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Mondavi Center and SFJAZZ Recruits High School All-Stars

July 15, 2011; Davis, Calif.—The **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis**, in conjunction with **SFJAZZ**, will form an **eight-person ensemble comprised of high school students called the Mondavi Center SFJAZZ High School All-Stars**. The ensemble will prepare a performance at the Mondavi Center on March 29, 2012 opening for the SFJAZZ Collective. Applications must be received by August 15, 2011. More information is available at <http://www.mondaviarts.org/jazzallstars/>.

"We are very pleased to announce the formation of this ensemble," said Jeremy Ganter, associate executive director and director of programming for the Mondavi Center. "The Sacramento region has an incredible wealth of talent among its jazz educators, students and working players. We hope to build on that existing foundation by providing this special opportunity for young musicians to study the Collective's music and learn alongside its members. And, the chance to open a concert for the SFJAZZ Collective at the Mondavi Center will provide those students with a unique, professional-level experience. We are very proud of this program and of our partnership with SFJAZZ."

Preliminary auditions will be held by audio submission, which should include five tunes in a variety of styles and a range of tempos. Interested students must submit an application, letter of recommendation and audio submission by August 15, 2011. Download an application and get more information at <http://www.mondaviarts.org/jazzallstars>. Final auditions will be held before a panel of judges and are by invitation only.

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

“We piloted the SFJAZZ High School All-Stars Combo program in San Francisco in 2010, and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with the Mondavi Center to expand this program into other regions,” said Rebeca Mauleón, Director of Education for SFJAZZ. “This program gives music students highly visible opportunities to play at festivals and competitions around the country. Two members of last year’s ensemble were invited to play with Esperanza Spalding at the Grammys, and many of last year’s participants have received scholarships to notable universities and conservatories around the country.”

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

“Mike is an extraordinary musician and the perfect individual to mentor the students in the Mondavi Center ensemble,” said Mauleón. “Under his guidance the ensemble will have the ability to study challenging new works by living composers. I see a lot of future opportunities for the Mondavi Center ensemble to work with the Collective as well as the San Francisco based All-Stars.”

“This ensemble is meant to be a high performing group of A-list players from the region,” said McMullen. “It will be a great challenge for these students, but it will also be very rewarding. I think the students will get a lot of satisfaction out of the project because of the difficulty and intensity of the music that they will learn and present at the Mondavi Center in March.”

The SFJAZZ High School All-Stars program 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.”

2011-12 subscriptions 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>.