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Music

For Immediate Use
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Organica X, the 10th Anniversary Celebration of All the Organ Can Do, April 5 at Royce Hall

“Christoph Bull is pumping new life into the organ’s repertoire. Think Bach meets Beatles.”
– Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES – UCLA Live presents **Organica X**, the 10th anniversary celebration of the Organica concert series developed by German organist and UCLA faculty member, Christoph Bull. The concert, **April 5 at 7 p.m. in Royce Hall**, features an eclectic group of talents including performance painter Norton Wisdom, mezzo-soprano I-Chin Feinblatt, percussionist Richard Martinez, The Paulist Choristers of California, rock violinist Lili Haydn and guest organist Robert Woolsey.

Well known as an innovator and champion of the grandiose instrument, **Christoph Bull** conceived of the Organica format to showcase the organ’s versatility. The LA Weekly notes, “Christoph Bull is a pleasantly unrestrained musical maverick who’s on a mission to show what the pipe organ can do.” The Organica X bill will feature original works by Bull, organ transcriptions by Robert Woolsey and classics by Bach and Vierne. The evening will also include original arrangements of rock masterpieces by Led Zeppelin and the Beatles. The interactive evening gives the audience a chance to participate, as well, as Bull improvises on themes submitted by audience members.

Bull debuted Organica in 1999 at Blessed Sacrament Church in Hollywood as an opportunity to showcase the many facets of the pipe organ and other keyboards ranging stylistically from traditional organ repertoire to original arrangements of popular and film music. Organica concerts were performed at UCLA’s Royce Hall in 2004, 2005 and 2008.

Christoph Bull hails from Mannheim, Germany and is now the University Organist and organ professor at UCLA, as well as Principal Organist at First United Methodist Church in Santa Monica. He began playing the piano at age 5 and started playing church services, organ concerts and rock shows by age 12. He was educated in Germany at Karl-Friedrich Gymnasium Mannheim, University of Church Music Heidelberg, and Freiburg Conservatory. Bull continued his education in the United States at Berklee College of Music, USC and American Conservatory of Music.

Bull has collaborated with popular artists such as Bootsy Collins and George Clinton and opened for Cyndi Lauper with rock violinist, Lili Haydn. Bull was also hired as a consultant on Steven Spielberg's 2002 blockbuster film "Minority Report." He is surely among only a handful of artists to have performed both at Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Viper Room.

Bull will perform on the organ throughout Organica X, except two pieces by guest organist **Robert Woolsey**, who will play two of his original organ transcriptions. Woolsey has since 2005 served as the auxiliary organist for the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels in downtown Los Angeles, giving numerous lectures and recitals. He also serves as principal organist for St. James Episcopal Church of South Pasadena. He studied electronic music at CalArts and has worked as engineer and editor on numerous recording, film, and video projects. His production of the L.A. Jazz Choir received a Grammy nomination.

The other artists performing with Bull are:

Interpretive painter **Norton Wisdom** has collaborated with such musical greats as Daniel Lanois, David Navarro, Beck, Flea, George Clinton, the Doors, Grateful Dead and David Harrington of Kronos Quartet. He has performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival, the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, premieres of Cirque Du Soleil's "O" and "Alegria" in Las Vegas, the Coachella Festival and the Womad World Music and Dance Festival in Seattle.

A graduate of Cal State Fullerton, singer **I-Chin Feinblatt** is a soloist with the Pacific Chorale in Orange County. She has toured with the Boston Pops and Andrea Bocelli, and previously performed in Organica in 2003 and 2008. She has been a vocal music teacher at Fountain Valley High School since spring 2007.

Percussionist **Richard Martinez** grew up in Pico Rivera and has performed around the world. His stage credits include the shows "Five Guys Named Mo," "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "Selena - A Musical Celebration of Life." He has performed with Sam Harris, Keb' Mo and Wayne Brady as well as Tony Award winners Linda Hopkins, Betty Buckley, Bebe Neuwirth and Roger Rees. He has recorded with Julian Lennon, Mighty Mo Rodgers, Christoph Bull and with Grammy Award winners Dan Hill, John Jones and Rick Nowels. Richard is President of Music Is Hope Foundation.

Violinist, **Lili Haydn**, has performed with some of the biggest musical superstars in the world including Jimmy Page and Robert Plant, Herbie Hancock, Parliament-Funkadelic, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Tom Petty and Josh Groban. A committed humanitarian and activist, Haydn also performs regularly for various human rights organizations. She began playing at the age of 8 and soloed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic by the time she was 15. Dubbed "the Jimi Hendrix of the violin" by George Clinton, Haydn recently released her third solo album, *Place Between Places* for Nettwerk Music.

The Paulist Choristers of California is a non-profit arts organization for young students from throughout the Los Angeles area. It offers them an opportunity to study and perform music at the highest professional level. Intense rehearsals yield performances with professional orchestras, soloists and other top performers. Students give back to the community by performing at children's hospitals and homes for the

elderly.

The Royce Hall Skinner Pipe Organ was designed by Harold Gleason, head of the organ department at Eastman School of Music and built by the Skinner Organ Co. The instrument made its Royce Hall debut on September 7, 1930, with Gleason at the console. Considered one of Los Angeles' historically significant organs, the Royce Hall organ has been heard in recordings with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and can be enjoyed today in live concert performances presented by UCLA Live and others.

Calendar Listing:

Organica X

Sunday, April 5 at 7 p.m. at Royce Hall.

Christoph Bull, *organ*
Norton Wisdom, *performance painter*
I-Chin Feinblatt, *mezzo soprano*
Richard Martinez, *percussion*
The Paulist Choristers of California
Lili Haydn, *rock violin*
Robert Woolsey, *guest organist*

Tickets for Organica X are **\$30**, **\$24** and **\$18** and may be purchased online at www.uclalive.org, by phone at 310-825-2101, in person at the UCLA Central Ticket Office at the southwest corner of the James West Alumni Center and at all Ticketmaster outlets. UCLA students may purchase tickets in advance for **\$15**. Student rush tickets, subject to availability, are offered at the same price to all students with a valid ID one hour prior to show time.

Interview Availability:

Christoph Bull is in Los Angeles and available for interviews. To make arrangements, contact Robin Rauzi at UCLA Live, 310-206-5305 or rrouzi@arts.ucla.edu.

Organica X is supported by the Ahmanson Foundation Endowment for Organ Programming.

– UCLA –

UCLA Live! is an internationally acclaimed producer and presenter of music, dance, theater and spoken word, bringing hundreds of outstanding and provocative artists to Los Angeles each year.