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<http://www.MondaviArts.org/pressroom>

For immediate release:

Mondavi Center Announces 2007-08 Season

April 25, 2007; Davis, California—**Don Roth**, executive director of the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at UC Davis**, today announced the Mondavi Center's 2007-08 season of performances and lectures. The new season, the Mondavi Center's sixth, will feature a dazzling variety of world-renowned performing artists, speakers, and musicians including **Itzhak Perlman, Dr. Jane Goodall, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Wynton Marsalis** and the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Pinchas Zukerman** with the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Doc Watson**, and many others.

Series subscriptions go on sale on April 25 at 12:01 am at www.MondaviArts.org and at 10 am at the Mondavi Center Ticket Office (530-754-2787).

"I am very excited about our new season," said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center's executive director, "which is the first that I have had a chance to shape and plan. Everyone will recognize the great stars who are there in every form—the Itzhak Perlman, Wynton Marsalis, and Alvin Ailey, but there is so much more. Every single artist and troupe has been hand-picked for quality, diversity, and excellence. We are the capital region's premier venue for classical music, distinguished speakers, jazz, world music, and dance, and we have made it easier than ever for the widest possible segment of the community to attend."

Included in the 2007-08 season are some of the biggest names in opera and classical music (**Kiri Te Kanawa, Evelyn Glennie, Leon Fleisher**), a selection of the world's finest orchestras (**San Francisco Symphony, Czech Philharmonic, St. Petersburg Philharmonic**), distinguished jazz ensembles (**Dee Dee Bridgewater Trio, Regina Carter Quintet, Stefon Harris Nonet**), revered dance companies (**Merce Cunningham Dance**

Company, Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE), exciting world music performers (**Anoushka Shankar, Sweet Honey in the Rock**), American “roots” music legends (**Roger McGuinn, Allen Toussaint**), and stimulating speakers (**Terri Gross, Andrew Weil**). The season also features an exciting set of **Family Series** events including **Dan Zanes** and **Spirit of Uganda**, the **Classical Sundays** series with pianist **Lara Downes** and the **Alexander String Quartet**, up-and-coming stars of classical music (including a recital by pianist **Chu-Fang Huang**, who wowed local audiences in a recent appearance with the **Sacramento Philharmonic**) in the **Debut Series**, and theatre from **L.A. Theatre Works** (with **Stacy Keach**), **Speak Theatre Arts**, and the **Actors’ Gang**. There will also be a dazzling array of special events including **St. Petersburg Ballet, Blind Boys of Alabama, Leahy**, and many more.

For 2007-08, the Mondavi Center offers 65 productions and 95 performances, presented in 12 subscription series: **Western Health Advantage Classics, Raley’s and Bel Air Concert, 90.9 KXJZ Improvisations, Java City Global Beat, American Heritage, Dance, Distinguished Speakers, Family, Theatre, Studio Jazz, Debut, and Classical Sundays**. Subscribers to these series have access to the best available seating and receive a discount of 20 percent off the regular ticket price. The Mondavi Center also offers a popular “**Choose-Your-Own**” subscription option, which allows patrons to combine five or more events and receive a 15 percent discount.

For more information, including complete series listings, dates, ticket prices, and audio and video clips of performers, please visit the Mondavi Center website at www.MondaviArts.org or call the Ticket Office at 530.754.2787.

New Seating, New Prices, New Series

The 2007-08 season is the first that Roth, who joined the Mondavi Center in June 2006, has participated in planning, and reflects his input on several levels. Discounts have been increased from 15 to 20 percent on series subscriptions and from 10 to 15 percent for “Choose Your Own” subscriptions. In addition, the seating plan has been changed so that Orchestra seats (on the lowest of the Mondavi Center’s three tiers) are available at all price levels for most events.

“We’ve worked hard to make our subscription packages as attractive and accessible as possible,” said Roth. “I’m evangelistic about the arts, and want to bring the performing artists and speakers we present to as many people as possible. The Mondavi Center reaches more than 100,000 people from our region every year which

is pretty astounding for a five-year old institution. But I won't be satisfied until we touch even more members of our community with great artists and speakers from around the world. I particularly want to encourage subscriptions, which provide the basis for a close, long-term relationship with our patrons; subscribing allows patrons not only to get great discounts and guaranteed seats, but to experience a diverse set of offerings, which we have taken great care to balance and match in each subscription series. We feel the overall excellence of the season, together with the increased discounts and new seating options, will help us to bring the best in the performing arts to even more people in our community.”

