



Contact: Joe Martin  
530.754.5428

Full schedule and images available for download at:  
<http://www.MondaviArts.org/pressroom>

For immediate release:

## Percussion Soloist Evelyn Glennie to Play Mondavi Center

*November 7, 2007; Davis, California*—**Dame Evelyn Glennie** is not only the first person in the history of classical music to sustain a full-time career as a solo percussionist, she is also the only profoundly deaf musician on the international concert stage. Next month, this one-of-a-kind, Grammy Award-winning performer will give a solo recital at the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts**, playing music including **J.S. Bach**'s Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, **Steve Reich**'s *Clapping Music*, and more.

The event will begin at 8 pm on December 8 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](http://MondaviArts.org). The event is presented as part of Mondavi Center's **Raley's & Bel Air Concert** series.

Evelyn Glennie gives more than 100 performances per year worldwide, winning raves for her virtuosity and for the visual flair she brings to her performances. She has collaborated with artists as diverse as **Kodo**, **Bela Fleck**, **Bjork**, **Bobby McFerrin**, **Sting**, **Emmanuel Ax**, the **Mormon Tabernacle Choir**, and **Fred Frith**, and is well-known for her appearances on television programs including *Late Night with David Letterman* and *Sesame Street*. Glennie has won two Grammy Awards, been named an Officer of the British Empire and awarded the status of "Dame Commander" for her contributions to music, and to date has received approximately 80 international awards. She has published an autobiography, *Good Vibrations*, and her life and career was the subject of the 2004 film *Touch the Sound* by renowned Director **Thomas Riedelsheimer**.

Glennie's commitment to contemporary composers and to the expansion of the percussion repertoire has earned her a reputation as a groundbreaker in the classical music world, as has her uncompromising stance toward her disability. Born in Aberdeen in 1965, she absorbed the musical traditions of her native Scotland and learned to play clarinet and mouth organ as a child. In her early years, she was found to have perfect pitch perception, but she became profoundly deaf at the age of 12 due to a neurological disorder. Undeterred, she entered the **Royal Academy of Music** in London in 1982, winning the Queen's Commendation Prize for all-around excellence and graduating with an honors degree at the age of 19.

For the first 10 years of her career virtually every performance was in some way a first—the first time a given orchestra had performed with a percussion soloist, the first solo percussion performance at a given venue or festival, or the world premiere of a new piece. To date, Glennie has commissioned 143 new works for solo percussion. She also composes and records new music of her own, much of it for film and television. She has

recorded 25 solo CDs encompassing a wide variety of musical genres, and won two Grammy Awards, the first for her recording of **Belá Bartók**'s Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion, and the other for her work on Bela Fleck's *Perpetual Motion*.

Glennie is in constant demand as a concert artist, and devotes more than four months per year to performances in North America, giving recitals, concerts, and master classes across the United States and Canada. She has performed with, among others, the orchestras of Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, Montreal, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Toronto, and Washington, D.C., playing with such distinguished conductors as **Christoph Eschenbach**, **Charles Dutoit**, **Seiji Ozawa**, **Mstislav Rostropovich**, **Leonard Slatkin**, **Esa-Pekka Salonen**, and **David Zinman**. She also performs regularly throughout Asia, Europe, and the United Kingdom, where she is a regular guest at the BBC Proms.

In response to widespread confusion and curiosity regarding the nature of her deafness, Glennie published "The Hearing Essay" to explain her condition and how she is able to overcome it as a musician. "It is worth pointing out," writes Glennie, "that I am not totally deaf; I am profoundly deaf. Profound deafness covers a wide range of symptoms, although it is commonly taken to mean that the quality of the sound heard is not sufficient to be able to understand the spoken word from sound alone. With no other sound interfering, I can usually hear someone speaking although I cannot understand them without the additional input of lip-reading."

"Hearing is basically a specialized form of touch" in which vibrations in the air are perceived by the ear, she continues, noting that these vibrations can be perceived with other parts of the body. Together with her limited sense of hearing, she has enough perception of sound to have sustained a career as a virtuoso musician, she explains.

"To summarize," the essay concludes, "my hearing is something that bothers other people far more than it bothers me. There are a couple of inconveniences but in general it doesn't affect my life much. For me, my deafness is no more important than the fact I am female with brown eyes.... Even so, no one really understands how I do what I do. Please enjoy the music and forget the rest." The full text of the essay is available at Glennie's web site, [www.evelyn.co.uk](http://www.evelyn.co.uk)

"Evelyn Glennie is a truly unique artist whose remarkable virtuosity and flair for visual presentation make for a concert experience unlike any other in classical music," said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center's executive director. "We look forward to presenting her in Jackson Hall."

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**What:** **Evelyn Glennie**  
**When:** Saturday, December 8 · 8 pm  
**Where:** Jackson Hall  
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts  
University of California, Davis  
**Admission:** \$49/\$45/\$35 Adults • \$24.50/\$22.50/\$17.50 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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