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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Alexander String Quartet Plays Beethoven at the Mondavi Center**

**Davis, Calif.**—The **Alexander String Quartet** concludes this season’s survey of **Ludwig van Beethoven** at the **Studio Theatre** of the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts**, UC Davis. The third installment of the quartet’s **All-Beethoven Series** takes place **Sunday, June 7, at 2 and 7 p.m.**, with a program featuring two of the composer’s **Opus 18 String Quartets: No. 4 in C Minor** and **No. 6 in B-flat Major**.

The **afternoon performance** includes in-concert commentary from the **Alexander String Quartet** plus renowned educator and composer **Robert Greenberg**. The **evening concert** includes a **Post-performance Q&A** in the **Studio Theatre** with members of the quartet. **Ticket** availability is limited; please contact the Mondavi Center box office at 530-754-2787 or 866-754-2787 (toll-free) for more information.

The **Alexander String Quartet**—**Zakarias Grafilo, violin; Frederick Lifszit, violin; Paul Yarbrough, viola; Sandy Wilson, cello**—has been a Mondavi Center audience favorite since the venue’s opening in 2002. Each season, the Mondavi Center has featured the quartet in series focusing on the works of **Dmitri Shostakovich, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** and **Johannes Brahms**. The ensemble captured international attention in 1985 as the first American quartet to win the London International String Quartet Competition. In the years since, ASQ has performed on four continents and released numerous recordings, including an acclaimed nine-CD set of the 16 Beethoven quartets on the Arte Nova label. At home in San Francisco, ASQ is a major artistic presence, through a residency with **San Francisco Performances** and as directors of the **Morrison Chamber Music Center at San Francisco State**.

**ASQ’s Beethoven concerts have** drawn rave reviews. “The musicians’ controlled exuberance was unflagging and consequently produced superlative accounts of Beethoven,” wrote The Washington Post. “Every phrase and line, every textural and colorific effect, every structural element, every sforzando, every legato, every hairpin dynamic shading, every articulation—in short, every musical detail—was performed so precisely, in so shapely a fashion, and in such perfect balance with every other detail that I felt my mind irresistibly and uninterruptedly held deep inside the world of Beethoven’s imagination,” raved The San Diego Reader.

The string quartets of **Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)** are widely considered one of the pinnacles of the chamber music repertoire. Though the great composer wrote masterpieces in virtually every genre he attempted, the string quartets are often considered among his most personal, inventive and profound compositions. Many observers have suggested that the intimate nature of the string quartet—a genre which, unlike opera, symphonies or concertos, was almost invariably performed for very small audiences in Beethoven’s time—encouraged him to be especially inventive and to give voice to his most private musical thoughts. The 16 quartets are often thought of as almost a “musical diary” of Beethoven’s inner life, with relatively clear delineations between the three periods commonly used to describe the composer’s output. The works offered by the Alexander String Quartet this season belong to the set of six **Opus 18** quartets—the early period quartets written between 1798 and 1800. As with most of Beethoven’s earlier compositions, these were strongly influenced by Haydn and Mozart yet contain strong hints of his own emerging musical personality.

“Beethoven’s string quartets surely rank among the greatest achievements of Western classical music, and hearing them played by the outstanding Alexander String Quartet in our Studio Theatre promises to be an outstanding experience,” said **Don Roth**, Mondavi Center executive director.

- **Alexander String Quartet: Beethoven**
- **Sun., June 7, 2 & 7 p.m.**
- **Mondavi Center, Studio Theatre**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$40 regular; \$20 students, children**
- **530-754-2787, 866-754-2787 (toll-free), 530-754-5402 (TDD)**
- [MondaviArts.org](http://MondaviArts.org)