



Contact: Joe Martin  
530.754.5428

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For immediate release:

## **Czech Philharmonic to Perform All-Dvorák Program at the Mondavi Center**

*January 18, 2008; Davis, California*—The **Czech Philharmonic Orchestra**, widely recognized as the premiere orchestra of the Czech Republic and consistently rated as one of the best in Europe, will perform the music of the great Czech composer **Antonín Dvorák** at the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at UC Davis**. Under the baton of **Leoš Svárovský**, the orchestra will play Dvorák’s popular “New World” Symphony as well as the *Carnival Overture* and *Czech Suite*.

The concert will begin at 8 pm on February 22 in the Mondavi Center’s Jackson Hall on the UC Davis campus. 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 **Western Health Advantage Classics Series**.

With a history stretching back more than 100 years—the orchestra’s first concert was conducted by none other than **Antonín Dvorák** himself—the Czech Philharmonic has a long and colorful history as one of world’s finest orchestras. Under a series of legendary music directors including **Václav Talich**, **Rafael Kubelík**, **Karel Ančerl**, and **Václav Neumann**, the orchestra has impressed audiences and critics around the world with a unique sound it has preserved even in an era of increasingly international styles of music-making. Featuring glowing, transparent strings and prominent, characterful winds, the Czech Philharmonic has widely been seen as peerless in presenting the works of Czech composers such as **Bedřich Smetana**, **Leoš Janáček**, **Bohoslav Martinů**, and, of course, Dvorák.

“The Czech Philharmonic speaks Dvorák as fluently as a good American orchestra speaks Copland or a good English one speaks Elgar: Phrases slip into place naturally, accents fall easily, inflections hardly need to be rehearsed,” wrote *The New York Times* of one concert under Neumann. “That is primarily why the Czechoslovak orchestra’s concert last night at Carnegie Hall gave a great deal of purely musical pleasure...the conductor did not make a show of trying to put Dvorák’s music in a new light or to put a chrome-plated shine on it. He allowed each piece to flower in its own good time, letting its unaffected melody come and go without any sense of interpretative strain.”

More recent concerts have confirmed that tradition of outstanding Dvorák performance. The *Glasgow Herald* called one recent concert featuring Dvorák’s *Symphony No. 8 in G Major* under **Jiri Belohlavek** “energetic but completely free of extravagance and display,” raving that it “released the soul of the symphony through the deep, burnished and dark-hued tones of his magnificently balanced and refined orchestra, and what a wonderfully warm, unforced and freshly engaging musical experience it provided.”

Recently rated among the top 10 orchestras in Europe in a poll of music critics conducted by the French magazine *Le Monde de la Musique*, the Czech Philharmonic's history stretches back to its first concert on January 4, 1896, conducted by Antonín Dvořák. Its international reputation became well-established under the directorship of the legendary Václav Talich, who led the orchestra from 1919-1941, and flourished under such notables as Rafael Kubelík (1942-1948), Karel Ančerl (1950-1968), and Václav Neumann (1968-1990). **Zdeněk Mácal** assumed the position of music director in 2003.

The Mondavi Center concert will be conducted by Leoš Svárovský. Born in 1961, he has studied under Neumann and has worked as an assistant of **Zdeněk Kosler** in the **Opera of the Czech National Theatre**. In 1991, he was awarded the Endowment of Herbert von Karajan, which enabled him to study with **Sir Georg Solti**. He then worked with the **Brno Philharmonic Orchestra**, and was later appointed as its chief conductor, a position he has held for four years. From 1995 to 2002, he was also the chief conductor of the **Slovak Sinfonietta of Zilina** and from 2003 to 2005, he was the chief conductor of the **State Opera Prague**. He has toured internationally with the Czech Philharmonic and the **Slovak Philharmonic**, and has been also a guest conductor of many orchestras abroad, including **Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra**, **Symphony Orchestra Bern**, **Radio Orchestra Munich**, and many others.

The program for the February 22 all-Dvořák concert will be the *Carnival Overture*, op. 92; *Czech Suite*, op. 39, D Major; and the much-beloved *Symphony No. 9 in E Minor*, op. 95 ("From the New World").

"The Czech Philharmonic is widely recognized as one of the finest orchestras in Europe, and many feel they are simply unsurpassed in their interpretations of the music of their great countryman Antonín Dvořák," said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center's executive director. "We look forward to what should be an unforgettable concert of some of Dvořák's greatest music."

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**What:** Czech Philharmonic Orchestra  
Leoš Svárovský, conducting  
**When:** Friday, February 22 • 8 pm  
**Where:** Jackson Hall  
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts  
University of California, Davis  
**Admission:** \$75/\$65/\$55 Adults • \$37.50/\$32.50/\$27.50 Students & Children  
**Tickets/Info:** 530.754.ARTS (2787)  
866.754.ARTS (toll-free)  
<http://www.MondaviArts.org>  
530.754.5402 [TDD]

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