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For immediate release:

## **Delfeayo Marsalis to Lead Swinging Quintet in Mondavi Center Studio Theatre**

*March 5, 2007; Davis, California*—Acclaimed trombonist **Delfeayo Marsalis**, brother of the famed trumpeter **Wynton** and saxophonist **Branford**, will lead his quintet through a series of sets in the intimate **Studio Theatre** in the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** at **UC Davis**. Marsalis, a Grammy Award-winning producer and a musician who brings both classical training and New Orleans funk to his playing, will perform with tenor saxophonist **Mark Shin**, pianist **Victor “Red” Atkins**, bassist **David Pulphus**, and drummer **Jeffrey Fajardo**.

The events will begin at 8 pm, April 3-7, in the Mondavi Center’s Studio Theatre. Tickets are available from the Mondavi Center Ticket Office at 530.754.ARTS (2787) or online at [MondaviArts.org](http://MondaviArts.org). The event is presented as part of the Mondavi Center’s **Allstate Studio Jazz** series.

Born July 28, 1965 in New Orleans, Delfeayo Marsalis is the son the renowned pianist and educator **Ellis Marsalis** and part of a family that has been synonymous with the best in jazz since the 1980s, when older brothers Wynton and Branford burst upon the national scene as members of **Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers** and became standard bearers for a new wave of musicians interested in straight-ahead acoustic jazz. Delfeayo (pronounced “DEL-fee-oh”) initially gained recognition as a producer, working his first sessions at age 17 and going on to produce recordings by artists including **Harry Connick, Jr.**, **Marcus Roberts**, and Ellis, Branford, and Wynton Marsalis. Recent years have found him focusing more on performance, and achieving acclaim as a musician to match his achievements as a producer

“Delfeayo Marsalis ranks among the more accomplished jazz instrumentalists today—even if the general public hardly knows it,” wrote the *Chicago Tribune*. “Having spent much of his career in a glass booth—thriving as a producer of recordings by his elder brothers and others—the younger Marsalis hasn’t received a fraction of the attention he deserves as a virtuoso trombonist. At its best, this music echoes facets of New Orleans music (with its buoyant rhythms and blues-based harmony), yet makes the proceedings sound freshly current.”

Marsalis began studying trombone at age 13, and attended the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts high school. He was classically trained at the **Eastern Music Festival** and **Tanglewood Institute**. In 1983, Marsalis performed **Gordon Jacob’s Trombone Concerto** with the **New Orleans Philharmonic** and received the Outstanding Performance Award from the **Jefferson Performing Arts Society** for his presentation of **Benedetto Marcello’s Sonata** in F major.

Marsalis attended the prestigious **Berklee College of Music**, majoring in both performance and audio production. He has since produced over 75 major-label recordings—several of which have received Grammy Awards and nominations. His production skills earned a 3M Visionary Award in 1996 and a cover article for *Mix* magazine in 1997. As a trombonist, Marsalis has toured internationally with legendary artists such as Art Blakey, **Abdullah Ibrahim**, **Elvin Jones**, **Slide Hampton**, and **Max Roach**, as well as touring with his own groups. During a tour with the **Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra**, he was filmed as part of the **Ken Burns** documentary, *Jazz*.

A mainstay on the New Orleans modern jazz scene, he has released three solo albums to critical acclaim, *Pontius Pilate's Decision* in 1992, *Musashi* in 1997, and *Minions Dominion* in September 2006. His scores have set the backdrop for the ABC mini-series, *Moon over Miami*, the documentaries *Streetcar Mysteries*, *112th & Central*, an off-Broadway production *Girl Gone*, and the **New Orleans Ballet** presentations of **Tennessee Williams' Streetcar Named Desire** and *Glass Menagerie*.

Marsalis obtained an MA in jazz performance at the **University of Louisville** in 2005. He was recently named artistic director of a jazz concert series for the **Minnesota Symphony Orchestra** for the 2007-08 season. The first concert on June 28, 2007 will feature octet arrangements of the **Ellington** classic *Such Sweet Thunder*, a suite based upon **Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream**.

Recent performances with the Delfeayo Marsalis Quintet have been warmly praised by critics. "As a trombone soloist, Mr. Marsalis ... has a pleasing timbre and embraces both the tricky, fast runs of the beboppers and the blurry, warm vibrato of the earlier swing and traditional players," wrote the *NY Sun*. "The most head-turning player in the group is the tenor saxophonist Mark Shim, who has a big, forceful sound that put me in mind of such power players as **Johnny Griffin**, **Eddie 'Lockjaw' Davis**, and a young **Sonny Rollins**."

"The Delfeayo Marsalis Quintet plays the kind of sophisticated, swinging, straight-ahead jazz the Marsalis family is known for, and we expect these performances to be perfect for the cabaret setting in our Studio Theatre," said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center's executive director.

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**What:** Delfeayo Marsalis Quintet  
**When:** Tuesday-Saturday, April 3-7, 8 pm  
**Where:** Studio Theatre  
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts  
University of California, Davis  
**Admission:** \$36 Adults • \$18 Students, Children  
**Tickets/Info:** 530.754.ARTS (2787)  
866.754.ARTS (toll-free)  
Patrons with disabilities: 530.754.2787  
<http://www.MondaviArts.org>  
530.754.5402 [TDD]

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