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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 29, 2009

The Mondavi Center Presents the San Francisco Symphony with Michael Tilson Thomas

Davis, Calif.—The Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis, presents the San Francisco Symphony—Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor, and Yuja Wang, piano—Thursday, May 21, at 8 p.m. in Jackson Hall. The program comprises Sibelius' Symphony No. 4 in A Minor, op. 63; Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, op. 16; and "The B-Sides," a new work by Mason Bates. There is a Pre-performance Lecture with Professor D. Kern Holoman of the UC Davis Department of Music, at 7 p.m. in the AGR Room of the Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center.

Says Don Roth, Mondavi Center executive director, "We are fortunate to have one of the great conductor/orchestra combinations in the world just down I-80 from the Mondavi Center. The San Francisco Symphony, led by the brilliant Michael Tilson Thomas, is our most frequent orchestral visitors and one of our most requested ensembles. This time they are joined by Yuja Wang on piano, whose youth belies the maturity of her playing. The Mondavi Center is proud to dedicate this performance to our great friends and supporters, Chancellor Larry and Rosalie Vanderhoef."

Ticket availability is limited. Please contact the Mondavi Center box office at 530-754-ARTS (2787) or 866-754-ARTS (toll-free) for more information. This event is presented as part of the Mondavi Center's Western Health Advantage Orchestra Series.

The San Francisco Symphony gave its first concerts in 1911 and has grown in acclaim under a succession of music directors: Henry Hadley, Alfred Hertz, Basil Cameron, Issay Dobrowen, Pierre Monteux, Enrique Jordá, Josef Krips, Seiji Ozawa, Edo de Waart, Herbert Blomstedt and, since 1995, Michael Tilson Thomas. The SFS has won such recording awards as France's Grand Prix du Disque, Britain's Gramophone Award and the United States' Grammy. For RCA Red Seal, Michael Tilson Thomas and the SFS have recorded music from Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet," Mahler's "Das klagende Lied," Berlioz's "Symphonie fantastique," two Copland collections, a Gershwin collection, Stravinsky ballets and "Charles Ives: An American Journey." Mahler's Symphony No. 6 inaugurated a Mahler cycle on the Symphony's own label and in 2003 captured a Grammy for Best Orchestral Performance. In 2004, the SFS/MTT recording of Mahler's Third Symphony captured the Grammy for Best Classical Album, and in 2007 their recording of Mahler's Seventh Symphony captured Grammys for Best Orchestral Performance and Best Classical Album. Some of the most important conductors of the past and recent years have been guests on the SFS podium, among them Bruno Walter, Leopold Stokowski, Leonard Bernstein and Sir Georg Solti, and the list of composers who have led the Orchestra includes Stravinsky, Ravel, Copland and John Adams.

Michael Tilson Thomas first conducted the San Francisco Symphony in 1974 and has been music director since 1995. A Los Angeles native, he studied with John Crown and Ingolf Dahl at the University of Southern California, becoming music director of the Young Musicians Foundation Debut Orchestra at 19 and working with Stravinsky, Boulez, Stockhausen and Copland at the famed Monday Evening Concerts. He was pianist and conductor for Piatigorsky and Heifetz master classes and, as a student of Friedelind Wagner, an assistant conductor at Bayreuth. In 1969, Tilson Thomas won the Koussevitzky Prize and was appointed assistant conductor of the Boston Symphony. Ten days later he came to international recognition, replacing music director William Steinberg in mid-concert at Lincoln Center. He went on to

become the BSO's associate conductor, then principal guest conductor. He has also served as director of the Ojai Festival, music director of the Buffalo Philharmonic, a principal guest conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and principal conductor of the Great Woods Festival. He became principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra in 1988 and now serves as principal guest conductor. For a decade he served as co-artistic director of Japan's Pacific Music Festival, which he and Leonard Bernstein inaugurated in 1990, and he continues as artistic director of the New World Symphony, which he founded in 1988. Tilson Thomas's recordings have won numerous international awards, and his recorded repertory reflects interests arising from work as conductor, composer and pianist. His television credits include the New York Philharmonic Young People's Concerts, and in 2004 he and the SFS launched "Keeping Score" on PBS-TV. As music director of the YouTube Symphony Orchestra, he led the ensemble's debut performance at Carnegie Hall last month. His compositions include "From the Diary of Anne Frank, Shōwa/Shoah" (commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing), "Poems of Emily Dickinson," "Urban Legend," "Island Music" and "Notturmo." Among his honors are Columbia University's Ditson Award for services to American music and *Musical America's* 1995 Conductor of the Year award. He is a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres of France and has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Gramophone named him its 2005 Artist of the Year.

Yuja Wang, born in Beijing in 1987, began studying music at age 6 and gave early public performances in China, Australia and Germany. She went on to study at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing with Ling Yuan and Zhou Guangren and at the Curtis Institute of Music with Gary Graffman. In 2006, she made her debut with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, replacing Radu Lupu in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, and she returned there to perform Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1. She also made debuts with the Baltimore and New Jersey symphony orchestras and performed Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini in Philadelphia. She has performed with such ensembles as the New York Philharmonic, the symphony orchestras of Houston and Chicago, and the NHK Symphony in Japan. She made her San Francisco Symphony debut in 2005. In China, she has given recitals in Beijing, Zhuhai, Shijiazhuang, Harbin and Urumqi. She has performed in France in a concert for winners of the Mido Concours De Tiano Sino-Francais and with the Vancouver Symphony as winner of the Concerto Competition of the Morningside Music Bridge program at Calgary's Mount Royal College. She has also performed at the International Chopin Festival in Duszyni, at the International Chopin Conference in Warsaw and at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. In 2003, she made her debut with the Tonhalle Orchestra of Zurich in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4. Wang attended three Morningside Music Bridge summer programs in Calgary, and, in 2001 and 2002, she studied at the Mount Royal College Conservatory Academy Program for Gifted Youth. In 2002 and 2003, she also studied with John Perry at the Aspen Music Festival, where she won the concerto competition in her first year of attendance. Her honors include first prizes in the Huapu Cup National Piano Competition, the Xinghai Cup National Piano Competition and the Veo Internacional Primer Premio in Spain. She is the recipient of the 2006 Gilmore Young Artist Award.

- **San Francisco Symphony**
- **Thu., May 21, 8 p.m.**
- **Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$85/70/50 regular; \$42.50/35/25 students, children**
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