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

For immediate release:

‘Curtis on Tour’ Musicians to Play Strauss, Schoenberg, Dvořák Chamber Works at the Mondavi Center

February 14, 2008; Davis, California—Local audiences will have a chance to experience some of the most acclaimed instrumentalists in classical music playing with the up-and-coming stars of tomorrow when the **Curtis on Tour** program visits the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** at **UC Davis**. **Roberto Díaz**, president of the **Curtis Institute of Music** and former principal violist of the **Philadelphia Orchestra**, will join acclaimed cellist **Margo Drakos** and a string quartet of Curtis Institute students in performances of works by **Strauss, Schoenberg, and Dvořák** in the intimate setting of the Mondavi Center’s Studio Theatre.

There will be two performances, the first at 8 pm on March 15 and the second at 2 pm on March 16, in the Mondavi Center’s Studio Theatre 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 presented as part of the Mondavi Center’s **Debut Series**.

The Mondavi Center Arts Education Program will also present Curtis on Tour as part of the 2007-08 **Wells Fargo School Matinee Series** on March 14 at 11 am in the Studio Theatre. The School Matinee Series is made available for teachers and students, including homeschooled students. 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.

Curtis on Tour features the artistry of the students and faculty of the world-renowned Curtis Institute of Music, which has nurtured a long line of great performers, from legends such as **Leonard Bernstein, Samuel Barber**, and the **Guarneri Quartet** to current stars such as **Lang Lang, Juan Diego Flórez, Alan Gilbert, Jennifer Higdon, and Hilary Hahn**. One of the world’s leading music schools, the Curtis Institute provides full-tuition scholarships to all of its 162 students, ensuring that admissions are based solely on artistic promise. Students at this intimate, Philadelphia-based conservatory “learn by doing,” performing frequently and often collaborating side-by-side with their teachers, and Curtis on Tour brings this meeting of youthful exuberance and seasoned artistry to audiences across the country.

An internationally renowned violist, Curtis President Roberto Díaz follows in the footsteps of artist/directors **Gary Graffman, Efrem Zimbalist, Rudolf Serkin, and Josef Hofmann**. A principal violist of the Philadelphia Orchestra from 1996 to 2006, Díaz joined the faculty of the Curtis Institute in 2000 and holds the

James and Betty Matarese Chair in Viola Studies. An active chamber musician, he has performed with artists such as the **Emerson String Quartet**, **Emanuel Ax**, **Yefim Bronfman**, **Christoph Eschenbach**, **Yo-Yo Ma**, **Wolfgang Sawallisch**, and **Isaac Stern**. He also continues to perform with numerous orchestras, including the **Kansas City Symphony** with **Michael Stern**, **New World Symphony** with **Michael Tilson Thomas**, Philadelphia Orchestra with **Gilbert Varga**, and **Orquesta Simfónica de Barcelona** with **James Judd**. In May 2007, he performed contemporary composer **Krzysztof Penderecki**'s Concerto for Viola and Orchestra in Carnegie Hall with the **Curtis Symphony Orchestra** and **Christoph Eschenbach**. He has worked with many of the most acclaimed conductors, including **Riccardo Chailly**, **Charles Dutoit**, **Richard Hickox**, **Christopher Hogwood**, and **David Zinman**. His recording of viola transcriptions by legendary violist **William Primrose**, released on the Naxos label in 2006, was nominated for a Grammy Award.

A 1999 graduate of the Curtis Institute, cellist Margo Drakos has performed as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States, Europe, South America, and Asia.

She serves on the cello faculty of the **Manhattan School of Music** while maintaining an active performance career that has included service as the cellist of the **American String Quartet** from 2002–2006, associate/assistant principal cellist of the **Pittsburgh Symphony**, and principal cellist of the San Diego Symphony and **Oregon Symphony**. She has collaborated with some of the world's leading musicians, including the **Beaux Arts Trio**, **Jonathan Biss**, **Yefim Bronfman**, **Ralph Kirshbaum**, **Richard Stoltzman**, and **Pinchas Zuckerman**. She is a member of the string trio **Divertimento**, and Chief Operating Officer of InstantEncore.com, a digital music site for live classical music.

Curtis Institute students scheduled to perform with Díaz and Drakos are **Bella Hristova**, violin; **Joel Link**, violin; **Vicki Powell**, viola; and **Yu-Wen Wang**, cello. The program will be:

- Richard Strauss: Sextet from *Capriccio*, op. 85
- Arnold Schoenberg: *Verklärte Nacht* for String Sextet, op. 4
- Antonín Dvořák: String Quintet in E-flat Major, op. 97

“We are extremely pleased to be working with the Curtis Institute, the premier music conservatory in the country, in presenting this appealing program of chamber works by Strauss, Schoenberg, and Dvořák,” said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center's executive director. “We are especially pleased that Roberto Díaz, Curtis' president and the former principal viola of the Philadelphia Orchestra, will join a quartet of Curtis students and alumna Margo Drakos for these concerts.”

What: **Curtis on Tour**
Roberto Díaz with String Quartet
Special Guest: Margo Drakos, cello

When: Saturday, March 15 • 8 pm
Sunday, March 16 • 2 pm

Where: Studio Theatre
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts
University of California, Davis

Admission: \$29 Adults • \$14.50 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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