 1, "Ten Preludes"
Mendelssohn/String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13
Beethoven/String Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132

Tickets: Priced at \$42.00, tickets are subject to change and are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at calperformances.org; and at the door.

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