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FULL SCHEDULE AND IMAGES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 25, 2009

The Mondavi Center Presents Mezzo-Soprano Sasha Cooke

Davis, Calif.—The **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts**, UC Davis, presents young **American mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke** in a program including works by **Berlioz, Ravel, Rossini** and **Schubert**. Performances run in the **Studio Theatre, Saturday, April 25, at 8 p.m.** and **Sunday, April 26, at 2 p.m.**

Says **Don Roth**, Mondavi Center executive director, “Those who follow the Metropolitan Opera’s live broadcasts got a foretaste of Sasha Cooke’s talent with her portrayal of Kitty Oppenheimer in John Adams’ ‘Doctor Atomic.’ We get to experience her talented mezzo-soprano in the intimate confines of our Studio Theatre.”

Pricing is \$30 for regular tickets and \$15 for students and children. Purchase tickets online at MondaviArts.org, through the Mondavi Center box office at 530-754-2787 or 866-754-2787 (toll-free), or at the door. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. This event is presented as part of the Mondavi Center’s **Debut Series**.

Sasha Cooke is a fast-rising star of opera and concerts. Among her appearances this season, she sings Handel’s “Messiah” with the Oratorio Society of New York at Carnegie Hall and Bernstein’s “Opening Prayer” with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra under Marin Alsop. In April, Cooke is presented in the Young Concert Artists Gala Irene Diamond Concert at Lincoln Center, performing Elgar’s “Sea Pictures” with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s under Giancarlo Guerrero.

In 2007, Cooke won first prize in the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, and she holds the Lindemann Vocal Chair of YCA. That same year, she made her debuts both in Washington, D.C., in the YCA Series at the Kennedy Center’s Terrace Theater, and in New York, at Carnegie’s Zankel Hall. She is a member of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program of the Metropolitan Opera. Additional awards include first prizes in the 2007 Sun Valley Opera Vocal Competition and the 2006 Bach Vocal Competition sponsored by the American Bach Society and the Bach Choir of Bethlehem.

Cooke received her bachelor’s degree from Rice University and her master’s degree from the Juilliard School, where she was a frequent soloist in premiere performances by the New Juilliard Ensemble. She has attended the Music Academy of the West, the Aspen Music Festival, the Ravinia Festival’s Steans Institute and Central City Opera’s Young Artist Training Program. Read more at sashacooke.com.

- **Sasha Cooke, mezzo-soprano**
- **Sat., Apr. 25, 8 p.m.**
Sun, Apr. 26, 2 p.m.
- **Mondavi Center, Studio Theatre**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$30 regular; \$15 students, children**
- **530-754-2787**
866-754-2787 (toll-free)
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MondaviArts.org