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For immediate release:

Dan Zanes Brings Musical Family Fun to Mondavi Center

January 8, 2008; Davis, California—When rock and roller **Dan Zanes** got married and became a father, he thought he would be giving up his music career. Instead, becoming a dad led Zanes to realize that most of the music made for kids seemed calculated to drive parents crazy, and prompted him to start writing, recording, and performing music that parents and their little ones could enjoy together. The result has been both a second career for Zanes and a new musical genre full of happy tunes, eccentric instrumentation, and good times for listeners young and old. Next month, Zanes will bring his five-piece band and his vision of family musical fun to the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** at **UC Davis**.

The concert will begin at 3 pm on Sunday, February 3, 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 presented as part of the Mondavi Center's **Family Series**.

The Mondavi Center Arts Education Program will also present Dan Zanes as part of the 2007-08 **Wells Fargo School Matinee Series** at the Mondavi Center on Monday, February 4, at 11 am in Jackson Hall. 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 should contact the Ticket Office at 530.754.4689.

Dan Zanes, a former member of the Boston-based **Del Fuegos**, which was named "Best New Band" by *Rolling Stone* in 1984, has made five albums of his engaging family music for his self-run label, Festival Five Records, including the 2007 Grammy Award-winning *Catch That Train*. "Zanes' music works because it's not kids' music; it's just music," wrote *New York Times* magazine.

Zanes has said that he is dedicated to a vision of family music-making and "a singing, dancing, freewheeling, shaking, inclusive America." Making music with friends and family, he has stated, "restores our spirits and gives us hope for the future; it gives us a sense of life's best possibilities. When we make music together, we share our stories. We welcome each other into our lives. We give our children new ideas for social living and in return they show us how to dance like bears, or birds, or ice cream cones. And we have fun...unbelievable fun."

Born in Exeter, New Hampshire, in 1961, Zanes spent the 1980s as a member of the Del Fuegos, which recorded five albums and had a hit single, "I Still Want You," on the *Billboard* charts in 1986. After the band broke up, Zanes released a solo CD, *Cool Down Time*, in 1994. Shortly after that he moved to Brooklyn, New York, with his wife and daughter, where he released *Rocket Ship Beach*, an album of children's music, on the Festival Five label in 2000, and the CD became an immediate hit with families around the country.

Zanes followed up with *Family Dance* in 2001, which featured **Loudon Wainwright III** and **Roseanne Cash**, and *Night Time!* in 2002, which featured collaborations with **Aimee Mann** and **Lou Reed**. The 2003 CD *House Party*, a rambunctious 21-song collection that includes **Deborah Harry**, **Bob Weir**, and **Philip Glass**, was nominated for a Grammy Award, and in 2007, *Catch That Train!* won a Grammy for Best Musical Album for Children. The album brings together the **Kronos Quartet**, the **Blind Boys of Alabama**, the children of South Africa's Agape Orphanage, and others to sing Zulu folk songs, an old labor organizing tune, a song about the joys of farming the English countryside, train songs, and more.

Zanes is also the author of two picture-book collaborations with artist **Donald Saaf**, *Jump Up!* and *Hello Hello* (Little, Brown, and Co.), and he can be seen in the Dan Zanes and Friends concert video and DVD, *All Around the Kitchen!*, recorded in 2005 at the Knitting Factory in New York City.

The band for the February 3 Mondavi Center performance includes Zanes (guitar, vocals), **Colin Brooks** (drums), **Sonia de Los Santos** (guitar, vocals), **John Foti** (accordion), **Saskia Lane** (bass), and **Elena Moon Park** (violin).

"Much of the popular art and entertainment of our time seems designed to divide audiences along generational lines, but Dan Zanes writes and performs songs that parents and their children can enjoy together," said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center's executive director. "We look forward to an event that promises to be a highlight of this season's Family Series."

What: Dan Zanes
When: Sunday, February 3, 2008 • 3 pm
Where: Jackson Hall
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts
University of California, Davis
Admission: \$29/\$24/\$19 Adults • \$14.50/\$12/\$9.50 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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