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Press Room

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY
#BERKELEYRADICAL**

**GIL SHAHAM PERFORMS J.S. BACH'S SIX SONATAS AND PARTITAS FOR
SOLO VIOLIN, WITH FILMS BY DAVID MICHALEK,
APRIL 14 IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**Pre-performance talk with Michalek and Cal Performances Associate Director Rob Bailis
*"The J.S. Bach Flame: A Creative Response to the Musical Master"***

BERKELEY, February 26, 2016 — Violinist **Gil Shaham** performs J.S. Bach's complete works for solo violin, the Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin, BWV 1001-06, in **Six Solos**, with films created by photographer and video artist **David Michalek** and co-commissioned by Cal Performances, on Thursday, April 14 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall on the UC campus in Berkeley.

Shaham is acknowledged as one of the foremost violinists performing today, and many regard J.S. Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin as the pinnacle of musical achievement, among the composer's most demanding and emotionally penetrating works. After listening to and studying them, and playing them privately for over 30 years, Shaham recorded the complete unaccompanied sonatas and partitas for a 2015 release, and has been performing them with Michalek's films, inspired by and created to accompany the works, in selected cities.

Gil Shaham and David Michalek, who was born in San Francisco and raised in California, met in 2013 to discuss collaborating on a program inspired by Bach's solo works for violin. Shortly thereafter, Michalek was watching videos he had made of children, in extreme slow motion, while listening to Bach's Unaccompanied Cello Suite No. 5 in C minor. "The images seemed to be engaging in a subtle kind of dialogue with the boys' faces," Michalek wrote. Viewing them later, with Shaham, they agreed "there was a certain pleasure in the pairing, but more

importantly, the process seemed to encourage and afford deeper listening as well as seeing. ... As a contemporary artist with a particular interest in motion pictures and time, I've been compelled to consider how the addition of extreme slow motion might be applied to moving images of the face and the body (and by extension, dance), in ways that can both enhance and alter the meanings latent within them."

Prior to the concert, Michalek participates in a pre-performance discussion with Cal Performances Associate Director Rob Bailis on Bach's lasting and pervading artistic influence. The talk is free to ticketholders for the performance.

Violinist **Gil Shaham** is sought after throughout the world for concerto appearances with leading orchestras and conductors, and regularly gives recitals and appears with ensembles on the world's great concert stages and at the most prestigious festivals. This season, he performs Bach with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Gustavo Dudamel, Brahms with the Orchestre de Paris, and Mendelssohn during a Montreal Symphony Orchestra residency and on a European tour with the Singapore Symphony. Shaham's longterm exploration of "Violin Concertos of the 1930s" enters an eighth season with performances of Bartók's Second with the Chicago Symphony and the Philadelphia Orchestra and Prokofiev's Second on an extensive North American tour with The Knights, and the March 2016 release of a new CD. In 2014, Shaham joined the San Francisco Symphony and Michael Tilson Thomas for Prokofiev's Second at Carnegie Hall and other stops on the orchestra's U.S. tour. After Canary Classics released his interpretation of Bach's complete solo sonatas and partitas on disc, Shaham gave unaccompanied Bach recitals at Chicago's Symphony Center, L.A.'s Disney Hall, and other U.S. venues, in company with David Michalek. Named *Musical America's* "Instrumentalist of the Year" in 2012, he has more than two dozen concerto and solo CDs to his name, including bestsellers honored with multiple Grammys, a Grand Prix du Disque, Diapason d'Or, and *Gramophone* Editor's Choice. Several new works have recently been commissioned for the violinist, who has premiered and championed pieces by composers including Avner Dorman, William Bolcom, David Bruce, Julian Milone, and Bright Sheng.

Shaham's performance of *Bach: Six Solos* is the culmination of this season's Berkeley RADICAL *ZellerBACH* focus. Cal Performances' Berkeley RADICAL (**R**esearch **A**nd **D**evelopment **I**nitiative in **C**reativity, **A**rts, and **L**earning) initiative was announced in February 2015 and launched in September, with performances, symposia, and master classes with conductor Gustavo Dudamel and the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela. (For original digital content related to the Inaugural Residency, see Cal Performances' Berkeley RADICAL Revisited page at calperformances.org/about-berkeley-radical.) Berkeley RADICAL, a multi-year initiative, is designed to cultivate the artistic literacy of future audiences and to connect the world's most innovative artists with the intellectual capital of the UC Berkeley campus. Through carefully crafted public programs and creative artistic residencies, Berkeley RADICAL serves as a framework to expand the reach of Cal Performances by providing audiences with multiple access points to a single work of art or artist. Three strands of artistic exploration in the 2015-2016 season join together traditional genres with contemporary forms, encouraging Bay Area audiences to reimagine conventional ideas of the performing arts. They are *The Natural World*, *ReVisions*, and *ZellerBACH*. In addition to Shaham's *Bach: Six Solos* recital, the *ZellerBACH* programs for 2015-16 included performances by Twyla Tharp and Bach Collegium Japan.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Gil Shaham in *Bach: Six Solos*** with films by David Michalek on Thursday, April 14 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley range from \$36.00 to \$86.00 and are 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 www.calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, visit <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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Cal Performances' 2015–2016 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday, April 14, 8:00 p.m.

**Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana St., Berkeley**

Recital

Bach: Six Solos

Gil Shaham, violin

with films by **David Michalek**

Program:

Bach/Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin, BWV 1001–06

Sonata No.1 in G minor, BWV 1001

Partita No.1 in B minor, BWV 1002

Sonata No.2 in A minor, BWV 1003

Partita No.2 in D minor, BWV 1004

Sonata No.3 in C major, BWV 1005

Partita No.3 in E major, BWV 1006

Tickets: Prices range from \$36.00–\$86.00 and are subject to change.

Thursday, April 14, 6:00 p.m.

Pre-performance Talk

**Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana St., Berkeley**

“The J.S. Bach Flame: A Creative Response to the Musical Master”

A pre-concert conversation about the lasting artistic inspiration of the music of J.S. Bach, with visual artist David Michalek, whose films accompany Shaham’s performance, and Cal Performances’ Associate Director Rob Bailis. Free; for ticketholders only.

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