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<http://www.MondaviArts.org/pressroom>

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## Mondavi Center Announces 2008-09 Season

*March 28, 2008; Davis, California*—**Don Roth**, executive director of the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** at UC Davis, today announced the Mondavi Center's 2008-09 season of performances and lectures. The new season, the Mondavi Center's seventh, will feature a dazzling array of world-renowned performing artists, speakers, and musicians including **Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Gloria Steinem, Mavis Staples, Ravi Shankar**, the **Munich Symphony Orchestra** with **Philippe Entremont, Cassandra Wilson, Grupo Corpo**, and many more.

The 2008-09 season runs from October through June and features 66 events and 87 performances. Series subscriptions go on sale Monday, March 31 at 12:01 am online at [www.MondaviArts.org](http://www.MondaviArts.org) and at 10 am at the Mondavi Center Ticket Office (530-754-2787). Series subscribers receive a 20 percent discount off regular ticket prices. Choose-Your-Own Plan buyers may purchase tickets to five or more events and receive a 15 percent discount. Single tickets go on sale August 25. Patrons who would like in-person assistance with their orders are invited to attend an open house in the Mondavi Center's Rumsey Rancheria Lobby. For complete information on the season, including a full listing of events, subscription series, ticket prices, images, audio and video samples, podcasts, and more, visit [www.MondaviArts.org](http://www.MondaviArts.org).

Roth said he was especially pleased with the upcoming season, which features a mix of established masters and emerging artists from a wide range of cultures and performance traditions. "We've been lining up this season for almost two years in order to provide the largest, most diverse, and most outstanding mix of artists and speakers anywhere in our region, presented in a venue that is acoustically and aesthetically without peer," said Roth.

"Our seventh Mondavi Center season ranges from established masters such as **Yo-Yo Ma** to emerging stars like pianist **Christopher Taylor**, from classic theater such as **Shakespeare & Company's** production of **Hamlet** to **Laurie Anderson's** new piece, **Homeland**," Roth continued. "Our new season has everything from classical ballet from the **State Ballet Theatre of Russia** to cutting-edge modern dance from Israel's **Inbal Pinto**; from **Guitar Blues** with **Jorma Kaukonen** and bluegrass with the **Punch Brothers** to classical **Bernstein** played by the **Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra**; from speakers such as **Gloria Steinem** to traditional Mexican music with **Linda Ronstadt and Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano**."

Roth said that he was particularly happy to be able to offer two new series this season: **Tour de Force** and **Masters of Our Time**. "Next season's programs sustain the high level of quality of such established series as the **Western Health Advantage Orchestra Series**, the **Distinguished Speakers Series**, and the **Raley's and**

**Bel Air Concert Series.** In addition, through Tour de Force and Masters of our Time, we are offering Mondavi Center audiences a set of unique performances not to be missed.”

Tour de Force features three unique masterworks of the piano literature played by three pianists ideally suited to the works: **Bach**'s *Goldberg Variations* played by Angela Hewitt, **Messiaen**'s *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus* by **Christopher Taylor**, and **Frederic Rzewski**'s *The People United Will Never Be Defeated* with Rzewski himself. “Angela Hewitt has made a name for herself as the finest Bach pianist of her generation, while Taylor’s visceral and artistic connection to Messiaen’s *Vingt Regards* is becoming legendary,” said Roth. “Few pianists have the stamina and chops to take on Rzewski’s 36 variations of ‘The People United;’ fortunately the composer is a truly awesome pianist and up to the task. Each Tour de Force performance promises to be an electrifying, transcendent experience, grounded in the musical, spiritual, and physical genius of both player and composer.

“With Masters of Our Time, we took the opportunity to group together acknowledged masters who are one of a kind: performance artist Laurie Anderson, sitar master Ravi Shankar, and one of our most acclaimed contemporary composers, **Philip Glass**,” said Roth. “While these artists perform in different styles and genres, their work shares an ability to draw us out of the commonplace and the everyday, which is one of the most powerful qualities that all great art shares.”

Another renowned master musician set to perform during 2008-09 will be cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who will perform a selection from **J.S. Bach**'s Cello Suites as part of the **Raley's & Bel Air Concert Series**. Ma's performance, his first in the Mondavi Center since November 2002, is expected to be one of the season's hottest tickets. Also part of the Concert series will be a season-opening performance by baritone **Thomas Hampson** set to coincide with the October 4 birthday of arts supporter and Mondavi Center patron **Barbara K. Jackson**; a performance of Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos* by the **Academy of Ancient Music**; and a concert by the **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center** with soprano **Stephanie Blythe**.

