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For immediate release:

## San Francisco Symphony to Play Chopin, Saint-Saëns at the Mondavi Center

*September 7, 2007; Davis, California*—The dynamic **San Francisco Symphony**, one of America’s best, will play the music of **Chopin, Saint-Saëns**, and more at the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** on October 10. The acclaimed orchestra, which in recent years has racked up an impressive series of Grammy Awards, *Gramophone* Awards, and a Grand Prix du Disque, will perform under the baton of **Roberto Abbado** in a concert that will feature pianist **Ingrid Fliter** in a performance of Chopin’s popular Piano Concerto no. 2 in F Minor.

The event will begin at 8 pm on October 10 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 **Western Health Advantage Classics Series**.

Founded in 1911, the San Francisco Symphony has increasingly been recognized as one of the great American orchestras, thanks in part to the leadership of music director **Michael Tilson Thomas**, whose adventurous programming, zeal for music education, and charismatic stage presence have drawn comparisons to **Leonard Bernstein**. The orchestra’s recent series of recordings of the symphonies of **Gustav Mahler** have been highly praised by critics and won several Grammy Awards, and the ensemble’s national and international tours have been met with critical raves.

“The multiple textures and clashing rhythms interlock with spontaneous ease; the playing proves that the SFS remains one of the world’s most immaculate ensembles,” wrote *The Guardian* of London.

“Night after night this month I sat...marveling not only at the music itself...but also at the sense of electricity and enthusiasm that was evident throughout the hall,” wrote a critic for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. “I routinely heard the kind of impassioned applause that is usually reserved for the most extroverted displays of musical showmanship. I saw delirious grins on the faces of patrons who had come not knowing quite what to expect—and then found the results far more thrilling than they could have imagined.”

Now nearly a century old, the San Francisco Symphony has grown in acclaim under a succession of music directors that has included **Pierre Monteux, Josef Krips, Seiji Ozawa, Edo de Waart, and Herbert Blomstedt**. It has performed under podium legends such as **Bruno Walter** and **Leopold Stokowski**, and the

list of composers who have led the orchestra includes **Stravinsky, Ravel, and Copland**. Tilson Thomas first conducted the San Francisco Symphony in 1974 and has been its music director since 1995.

Guest conductor **Roberto Abbado** studied conducting with **Franco Ferrara** at **La Fenice** and at the **Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia**, where he was the only student in academy history invited to conduct the **Orchestra di Santa Cecilia**. He leads major orchestras around the world and has been a frequent guest with the **Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra**, and others. He has conducted the **San Francisco Symphony** regularly since his debut with the orchestra in 1999. He served as chief conductor of the Munich Radio Symphony from 1991 to 1998, and conducted opera with the **Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, Il Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Vienna State Opera, Paris's Bastille Opera, Zurich Opera, and Deutsche Oper Berlin**. He is a nephew of the famed **Claudio Abbado**, whose prestigious posts have included chief director of the **Berlin Philharmonic**, principal conductor of the **London Symphony Orchestra**, and music director of both the Vienna State Opera and La Scala.

Pianist **Ingrid Fliter** is a rising star who recently signed an exclusive recording contract with EMI Classics, which plans to release live recordings of her performances of music by **Beethoven** and **Chopin** in the coming year. Born in Buenos Aires in 1973, Fliter began piano studies with **Elizabeth Westerkamp** and played her first public recitals at age 11 before making her professional debut at 16. In 1992, at the suggestion of fellow Argentine **Martha Argerich**, Fliter moved to Europe, where she continued studies with **Vitalj Margulis** in Freiburg, **Carlo Bruno** in Rome, and **Franco Scala** and **Boris Petrushansky** in Imola.

Fliter has participated in master classes with artists including **Leon Fleischer** and receives ongoing musical support and artistic advice from **Zoltán Kocsis**. She won first prize at the Cantu International Competition and the Busoni Competition and in 2000, she was awarded the silver medal at the Chopin Competition in Warsaw. In 2006, she received the prestigious Gilmore Artist Award, only the fifth pianist to capture that honor. She made her debut with an American orchestra in 2006 with the **Atlanta Symphony** and recently stepped in for Martha Argerich with the **Los Angeles Philharmonic**. She has recorded works by **Beethoven** and **Chopin** on the VAI Audio label.

The program for the October 10 event will be *Cobalt, Scarlet: Two Colors of Dawn*, a composition by contemporary Italian composer **Luca Francesconi**; **Chopin's** Piano Concerto no. 2 in F minor, op. 21; and **Camille Saint-Saëns'** spectacularly colorful Symphony no. 3 in C minor, op. 78, popularly known as the "Organ Symphony."

"We are very fortunate that the San Francisco Symphony, one of finest orchestras in the world, makes its home just 75 miles away, and we are proud to be able to present these outstanding musicians again as the first concert of our 2007-08 Western Health Advantage Classics Series," said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center's executive director.

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**What:** **San Francisco Symphony**  
**Roberto Abbado, conductor**  
**Ingrid Fliter, piano**

**When:** Wednesday, October 10, 2007 • 8 pm

**Where:** Jackson Hall  
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts  
University of California, Davis

**Admission:** \$75/\$65/\$55 Adults • \$37.50/\$32.50/\$27.50 Students & Children

**Tickets/Info:** 530.754.ARTS (2787)

866.754.ARTS (toll-free)  
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