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For immediate release:

Tcheka, Del Castillo, Phoebe Snow to Headline Free SummerMusic Concerts

May 2, 2008; Davis, California—Afro-pop singer and guitarist **Tcheka**, the Latin rock band **Del Castillo**, and platinum-selling singer **Phoebe Snow** will headline **SummerMusic 2008**, a series of free, outdoor concerts presented by the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** and sponsored by **UC Davis Summer Sessions**.

The concerts will be free and open to the public. Each event will begin at 7:30 pm on the UC Davis Quad at the center of the university campus, with the Quad opening for picnics beginning at 6:30 pm. In accordance with university policy, alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

Leading off the series on July 15 will be Tcheka, whose music blends the traditional, percussion-based *batuque* tradition of his homeland of Cape Verde with folk, jazz, funk, world music, and more. The son of **Nho Raul Andrade**, a famous Cape Verdean violinist, Tcheka (whose real name is **Manuel Lopes Andrade**) learned music from his father at an early age, and began performing in local bars and nightclubs while still a teenager. He quickly developed a strongly personal style that adapted the distinctive *batuque* rhythm, usually played on various kinds of traditional percussion instruments, to the guitar, as well as a songwriting gift for keenly observed narratives of rural Cape Verdean life. His career took off following the release of his debut album, *Agrui*, and his second recording, *Nu Monda*, released in 2005, won for him the prestigious Discoveries Award from Radio France International. Widely recognized as a leading figure in the new Cape Verdean music, Tcheka is an engaging live performer whose singing, dancing, and guitar prowess never fail to win converts.

Performing on July 28 will be Del Castillo, a Texas-based Latin rock band known for its powerful and eclectic blend of flamenco, rock, blues, and world music as well as its staggering instrumental prowess. Led by brothers Rick and Mark Castillo, the group has become one of the most popular bands in the highly competitive Austin music scene, dominating the Austin Music Awards. The sextet has opened for a long list of artists including **Ozomatli**, **Los Lonely Boys**, **Los Lobos**, **Kinky**, **deSol**, and has contributed music for films by **Robert Rodriguez** and **Quentin Tarantino**. “They pull together Latin music’s romance with rock’s grit,” wrote *Billboard*. Comparing the group’s guitar work to that of **Eddie Van Halen**, *Rolling Stone* raved about the group’s “tumbling brilliance on nylon-stringed classical guitars” and “jaw-dropping leads.”

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Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis

Phoebe Snow rose from the Greenwich Village folk scene to burst into national prominence in the wake of her brilliant self-titled debut album in 1974. Featuring guest appearances by **Zoot Sims, Teddy Wilson, Dave Mason**, and the **Persuasons**, as well as Snow's remarkable, four-octave voice, *Phoebe Snow* delighted audiences with its blend of folk and jazz and spawned a top five hit, "Poetry Man," in 1975. Snow became one of pop music's biggest stars, winning platinum sales figures, Grammy Award nominations, and legions of fans. She scored several other hits during the 1970s, including "Harpo's Blues," "Gone at Last," and "Shakey Ground," before her career was derailed somewhat by problems with her record labels, personal illness, and her desire to provide personal care for her daughter, who was born with severe brain damage and not expected to live long, but recently passed away at the age of 31. Snow, who had spent much of the past decade away from the spotlight, was coaxed into doing live performances again by her friend **Linda Ronstadt**, and her recent concerts have been greeted with glowing reviews.

"It is a pleasure to once again present the SummerMusic series of free concerts, and especially exciting to be hosting such outstanding artists as Tcheka, Del Castillo, and Phoebe Snow," said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center's executive director. "We're very grateful to UC Davis Summer Sessions for supporting the series."

What: SummerMusic 2008
Tcheka, Del Castillo, Phoebe Snow

When: July 15 (Tcheka), July 28 (Del Castillo), and August 25 (Phoebe Snow)
7:30 pm

Where: UC DavisQuad
University of California, Davis

Admission: Free

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