

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, September 10, 2009

Media Contact: Karen Hershenson
(415) 677-0328 or Karen@performances.org

[Editors: For a copy of this release and downloadable, high-resolution photos, go to www.performances.org and click on the Press Room link.]

SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES TOASTS 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Celebration at Westin St. Francis features jazz violinist Regina Carter, benefits education programs

San Francisco, CA – San Francisco Performances marks its 30th Anniversary Season with a celebration at the Westin St. Francis Hotel beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, October 16. The event, which benefits the organization's education programs, includes cocktails, dinner, an auction and a performance by virtuoso jazz violinist Regina Carter, a former SFP Jazz Artist-in-Residence.

The evening's special honorees will be the Bernard Osher Foundation and the Alexander String Quartet, both of whom have a close and longtime association with San Francisco Performances.

Established in 1977, the Bernard Osher Foundation makes an extraordinary contribution to Bay Area residents through its generous support of higher education and the arts. For more than two decades the Foundation has made significant grants to SFP, making possible the engagement of numerous important artists.

In 1989 the Alexander String Quartet became San Francisco Performance's first Ensemble-in-Residence, the result of a partnership with San Francisco State University and the May T. Morrison Chamber Music Center. The Alexander launched SFP's arts education programs in schools, created the innovative Saturday Morning Series with Music-Historian-in-Residence Robert Greenberg, and has appeared several times on the mainstage Chamber Series (including an April 3 concert this season).

The live auction will feature such unique items as a trip to the Ferry Building Farmers Market to select ingredients for a custom-made dinner atAmericano, followed by a night on-site at the Hotel Vitale; a private dinner party prepared by Google Executive Chef Jeff Freburg; and in-home concerts with the Alexander String Quartet and guitarists Peter and Zoltán Katona.

A 2006 winner of the prestigious MacArthur (Genius) Fellowship, Regina Carter was SFP's first Jazz-Artist-in-Residence (1997-2001), contributing greatly to the development of its award-winning education programs.

The 30th Anniversary Celebration will be San Francisco Performances' major fundraising event of the season, with all proceeds benefiting the education programs. Anchored by artist residencies, these programs bring internationally acclaimed performers to classrooms and community workshops.

Chairs for the event are former Board Chairs Victor L. Hymes and LaVerne C. Silverman. The media sponsor is the Nob Hill Gazette.

The Celebration will take place on the 32nd floor of the Westin St. Francis Hotel in the Victor's and Alexandra's rooms, offering a panoramic view of the city. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m., followed by the live auction and performance. Tickets start at \$400. For more information or to purchase, call (415) 677-0336 or visit www.performances.org.

About San Francisco Performances

Founded in 1979 by Artistic Director Ruth Felt, San Francisco Performances is the city's pre-eminent presenter of world-renowned and emerging artists in chamber music, vocal and instrumental recitals, jazz and contemporary dance. Through innovative programming, SFP brings audiences and artists together in unique ways, with more than 100 premieres and San Francisco debuts to its credit, including composer/pianist Thomas Adès, cellist Yo-Yo Ma and violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter; and dance companies Batsheva from Israel and Compañía Nacional de Danza from Spain.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES
CELEBRATES 30th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

WHAT: 30th Anniversary Celebration

WHEN: 6 p.m. Friday, October 16

WHERE: Victor's and Alexandra's Rooms in the Westin St. Francis Hotel, 335 Powell St., San Francisco

DETAILS: Cocktails at 6 p.m., followed at 7 p.m. by dinner, live auction and performance by jazz violinist Regina Carter

TICKETS: Starting at \$400

CONTACT: (415) 677-0336; www.performances.org

###