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For immediate release:

Regina Carter Quintet to Play the Mondavi Center

February 23, 2008; Davis, California—One of the most exciting new stars in jazz, violin virtuoso **Regina Carter**, will bring her quintet to the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** at **UC Davis** on March 22. A classically trained violinist and recipient of a prestigious MacArthur Fellows Program “Genius” fellowship, Carter has studied with **Itzhak Perlman** and **Yehudi Menuhin** and played with everyone from **Wynton Marsalis** and **Cassandra Wilson** to **Aretha Franklin** and **Mary J. Blige** as she has established herself as one of the best and most dynamic performers in contemporary jazz.

The **Regina Carter Quintet** will perform in the Mondavi Center’s Jackson Hall on the UC Davis campus beginning at 8 pm on March 22. 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 **90.9 KXJZ Improvisation Series**.

Acclaimed violinist Regina Carter has combined classical training, a background in the thriving jazz scene of her hometown of Detroit, and a longstanding interest in funk and rhythm and blues to form a style in which she is equally at home firing off jaw-dropping, high-speed licks or slipping into funky, swinging jazz violin reminiscent of past greats like **Stuff Smith**. The jazz journal *Downbeat* has praised her “boundless improvisational imagination” and made her a perennial winner of its Critics Poll as best violinist.

“Regina Carter creates music that is wonderfully listenable, probingly intelligent and, at times, breathtakingly daring...taking the listener into the future of jazz,” noted *Time*.

Born in Detroit in 1962 and a cousin of jazz saxophonist **James Carter**, Regina Carter took a double major in classical music and African American music at both the prestigious **New England Conservatory of Music** and **Oakland University** in Michigan, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in performance. She spent her apprentice years studying with giants including Perlman and Menuhin and playing with ensembles including the **Detroit Civic Symphony Orchestra** and the pop-funk group **Brainstorm**.

Carter first came to national prominence as a member of the all-female jazz quintet **Straight Ahead**, which released a trio of albums for the Atlantic label in the early 1990s. She released her first solo CD, *Regina Carter*, on Atlantic in 1995 and has since released five acclaimed CDs under her own name: *Something for Grace* (1997); *Rhythms of the Heart* (1999); *Motor City Moments* (2000); *Paganini: After a Dream* (2003), an album of light classics played on the legendary Guarneri del Gesu violin owned by nineteenth century virtuoso and composer **Nicolo Paganini**; and *I’ll Be Seeing You: A Sentimental Journey* (2006), an album of swing era

standards featuring guest vocals by **Dee Dee Bridgewater**. She has also worked on recordings and tours by a long list of jazz luminaries including **Ray Brown**, **Billy Taylor**, **Marian McPartland**, **Kenny Barron**, **Wynton Marsalis**, **Randy Weston**, and **Cassandra Wilson**, as well as pop icons including **Dolly Parton** and **Billy Joel**.

In addition to frequent national tours with her working band, Carter has performed with numerous orchestras, including the **Atlanta Symphony**, **Milwaukee Symphony**, and the **Minnesota Orchestra**. She and her band also performed a special engagement with the **Boston Pops**, featuring classical violinist **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg** and Celtic fiddler **Eileen Ivers**, performing “Interplay,” a song written especially for them by **Chris Brubeck**, **Dave Brubeck**’s son. In 2006, she was given an honorary doctorate from **Albion College** in Michigan and received a prestigious MacArthur Foundation “Genius” fellowship. In 2007, she was honored with the International Society for the Performing Arts’ Distinguished Artist Award.

Joining Regina Carter for her Mondavi Center performance will be **Alvester Garnett**, drums; **Xavier Davis**, piano; **Darryl Harper**, clarinet; and **Matthew Parrish**, bass. Carter has announced that the repertoire for this tour will include swing era compositions from her CD *I’ll Be Seeing You: A Sentimental Journey*, as well as some classical works from *Paganini: After a Dream*.

“Regina Carter is a remarkably gifted and versatile musician whose virtuosity extends across boundaries that are sometimes thought to exist between jazz, classical music, and rhythm and blues,” said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center’s executive director. “We look forward to what promises to be an exciting performance by one of the best working groups in jazz today.”

What: Regina Carter Quintet
When: Saturday, March 22 ▪ 8 pm
Where: Jackson Hall
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts
University of California, Davis
Admission: \$42/\$37/\$32 Adults • \$21/\$18.50/\$16 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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