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## **FULL SCHEDULE AND IMAGES**

<http://mondaviarts.org/press>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Young Artists from Around the Nation Compete at the Mondavi Center**

**DAVIS, CALIF.**—The Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at UC Davis is proud to announce the winners of the sixth annual Young Artists Competition. The eight winners were selected from 16 finalists to perform in a concert held at the Center on March 27, 2011. The final round consisted of young classical instrumentalists and vocalists ages 8 to 21 from around the nation.

“The Young Artists Competition supports emerging new talents during the most critical phase of their musical development,” said Lara Downes, curator of the Mondavi Center’s Young Artists Program. “Our mission is to discover, nurture and promote gifted young musicians from all over the United States, bringing the great artists of tomorrow to today’s audiences on the Mondavi Center stage.”

Grand prize winners, mezzo-soprano Julia Heron Metzler from San Francisco, Calif. and cellist Jeremy Tai from Cupertino, Calif. both received a scholarship and will have the opportunity to perform in concert at the Mondavi Center during a future season. The other winners include pianist Grace Zhou from Irvine, Calif.; pianist Carrie Chen from Cupertino, Calif.; cellist Will Chow from Los Altos, Calif.; pianist Alison Chiang from Plano, Texas; and vocalist Brian Vu from Los Angeles, Calif.

Grand prize winner Tai decided to donate his \$1,000 scholarship money to assist relief efforts in Japan.

“While I was practicing the Elgar Cello Concerto, it was hard for me to create the proper interpretation for the first movement as a young musician,” said Tai. “I then remembered about the Japan disaster and realized how appropriate Elgar would be for depicting the victim’s sorrow. This helped me to create my own interpretation for the Elgar Cello Concerto. It also motivated me to donate all of the competition prize money to help the Japan earthquake victims.”

This year’s competition saw submissions from more than 135 musicians from around the nation. In January, the field was narrowed to 30 semi-finalists, and those were narrowed to the 16 musicians that competed in the final round on March 26, 2011.

The 2007 grand prize winner, pianist Kenric Tam, performed as part of the Mondavi Center's Debut Series this January in the Vanderhoef Studio Theatre. The 2009 grand prize winners, violinist Alexi Kenney and pianist Hilda Huag, will be included in the 2011-12 season. Winners also perform at the Festival del Sole classical music summer festival in Napa, with this year's winner expected to perform there this summer.

Application materials for the 2012 competition will be available in the summer of 2011. Live auditions will be held at Mondavi Center in January and March, 2012. Information is available at <http://www.mondaviarts.org>, or by emailing [youngartistsinfo@ucdavis.edu](mailto:youngartistsinfo@ucdavis.edu).

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#### **About the Mondavi Center**

The Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis, is one of Northern California's premier arts destinations. The Mondavi Center 2010-2011 season features over 90 performances. The Mondavi Center's main performance space, 1,800-seat Jackson Hall, features next-generation theatrical equipment and superb acoustics that make it a favorite for the world's finest musicians and dance and theater companies. The center's 200-seat Vanderhoef Studio Theatre provides high-tech space for rehearsals, film screenings, and intimate musical experiences.