FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media Advisory

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Encore program with pianist-mathematician Christopher Taylor at MSRI

■ **WHAT – "CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR IN CONVERSATION WITH DAVID BENSON AND ROBERT OSSERMAN."**
Acclaimed pianist Christopher Taylor appears again to talk with Robert Osserman, MSRI Special Projects Director, about things musical and expand the conversation to include David Benson, author of the book *Music: A Mathematical Offering*. This event is part of the celebration the 25th Anniversary of the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI). Please see:
www.msri.org/calendar/specialevents/SpecialEventInfo/308/show_specialevent

■ **WHEN – SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2008 at 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.**

■ **WHERE –** Simons Auditorium at MSRI, 17 Gauss Way, Berkeley (near the intersection of Grizzly Peak Blvd. and Centennial Drive). For a map and directions: www.msri.org/about/directions/index_html

■ **WHO – CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR** has a BA in mathematics from Harvard. He has emerged as one of the nation's foremost musicians for the intensity and artistry he brings to the works of masters, ranging from Bach to Boulez. He serves on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Numerous awards have confirmed Mr. Taylor's high standing in the musical world. He was named an American Pianists' Association Fellow for 2000, before which he received an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 1996 and the Bronze Medal in the 1993 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, where he was the first American to receive such high recognition in 12 years. As a soloist he has performed in such venues as New York's Carnegie and Alice Tully halls, Washington's Kennedy Center, the Ravinia and Aspen festivals. In addition to performing, he pursues a variety of other interests, including mathematics, in which field he received a *summa cum laude* degree from Harvard University in 1992. See his homepage at: www.music.wisc.edu/faculty/facultybio.jsp?faculty_id=27

■ **DAVE BENSON** is Sixth Century Professor of Pure Mathematics at the University of Aberdeen. He has held positions in Georgia, Oxford, and at Northwestern and Yale, and visiting positions at many places throughout the world. He is a keen amateur singer and has performed in many operas.

■ **ROBERT OSSERMAN** has served since 1995 as MSRI Special Projects Director and he came to the Institute as Deputy Director in 1990. He is Professor *Emeritus* at Stanford. Before joining MSRI he was Mellon Professor for Interdisciplinary Studies at Stanford. He has been involved with MSRI's outreach activities to the general public that are related to mathematics, including the "Fermat Fest" in 1993. He has engaged in lively conversations with such luminaries as playwrights Tom Stoppard (*Arcadia*) and Michael Frayn (*Copenhagen*), biographer Sylvia Nasar (*A Beautiful Mind*), playwright David Auburn (*Proof*), and comedians Steve Martin and Robin Williams in the 2002 event, "Funny Numbers" in San Francisco. He is the author of the book, *Poetry of the Universe: A Mathematical Exploration of the Cosmos,* which provides an introduction to cosmology for a non-technical audience and in which composers and mathematicians also play a role.

■ **HOW – FREE ADMISSION!** Presented by MSRI in association with Cal Performances.

■ **DETAILS –** Reporters are welcome to attend a post-event Reception, **5:30-7:30 pm**, with the speakers to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of MSRI. *Please* RSVP your attendance in order to reserve your seat (seating will be very limited) to Anne Pfister at annepf@msri.org or 510.642.0448.

■ **PHOTOS –** By request, photos of Christopher Taylor, David Benson and Robert Osserman are available.

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