Other changes in the works for 2007-08 include a new 7 pm starting time for Sunday evening events, a new way to order series subscriptions—online at www.MondaviArts.org—and a “new” world music series: **Java City Global Beat**, which had previously been available only as a “Choose Your Own” option. Performers in the series include Portuguese *fado* singer **Mariza**, Argentine tango troupe **Tango Buenos Aires**, the gospel-inspired sounds of **Sweet Honey in the Rock**, the traditional Peruvian music and dance of **Perú Negro**, and **Anoushka Shankar**, the daughter and pupil of legendary Indian sitar master **Ravi Shankar**.

Special Events

The 2007-08 Mondavi Center season includes several special events that are not part of any subscription series, yet promise to be among some of the year's most anticipated performances. One of the most eagerly awaited special events will be **St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre**, whose February 15-16 events will mark the first time the Mondavi Center has presented a traditional ballet company.

The **UC Davis 2007 Campus Community Book Project** will include a lecture by author **Luis Alberto Urrea**, which is also part of the Mondavi Center season as a special event. The lecture will focus on immigration and issues raised by Urrea's book *The Devil's Highway*. Other high-profile special events will include the return of **Carl Rosa Opera** for two performances of **Gilbert and Sullivan's** much-loved *H.M.S. Pinafore* and, in what has become a Mondavi Center holiday tradition, the **American Bach Soloists'** performance of **Handel's** *Messiah*.

There will also be a set of nine world music events that are not part of the Java City Global Beat series, featuring **Shaolin Warriors**, **Cirque-works**, **Day of the Dead Fiesta with Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano**, **Gamelan Cudamani**, **Chava Alberstein**, **Blind Boys of Alabama**, **Spirit of Uganda**, and **Leahy**.

Subscribers who order these special events as “add-ons” to their series order or as part of a “Choose Your Own” series receive a 15 percent discount off the regular ticket price.

The Creativity Project

The Mondavi Center’s commitment to new artists and new work continues with the Creativity Project, a multi-faceted examination of the creative process intended to explore how artists create; support and commission the performance of new work; and help create a deeper relationship between audiences and contemporary art by creating a context for understanding how that work came to be. A work-in-progress, the project is designed in collaboration with a committee of faculty, staff, and students across the UC Davis campus.

At the center of the Creativity Project is a set of performance by a wide range of artists including Merce Cunningham Dance Company, celebrated new music specialists the **Kronos Quartet**, early music ensemble **Mala Punica**, and two professional ensembles connected to UC Davis: the **Empyrean Ensemble**, under the direction of **UC Davis Department of Music** faculty members **Laurie San Martin** and **Kurt Rohde**, and **Sideshow Physical Theatre**, led by **Della Davidson** of the **UC Davis Department of Theatre and Dance**. Also included in the project will be an exhibition of works by **Leonardo Drew**, a visual artist who has collaborated with Cunningham, at the **Robert L. Nelson Gallery**. Both Empyrean Ensemble and Sideshow Physical Theatre will premier new works inspired by Cunningham and the Creativity Project.

Through interviews, panel discussions, podcasts, performances, and more, community members will have an opportunity to explore the creative process with each of the artists involved.

Subscription Information

Series and Choose-Your-Own subscriptions may be requested beginning April 25. The deadline for current subscribers to submit renewals is June 16; after that date, seating arrangements from previous seasons cannot be guaranteed. Tickets for individual events will go on sale beginning September 8.

For more information, including complete series listings, dates, and ticket prices, please visit the Mondavi Center website at www.MondaviArts.org or call the Ticket Office at 530.754.2787. Ticket Office hours are

Monday-Friday, 10 am-6 pm, and Saturday 12 pm-6 pm. The Ticket Office is also open for one hour prior to all scheduled events.

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