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For immediate release:

Del Castillo Brings Latin Rock to the UC Davis Quad in Free SummerMusic Concert

June 11, 2008; Davis, California—With speedy guitar work that’s been compared to rock superstar **Eddie Van Halen** and a sound that *Billboard* praised for combining “Latin music’s romance with rock’s grit,” the Texas-based sextet **Del Castillo** will perform a free concert on the **UC Davis Quad** as part of the **SummerMusic 2008** series presented by the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** and sponsored by **UC Davis Summer Sessions**.

The concert will begin at 7:30 pm on July 28 on the UC Davis Quad on the university campus, with the area opening for picnics beginning at 6:30 pm. In accordance with university policy, alcoholic beverages are not permitted. Admission is free.

Featuring acoustic guitars, a driving rhythm section, impassioned vocals in both Spanish and English, and a strong flamenco influence, Del Castillo has been hailed for its “tight musicianship, passionate showmanship from lead singer **Alex Ruiz**, and an intoxicatingly rhythmic combination of flamenco, Latin rock, blues, and some R&B” (*Dallas Morning News*). The group has won numerous local awards in the highly competitive music scene in its native Austin, including Austin Music Awards for Best Latin Contemporary Band, Best Latin Traditional Band, and Album of the Year for *Brotherhood* (2007).

The group got its start in late 2000 when **Mark and Rick Del Castillo** decided to record some flamenco music for their parents. The brothers had for several years been playing electric guitar in separate bands, but had never collaborated before they began writing songs together on acoustic guitars. Ruiz, a friend, added vocals to the songs they had composed, and other band members quickly joined the project as the recordings met with an encouraging response. The group forged a collective identity drawing on a wide range of musical influences, but remained strongly grounded in the Latin element that had brought it together.

In 2001, Del Castillo played its first concerts and released a CD, *Brothers of the Castle*, which received a strong critical response. “For a band that played its first gig only six months ago, Del Castillo is, indeed, going places,” wrote the *Austin American Statesman*. Del Castillo began touring around Texas and continued to meet with enthusiastic reactions from audiences and critics, winning the first of many Austin

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Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis

Music Awards in 2002 for Best World Music Band and Best Mexican/Traditional Latin Band. A second CD, *Vida*, followed in 2002 to general acclaim, and around that time, the band met filmmaker **Robert Rodriguez**, director of films including *El Mariachi* and *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*. Rodriguez began studying guitar with Rick Del Castillo and became a friend and frequent collaborator, filming and editing a live DVD for Del Castillo, calling upon the group to perform at movie premieres, and using the band's music in films including *Kill Bill, Vol. 2*.

Since 2004, Del Castillo has toured almost incessantly, opening concerts for **Ozomatli**, **Los Lonely Boys**, **Los Lobos**, **Kinky**, **deSol**, and others. The band has performed at three of **Willie Nelson's** Fourth of July Picnics, at **Eric Clapton's** Crossroads Guitar Festival, and made numerous national and local TV appearances. *Brotherhood*, the band's third CD, was released in the spring of 2006, again to general acclaim. "Whether Del Castillo works in Spanish or English, it rocks righteously," *Billboard* wrote regarding the CD. "The Spanish guitars' flamenco vibe gives a dramatic flair, abetted by Alex Ruiz's passionate vocals."

"It is our pleasure to bring the gifted young Latin rock band Del Castillo to this year's SummerMusic series of free concerts on the Quad," said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center's executive director. "We are grateful to UC Davis Summer Sessions for making SummerMusic possible."

What: Del Castillo
When: Monday, July 28 ▪ 7:30 pm
Where: UC Davis Quad
University of California, Davis
Admission: Free
Info: 530.754.2787
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