



Contact: Rob Tocalino
530.754.5422

FULL SCHEDULE AND IMAGES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 31, 2010

Mondavi Center Announces 2010–11 Season

March 31, 2010; Davis, California—The **2010–11 Season** of performances at the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis** will include a rich mix of audience favorites and compelling newcomers, says Mondavi Center’s Executive Director Don Roth in announcing the Center’s ninth season. The upcoming season includes 93 concerts and lectures, beginning September 29 with a speech by **Madeleine Albright**.

The 2010–2011 Season includes such esteemed artists, ensembles, and speakers as **Itzhak Perlman, Ornette Coleman, Dresden Staatskapelle, Los Lobos, the Mark Morris Dance Group, Joshua Bell, Steve Martin, Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, the Paul Taylor Dance Company, MOMIX, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, David Sedaris, Kronos Quartet, Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain, & Edgar Meyer**, and much, much more.

“The upcoming season at the Mondavi Center is both classic and contemporary,” says Mondavi Center’s Executive Director Don Roth. “It is filled with well-established stars and artists just coming on the horizon. We’ll move seamlessly from classical and baroque to bluegrass and jazz, through three generations of American dance masters, and almost all points in between.”

Series subscriptions for the 2010–11 Season are on sale now through the Mondavi Center Ticket Office (530.754.2787) and online at www.MondaviArts.org. Series subscribers receive a 20% discount off regular ticket prices and an additional 15% off Add-On tickets throughout the season. Choose-Your-Own Plan subscribers who purchase tickets to five or more events save 15%, and continue to save 10% throughout the season. Patrons who would like in-person assistance with ticket orders are invited to attend an **open house on Saturday, April 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in the Mondavi Center’s Rumsey Rancheria Grand Lobby. Mondavi Center staff members will be on hand to help with orders.

Series Descriptions

New this season, the **Crossings** Series focuses on music that reflects today’s global society by freely crossing stylistic and cultural boundaries. Superstar cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** returns to the Mondavi Center with his **Silk Road Ensemble**, a collective of acclaimed musicians and composers from more than 20 countries; **Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain, & Edgar Meyer**, masters of the banjo, tabla, and bass respectively, blend classical, bluegrass, jazz, and world music into a fascinating hybrid; and the **Roby Lakatos Ensemble**, which makes its Mondavi Center debut mixing jazz, classical, and Gypsy violin tunes.

The **Studio Classics: Crossings** Series, hosted by pianist Lara Downes, examines the intersection of classical and rock music. Pianist **Christopher O'Riley** re-imagines songs by Radiohead, Nick Drake, and Elliott Smith, while **Simone Dinnerstein & Tift Merritt** range from the Beatles to Chopin in *Night*, a story of a classical pianist and a folk singer finding common ground. **Lara Downes** closes the series with *Long Time Coming*, a new multi-media work based on Duke Ellington's iconic *New World A Comin'*.

Always one of the Mondavi Center's most popular attractions, the **Western Health Advantage Orchestra** Series presents four of the world's greatest orchestras in five events. The **San Francisco Symphony** performs a program of the great French composers, with works by Ravel, Debussy, and Berlioz. **Dresden Staatskapelle**, one of the world's oldest orchestras, offers an all-Beethoven program in its Mondavi Center debut, while the **St. Petersburg Philharmonic**, joined by cellist **Alisa Weilerstein**, performs works by Shostakovich, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Brahms. The **Orquesta Nacionales de España** will be joined for its Mondavi Center debut by **Renaud Capuçon**, the leading French violinist of his generation. Making its second Mondavi Center appearance of the season, the **San Francisco Symphony and its acclaimed Chorus** perform Bach's *Mass in B Minor*.

The **Concert** Series annually presents some of the greatest artists in classical music in a recital setting. **Itzhak Perlman**, the world's most celebrated violinist, returns to the Mondavi Center for what promises to be one of the season's hottest tickets. That's also the case for superstar violinist **Joshua Bell**, who sold out Jackson Hall in 2010. Renowned pianist **Yefim Bronfman** takes the Jackson Hall stage to demonstrate why he's renowned as a peerless virtuoso. The **Takács Quartet**, joined by Japanese pianist **Nobuyuki Tsujii**, returns to perform a program of Haydn, Bartok, and Schumann.

The **Madness and Music Festival** is the Mondavi Center's largest co-presentation with a campus department, in this case the UC Davis Department of Music. The four day long festival celebrates the 200th anniversary of Robert Schumann's birth by exploring a link between the composer's music. Performances by new-music super group **Alarm Will Sound**, **Empyrean Ensemble**, the **UC Davis Symphony Orchestra**, and pianist **Eric Zivian**, and numerous pre-concert talks will investigate how art operates as a haven, a refuge, an escape, a statement of joy, and a means for survival.

The **Director's Choice** Series is where Mondavi Center's Executive Director Don Roth selects distinctive artists and programs he thinks are worthy of wider attention. This season, his choices range from Weimar-era cabaret to art-rock: Mondavi Center favorites, **Kronos Quartet** exploring the music of Icelandic rock band Sigur Rós; **Max Raabe & Palast Orchester**, a Berlin ensemble that recreates the ambience of the German cabarets of the 1920s and 1930s; and **Stew and The Negro Problem**, a provocative and entertaining evening with Tony-nominated singer-songwriter Stew.

