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For immediate release:

Gamelan Çudamani Brings Exotic Balinese Culture to Mondavi Center

October 18, 2007; Davis, California—The exotic sights and sounds of Bali will come to the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** with a performance by **Gamelan Çudamani** on November 16. In a presentation entitled *Odalan Bali*, the 31 virtuoso musicians and dancers of Gamelan Çudamani will bring the Balinese temple ceremony known as *odalan* to the Mondavi Center stage complete with colorful costumes, exquisite dance, and the extraordinary music of the Balinese gamelan tradition.

The event will begin at 8 pm on November 16 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 performance is presented as a Mondavi Center **Global Beat** event. There will be a free **Pre-performance Lecture** featuring **Henry Spiller**, professor, UC Davis Department of Music, in the AGR Room of the **Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center** adjacent to the Mondavi Center beginning at 7 pm on November 16.

The Mondavi Center Arts Education Program will also present Gamelan Cudamani: *Odalan Bali* as part of the 2007-08 **Wells Fargo School Matinee Series** at the Mondavi Center on November 16 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.

The word "gamelan," which derives from the Javanese term meaning to "strike" or "hammer," refers to a kind of traditional musical ensemble unique to Indonesia. In fact, each gamelan is unique unto itself, with instruments constructed for that group and tuned specifically to the other instruments in the ensemble. Although a gamelan may include strings, flutes, vocals, and other instruments, the sound tends to be dominated by tuned percussion instruments such as metallophones, gongs, and xylophones. The music, which has mysterious origins and a history stretching back more than 500 years, is often used in ceremonies and rituals and is believed to have profound spiritual power. The exotic sound of gamelan music, with its multi-layered, polyphonic, and intricately rhythmic compositions, has had a significant impact on Western classical music over the course of the 20th century, influencing composers and musicians as diverse as **Claude Debussy, Bela Bartók, Olivier Messiaen, Steve Reich, Lou Harrison, Philip Glass**, and others, as well as jazz guitarist **Pat Metheny**, to name just a few.

Gamelan Çudamani's *Odalan Bali*, with 21 musicians and 10 dancers, recreates for the stage a Balinese temple ceremony and its accompanying music and dance. There are more than 20,000 temples in Bali, which is home to most of Indonesia's Hindu population, and each temple celebrates an anniversary every 210 days in accordance with the lunar calendar. The ceremony for this observance is *odalan*, which functions to restore balance between the human, the divine, and the natural, and is the most pervasive religious activity on the island. *Odalan Bali* recontextualizes the music, dance, and ceremony for the stage, placing sacred costumes and rituals within a theatrical narrative in a powerful, exotic, and beautiful expression of Balinese spirituality and community.

Çudamani has its origins in Pengosekan, a small village south of the Balinese tourist town of Ubud. Troubled by a situation in which the best musicians were playing primarily for tourists and being drawn away from their connection to the religious and communal life of the village, brothers **Dewa Putu Berata** and **Dewa Ketut Alit** in 1997 brought together a group of talented young artists to form **Sanggar Çudamani**. The organization has grown to become a center of educational activity and creativity, with studios, classes, workshops, and rehearsal space. Dedicated to *ayah*, or devotional service, the group contributes performances to temple ceremonies and religious festivals and teaches traditional music and dance. The company has also toured internationally, visiting Italy, Greece, Japan, and the United States.

The music of Çudamani is a mingling of ancient and modern influences performed on a hybrid gamelan orchestra created in the 1980s. With seven tones rather than the usual five, this special gamelan allows the freedom to play in rare modes, and the ensemble's bold, cutting-edge compositions and choreography resonates with both traditional and contemporary audiences.

"At the Mondavi Center, we take special pride in being able to present artists and performance traditions from cultures that many in our community may be experiencing for the first time," said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center's executive director. "Gamelan Çudamani offers an authentic experience of Balinese music and culture, and we look forward to experiencing this unique tradition."

What: **Gamelan Çudamani**
Odalan Bali

When: Friday, November 16 • 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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