The **Western Health Advantage Orchestra Series**, traditionally one of the Mondavi Center's most popular offerings, will feature music by Jewish-American composers including **Leonard Bernstein** and **Aaron Copland** played by the **Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra**; the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra with pianist and conductor Philippe Entremont performing an all-**Beethoven** program; the **Estonian National Symphony Orchestra** performing works including **Sibelius**' majestic Symphony No. 2; and the return of the **San Francisco Symphony** under the baton of Music Director **Michael Tilson Thomas**, performing works including **Prokofiev**'s dynamic Piano Concerto No. 2 with soloist **Yuja Wang**.

The **Distinguished Speakers Series**, the capital region's longest-running and most successful lecture series, will feature esteemed legal analyst and author **Jeffrey Toobin** in a presentation entitled *One Hundred Years: A Look Inside the Supreme Court*, one of several events presented as part of the Mondavi Center's contribution to the UC Davis Centennial celebration that will occur in 2008-09. Writer, director, and producer **Paul Haggis**, best-known as the director of *Crash*, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 2006; former Senate Majority Leader **George Mitchell**, renowned for his role in bringing a peace agreement to Northern Ireland and for his investigation into the use of performance-enhancing drugs in Major League Baseball; author and feminist icon **Gloria Steinem**; and **Ishmael Beah**, a former child soldier in Sierra Leone and author of the memoir *A Long Way Gone*, who will speak on his experiences in a presentation entitled *A Long Way Gone: A Story of Redemption and Hope*, complete the Distinguished Speakers series. Not part of the Distinguished Speakers series but available as an “add-on” event will be a lecture by author **Tracy Kidder**, whose book *Mountains Beyond Mountains* has been selected as the subject of the **2008 UC Davis Campus Community Book Project**.

The **American Heritage Series**, the Mondavi Center's exploration of various forms of American “roots” music, returns with traditional Mexican music by Linda Ronstadt and Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano;

soul singer Mavis Staples' celebration of the music of the 1960s Civil Rights movement, *We'll Never Turn Back*; mandolin virtuoso **Chris Thile** and the contemporary bluegrass group the **Punch Brothers**; an evening of **Guitar Blues** featuring **Jefferson Airplane** co-founder **Jorma Kaukonen**, acclaimed guitarist **Robben Ford**, and singer **Ruthie Foster** (whom many will remember for her well-received opening set during **Bo Diddley**'s September 2006 Mondavi Center concert); and **Bill Frisell's Disfarmer Project**, a multi-media concert featuring photographs of rural life in the Arkansas mountains of the 1940s by **Mike Disfarmer**, and music by Frisell, steel guitarist **Greg Leisz**, violinist **Jenny Scheinman**, and bassist **Viktor Krauss**.

The 2008-09 **Dance Series** will see the return of Israel's leading modern dance company, **Inbal Pinto**, for a performance of *Shaker*, featuring music by **Chopin**, Swedish folk tunes, and more. **ABT II**, which features up-and-coming ballet artists training to be part of **American Ballet Theatre**, will perform a presentation entitled *Bright Young Stars of Ballet*, followed by the popular Brazilian troupe **Grupo Corpo**, then the Mondavi Center debut of **Ballet Preljocaj** with *Les 4 Saisons*, an unconventional reworking of **Vivaldi's The Four Seasons** by French artist **Fabrice Hybert** and choreographer **Angelin Preljocaj**.

The **90.9 KXJZ Jackson Hall Jazz Series** includes a performance of **Duke Ellington's Such Sweet Thunder**, a suite inspired by the works of **William Shakespeare**, with **Delfeayo Marsalis**, the trombone-wielding member of jazz's first family, and a nine-piece band. Also included in the series are singer **Cassandra Wilson**; the **Blue Note Records 70th Anniversary Tour**, featuring pianist **Bill Charlap**, trumpeter **Nicholas Payton**, guitarist **Pat Martino**, saxophonists **Ravi Coltrane** and **Steve Wilson**, bassist **Peter Washington**, and drummer **Lewis Nash**; and the **Vanguard Jazz Orchestra**, a New York City jazz institution that features 16 of the city's finest players. The **Studio Jazz Series** includes Israeli saxophonist/clarinetist **Anat Cohen**, a rising star on the New York City scene, and singer **Nnenna Freelon**, a Mondavi Center favorite who wowed audiences with a sold-out run in the Studio Theatre during 2004 as well as her performance in choreographer **Ronald K. Brown's** tribute to **Billie Holiday** in Jackson Hall in 2005.

