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**FULL SCHEDULE AND IMAGES**  
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## **Mondavi Center and SFJAZZ Name High School All-Stars**

*Davis, Calif.*—**The Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis**, in conjunction with **SFJAZZ**, have selected members of an **eight-person high school music ensemble called the Mondavi Center SFJAZZ High School All-Stars**. In addition to other performance opportunities, the eight ensemble members will have the honor of opening for the SFJAZZ Collective on March 29, 2012 at 8 p.m. at the Mondavi Center.

"In addition to our role as a major presenter of jazz, we are working hard to become a critical training ground for young players, and the All-Stars represent another big step in that direction," said Jeremy Ganter, associate executive director and director of programming for the Mondavi Center. "We are thrilled to be partnering with SFJAZZ, and very lucky to be in a region with such a wealth of young talent and extraordinary jazz educators. The eight musicians who were selected for this residency share not just talent, but real enthusiasm for jazz and its history, and I admire them for taking on this challenge."

The eight ensemble members were selected by a panel of judges during a closed audition on September 25 at the Mondavi Center. The participants in the final audition were selected following open auditions last August.

The ensemble includes **six students from Rio Americano High School in Sacramento**: pianist Joey Cozza, Nicolas De La O who plays bass guitar, Emery Mesich on alto sax, Jeric Rocamora playing trumpet, drummer Paul Slater and Michael Wang on trombone. The ensemble also includes guitarist Noah Wolfe from **Davis Senior High School** and **Folsom High School's** Jared Yakel on alto sax.

"The SFJAZZ Collective is one of the finest groups currently performing, and the opportunity for some of our students to follow in their footsteps will benefit our entire music program," said Josh Murray, band director for the Rio Americano High School. "We're thrilled to be a part of this event."

Preparation for the March 29 performance will include learning several SFJAZZ Collective charts as well as clinics with SFJAZZ Collective member Robin Eubanks. Ensemble members will also receive tickets to see each artist in the Mondavi Center's 2011-12 Capital Public Radio Jackson Hall Jazz and Studio Jazz Series.

Mike McMullen, founding member of the Sacramento region's Capital Jazz Project has been chosen to lead the Mondavi Center ensemble. McMullen is also a jazz studies faculty member at California State University, Sacramento.

“The select members of the new Mondavi Center/SFJAZZ High School All-Stars have talent, skills and drive,” said McMullen. “They are focused, inspired and daunted by the challenges of performing arrangements from the SFJAZZ Collective. In the same breath, they are also surprisingly easygoing, low key and collaborative in their efforts to bring this music to fruition.”

The Mondavi Center SFJAZZ High School All-Stars is modeled after the San Francisco SFJAZZ High School All-Stars ensemble. The San Francisco program, in its second year, provides advanced-level training and performance opportunities for some of the most talented musicians in the nation. Selected annually by competitive audition, the All-Stars rehearse and perform with today's top jazz educators and artists.

The Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis, is one of Northern California's premier arts destinations. The Mondavi Center presents nearly 200 performances each year by both professional and student artists in music, dance, theater, film and the spoken word. The Mondavi Center's main performance space, 1,801-seat Jackson Hall, features next-generation theatrical equipment and superb acoustics that make it a favorite for the world's greatest musicians, speakers and dance and theater companies. The center's 200-seat Vanderhoef Studio Theatre provides high-tech space for rehearsals, film screenings and intimate musical experiences.

SFJAZZ is the West Coast's largest nonprofit jazz institution and the presenter of the annual San Francisco Jazz Festival. The SFJAZZ Collective is an all-star jazz ensemble comprising eight of the finest performers and composers at work in jazz today. Launched in 2004 by SFJAZZ, the Collective has become one of the most exciting and acclaimed groups on the jazz scene. As *The New York Times* hailed the Collective upon its debut, “A serious jazz band rises in San Francisco.”

**Tickets for all 2011-12 events are on sale now at 530-754-2787; 866-754-2787 (toll-free); 530-754-5402 (TDD) and MondaviArts.org.** Full schedule and images are available for download at: <http://www.MondaviArts.org/pressroom>.

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