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Full schedule and images available for download at:
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For immediate release:

Israeli Singer-Songwriter Chava Alberstein To Perform at Mondavi Center

November 6, 2007; Davis, California—**Chava Alberstein**, Israel’s most popular and prolific singer-songwriter, will bring her moving and insightful folk songs to the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** on December 6. Singing in Hebrew, Yiddish, and English, Alberstein will perform a selection of music from her distinguished, four-decade career accompanied by percussionist **Avi Agababa** and guitarist **Oved Eftar**.

The event will begin at 8 pm on December 6 in the Mondavi Center’s Jackson Hall on the UC Davis campus. Tickets are available from the Mondavi Center Ticket Office at 530.754.ARTS (2787) or online at MondaviArts.org. The event is a Mondavi Center **Global Beat** event. There will be a free **Pre-performance Lecture** featuring **Greg Wolfe**, rabbi, Congregation Bet Haverim, beginning at 7 pm in the Mondavi Center’s Studio Theatre.

The **Mondavi Center Arts Education Program** will also present Chava Alberstein as part of the 2007-08 **Wells Fargo School Matinee** series at the Mondavi Center on December 7 at 11 am in Jackson Hall. Performances in this series support the California Department of Education Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards. Teachers, educators, and others interested in purchasing tickets may contact the Ticket Office at 530.754.4689.

A triple-platinum-selling recording artist, Chava Alberstein has been a central figure in Israeli culture since the 1960s, making her mark as a composer, arranger, actress, and, most of all, as a singer-songwriter. “If we have a true folk singer, it is Chava Alberstein,” wrote *Yediot Aharonot*, Israel’s largest daily newspaper, in naming Alberstein the most important female musician in the country’s history.

Critics in the United States have been equally impressed. **Jon Pareles** of *The New York Times* called Alberstein “a thoughtful songwriter with folky roots, peaceable instincts, a voice filled with compassion, and an earnest desire to improve things.”

Born in 1947 in what was is now Szczecin, Poland, Alberstein moved with her parents to Israel when she was four years old. In 1964, at the age of 17, she was invited to appear at the Hamman Nightclub in Jaffa, where she sang four songs accompanied by her own guitar and her brother on clarinet. The performance was

broadcast live on the radio and led to an almost instant stardom and a recording contract with CBS Records. The following year, Alberstein was drafted into the Israel Defense Force and went to work entertaining the troops. She released her first album, *Hine Lanu Nigun (Here We Have a Song)* in 1967.

Alberstein has now released a remarkable 54 albums. She has recorded a wide variety of material, including traditional songs and children's music, but is perhaps best known for her politically charged material, which has often taken on controversial topics, such as her songs on the 2004 album *End of the Holiday* criticizing Israel's treatment of "guest workers" from other countries. Her style ranges from gentle folk music reminiscent of **Joan Baez** to rock and roll and orchestral pop. She is perhaps best-known in the U.S. for her 1998 CD *The Well*, which was recorded with the American klezmer group the **Klezmatiks**.

Throughout her career, Alberstein's work has often been characterized as being marked by the bittersweet tension she feels between her dual identity as an Israeli and as a citizen of the world. "Even though I have lived in Israel nearly my entire life, I am constantly questioning my place in the world," Alberstein has said. "Maybe this searching comes from being an artist, maybe it comes from being a Jew. I'm not really sure."

Alberstein's recordings in Hebrew have won six Kinor David prizes, Israel's equivalent of the Grammy Award. She has also released seven albums in Yiddish, and an English-language album of standards ranging from **Gershwin** to **Lennon** and **McCartney**. A dozen of the records have gone gold, six platinum, and one—*K'mo Tzemach Bar (Like a Wild Flower)* from 1975—went triple-platinum.

Now firmly established as a giant in world music, Alberstein continues to impress critics and audiences alike with her profoundly affecting quality of her compositions and performances. Writing of the *End of the Holiday* CD, *Jazziz* magazine praised her "deep and ravishing voice," adding that "While the words and context of the album are important, the sensual quality of her vocals creates the deepest impression. You don't have to speak Hebrew or even read the translated lyrics to be affected."

"Singer-songwriter Chava Alberstein is a major figure in today's Israeli culture and an excellent singer-songwriter," said Mondavi Center Executive Director **Don Roth**. "We are very proud to be presenting her first Mondavi Center performance."

What: Chava Alberstein
When: Thursday, December 6 • 8 pm
Where: Jackson Hall
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts
University of California, Davis
Admission: \$39/\$34/\$24 Adults • \$19.50/\$17/\$12 Students & Children
Tickets/Info: 530.754.ARTS (2787)
866.754.ARTS (toll-free)
<http://www.MondaviArts.org>
530.754.5402 [TDD]

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