The Mondavi Center schedule of classical music events also includes a recital by superstar violinist Itzhak Perlman, whose January 2008 Mondavi Center performance as part of the 2007-08 Raley's & Bel Air Concert Series was one of this season's most in-demand events. Perlman returns on February 24, 2009, in a Special Event that is not part of any subscription series. Also offered as a stand-alone Special Event is a performance of *Cinderella* by the **State Ballet Theatre of Russia** featuring a live orchestra.

Classical music offerings in the Mondavi Center Studio Theatre during 2008-09 will include the **Debut Series**, featuring recitals by clarinetist **Jose Franch-Ballester** and violinist **Mayuko Kamio**, as well as the return of the **Curtis On Tour** ensemble, which will feature students of the **Curtis Institute of Music** with **Hal Robinson**, principal bassist of the **Philadelphia Orchestra**, and **Alex Karr**, principal guest concertmaster of the **Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra**, in a performance of **Stavinsky's L'Histoire du Soldat**. Also in the Studio Theatre will be the **Young Artists Competition Winners** concert.

There will also be a three-event **Classical Favorites** series in Jackson Hall with special appeal for vocal enthusiasts. Included in the series are the **American Bach Soloists** performance of **Handel's Messiah**, a Sunday afternoon concert by the **Vienna Boys Choir**, and **Opera a La Carte's** production of **W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan's The Gondoliers**.

Throughout the 2008-09 season, the Mondavi Center will explore the far-reaching influence of **William Shakespeare**. Events will include the **Season of Shakespeare** series, which features a performance of *Hamlet* by **Shakespeare & Company**, as well as *MacHomer*, a retelling of the Scottish play using characters from *The Simpsons* television program in a one-man show performed by **Rick Miller**. In addition to the concert of Shakespeare-inspired Duke Ellington compositions by Delfeayo Marsalis, there will be **Forum@MC** panel discussions, **Mondavi Center Book Club** discussions, **Focus on Film** screenings of Shakespeare-related

subjects, and the Mondavi Center will sponsor a free **Valentine's Day Sonnet Walk** featuring Shakespeare's poetry.

The Mondavi Center's family programming for 2008-09 is split into two series. The **Children's Stage Family Series**, recommended for younger children, features the **ODC** production of **Margery Williams'** classic children's tale *The Velveteen Rabbit*, pianist **Lara Downes Family Concert** performance of a whimsical program entitled *Babar and Other Elephants*, and **Fred Garbo Inflatable Theatre Co.**, a fast-paced and energetic program of physical comedy, dance, and juggling that features a wide assortment of eye-popping inflatable props. The **Target Marvels Family Series**, recommended for slightly older children and their families, includes the uncannily athletic dance company **MOMIX**, and the **Scrap Arts Music** company, which creates music out of recycled materials ranging from planks of wood to artillery shells. Also part of the Marvels series is **Cirque Éloize**, the Quebecois "new circus" troupe that presented *Rain* to sold-out runs at the Mondavi Center in 2005 and 2007. The company returns in 2009 with a new production, *Nebbia*.

The Mondavi Center will continue to present the best in world music and dance in 2008-09, with performances by Sacramento-based folkloric music and dance company **Instituto Mazatlán Bellas Artes de Sacramento**, the **Song and Dance Ensemble of West Africa**, **Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana** in a flamenco-themed Christmas celebration entitled *Navidad Flamenca*, and torrid Argentine tango from **Estampas Porteñas** in the **World Stage: Dance** series. In the **World Stage: Music** series, audiences will find the **Global Drum Project** (featuring **Grateful Dead** drummer **Mickey Hart** with **Zakir Hussain**, **Sikiru Adepoju**, and **Giovanni Hidalgo**), traditional Cape Breton fiddle master **Natalie MacMaster**, the popular Japanese drum corps **Kodo**, salsa music from the **Afro-Cuban All Stars with Juan de Marcos**, traditional Irish music with **Danú and Dervish**, the African gospel of **Ladysmith Black Mambazo**, and singer **Lila Downs**, a Mondavi Center favorite who sold out Jackson Hall in 2006.

For full information on the 2008-09 Mondavi Center season, including times, dates, ticket prices, high-resolution images, podcasts, audio samples, and more, please visit [www.MondaviArts.org](http://www.MondaviArts.org).

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**What:** 2008-09 Mondavi Center Season on Sale  
**When:** Monday, March 31 • 12:01 am at MondaviArts.org; 10 am at the Mondavi Center Ticket Office  
**Where:** Jackson Hall  
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts  
University of California, Davis  
**Tickets/Info:** 530.754.2787  
866.754.2787 (toll-free)  
<http://www.MondaviArts.org>  
530.754.5402 [TDD]

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