The **Capital Public Radio Jackson Hall Jazz** Series fields a quartet of programs with something for every jazz fan. Grammy-winning vocalist **Dianne Reeves** returns to the Mondavi Center with a concert drawn from the Great American Songbook. Renowned saxophonist **Ornette Coleman**, a Pulitzer Prize winner and jazz pioneer, makes his Mondavi Center debut. A pair of stellar double-bills presents the **Bill Frisell Trio** and the **John Scofield Trio**, a rare treat for guitar aficionados, and quartets led by two of today's hottest jazz musicians, **Branford Marsalis** and **Terence Blanchard**.

The **American Heritage** Series, the Mondavi Center's exploration of American roots music, offers three programs demonstrating the breadth of the genre: **Los Lobos**, whose fusion of rock, blues, and Mexican music has made it one of this country's favorite roots-rock bands; **Steve Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers**, in which the renowned comedian shows himself to also be an accomplished

bluegrass banjo player; and **Mark O'Connor, John Patitucci & Julian Lage**, a trio of virtuoso string musicians that blends jazz, folk, country, and more into a unique sound.

The **Distinguished Speakers** Series, a perennial favorite of Mondavi Center audiences, presents informative and provocative lectures with former Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright**; best-selling authors **Jonah Lehrer** (*How We Decide*) and **Daniel Handler** (a.k.a. Lemony Snicket); historian, author and public intellectual **Louis Henry Gates Jr.**; and funnyman **David Sedaris**.

The Mondavi Center's **Dance** Series has presented many of the world's greatest companies. The upcoming season includes the return of the **Paul Taylor Dance Company**, a pioneering ensemble in modern American dance; the **Mark Morris Dance Group**, dancing two new works that premiered last year at Lincoln Center; and **Lucinda Childs**, an esteemed choreographer reviving her 1979 masterwork, *DANCE*, with music by Philip Glass and video art by Sol LeWitt.

The **Capital Public Radio Studio Jazz** Series kicks off with a unique two-week residency by trombonist **Delfeayo Marsalis**; during the first week, he performs with his **Octet** and the second week with his **Sextet**. The series also includes performances by outstanding young pianist **Vijay Iyer** and a special holiday program from pianist **Tord Gustavsen** and singer **Solveig Slettahjell**.

The **World Stage: Music** Series, the Mondavi Center's showcase for the best in music from around the globe, presents **Buika**, an enchanting singer who fuses flamenco, jazz, soul, and blues; Grammy-winning pianist **Pablo Ziegler**, accompanied by his 12-piece band; and a return appearance by **Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano** and its popular *Fiesta Navidad* holiday program.

Its companion series, the **World Stage: Dance** Series contains three programs illustrating the beauty of traditional dance from around the globe: **Bayanihan**, the National Folk Dance Company of the Philippines presents a visually stunning evening of entertainment; **Gamelan Cudamani**, an ensemble of some 30 dancers and musicians, performs dance and music from Balinese folklore and mythology; and **Tango Fire** delivers the passion and power of Argentina's national dance.

Family-oriented entertainment is a big part of the Mondavi Center season, with two series deserving special mention. The **Marvels** Series includes a pair of Mondavi Center favorites: **MOMIX**, the innovative dance-and-beyond ensemble, with a new program, *Botanica*; and **Cirque Éloize**, with *ID*, a new program embracing the world of urban culture. The **Children's Stage** Series offers its own brand of magic: **Imago** returns with *ZooZoo*, an inspired mix of acrobatics, dance, and imagination; **Dan Zanes & Friends**, with everybody's favorite kids-rocker; and **Lara Downes Family Concert**, in which the popular pianist offers *Neverland to Wonderland*, a celebration of childhood mystery drawing from *Peter Pan* and *Alice in Wonderland*.

Classical Favorites: Four Seasons uses Vivaldi's classic *Four Seasons* as the basis of two intriguing programs: the **Venice Baroque Orchestra**, led by violinist **Robert McDuffie**, pairs Vivaldi's original with *The American Four Seasons* by Philip Glass; and violinist **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg** and the **New Century Chamber Orchestra** perform a program including Astor Piazzolla's *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*.

The **Alexander String Quartet** rounds out their complete cycle of Beethoven's String Quartets with eight performances in 10–11: four afternoons with renowned musicologist Robert Greenberg providing context and commentary; and four music-only evening performances of these late, great masterpieces.

The **Debut** Series catches the next generation of compelling artists during the early stages of their careers. This year's series features Trinidadian soprano **Jeanine De Bique**, pianist **Kenric Tam**, a Mondavi Center Young Artists Competition Grand Prize winner, and the incredibly talented students from Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music in their annual **Curtis on Tour** program.

And finally, an eclectic group of Mondavi Center **Special Events** includes the return of the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, one of the greatest dance companies in the U.S.; the annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* by **American Bach Soloists**; the popular **Focus on Film** series; and a filmed version of the **San Francisco Opera** performing Puccini's *La Rondine*.

For complete information about the Mondavi Center's 2010-11 Season of Performances, including dates, times, ticket prices, venues, high-resolution images, audio samples, and more, please visit www.MondaviArts.org.