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For immediate release:

## Superstar Soprano Kiri Te Kanawa to Kick Off Mondavi Center 2007-08 Season

August 31, 2007; Davis, California—Dame **Kiri Te Kanawa**, a legend in opera houses around the world for more than three decades, will perform a special recital as part of her “Farewell Tour” when the 2007-08 season gets underway at the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at UC Davis** on October 5. The glamorous soprano will be accompanied by pianist **Julian Reynolds** as she sings music by **Mozart, Puccini**, and others in the first of 65 events presented by the Mondavi Center this season.

The event will begin at 8 pm on October 5 in Mondavi Center’s Jackson Hall on the UC Davis campus. A limited number of 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 Mondavi Center’s **Raley’s and Bel Air Concert Series**.

Acclaimed by critics for her superb tone and serene stage presence, Kiri Te Kanawa is an international superstar whose fame has extended far beyond the confines of the opera world. She has dazzled audiences in performances with the world’s greatest opera companies, sung concert arias with the greatest symphony orchestras, and sung for an estimated 600 million people during the broadcast of the 1981 wedding of England’s **Prince Charles** and **Lady Diana**. Her acclaimed recording career has included everything from Grammy-winning complete operas to collections of American popular songs, and she has won numerous honors, having been named as a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1982 and awarded the prestigious Order of New Zealand in 1995.

Te Kanawa has earned widespread acclaim for “her luscious, creamy vocal tone, as well as the air of supreme nobility” (*San Francisco Chronicle*). *Gramophone* magazine has praised her “consistently ravishing” voice and “the delicacy, the tenderness, the thoughtfulness” of her interpretations. “Whether handling a baroque aria by **Handel**, a showstopper from **Puccini**’s *Madame Butterfly*, or a popular musical number from **Andrew Lloyd Webber**, Dame Kiri invests each with an emotional depth and subtlety that is more like a blessing than a performance,” wrote *The West* (of Perth, Australia).

Born in New Zealand in 1944 of mixed European and Maori ancestry, Te Kanawa was adopted as a five-month-old infant, and learned to sing while attending a Roman Catholic girls’ college in Auckland. She won numerous local singing contests and had begun recording popular songs before moving to London in 1966 to study at the **London Opera Centre**. She was catapulted to stardom in 1971 following a sensational debut as the Countess in **Mozart**’s *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the **Royal Opera House**.

She quickly became one of the most sought-after sopranos in international opera, working with virtually every leading company in the world, including the **Metropolitan Opera**, **Chicago Lyric Opera**, **Paris Opera**, **Vienna State Opera**, **La Scala**, and the **San Francisco Opera**, starring in roles ranging from the Countess in **Richard Strauss**’ *Capriccio* to Donna Elvira in **Mozart**’s *Don Giovanni* and Mimi in **Puccini**’s *La Boheme*.

Te Kanawa has also enjoyed a thriving career on the concert stage, performing with orchestras including the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra,** and the **Boston Symphony** and earning the admiration of famed conductors including **Claudio Abbado, Sir Colin Davis, Charles Dutoit, James Levine,** and **Sir Georg Solti.**

Her recordings include complete versions of operas including *Don Giovanni, Le Nozze di Figaro, Così fan Tutte, Die Zauberflöte, Tosca, La Rondine, Manon Lescaut, Simon Boccanegra, Arabella, Otello, La Traviata, Der Rosenkavalier, Faust, Eugene Onegin, Carmen, Capriccio,* and *La Bohème,* as well as selections of arias from French, Italian, and German operas. She has also recorded such concert pieces as **Strauss' Four Last Songs; Berlioz's Nuits d'été; Brahms' German Requiem; Handel's Messiah,** and more. In the field of popular music, she has recorded *Blue Skies,* an album of American popular songs, as well as albums of **Gershwin, Porter,** and **Kern** songs, and three classics of the musical theater: *My Fair Lady, South Pacific,* and *West Side Story.*

Two years ago, the singer announced the forming of the **Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation,** an organization devoted to assisting aspiring New Zealand musicians with everything from advice on artistic interpretations to airfare for foreign competitions and wardrobe for concert appearances.

Te Kanawa decided to stop doing opera in December 2004 following a performance of **Samuel Barber's Vanessa** in Los Angeles, announcing that she simply realized "it was time." Her current tour has been announced as a "farewell" to concert touring.

The full program for her Mondavi Center performance will be:

- **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart:** Kantata: *Die ihr des unermesslichen Weltalls* (K.619);
- **Richard Strauss:** *Ständchen*, op. 17, no. 2; *Die Nacht*, op. 10, no. 3; *All mein Gedanken*, op. 21, no. 1; *Morgen*, op. 27, no. 4; *Zueignung*, op. 10, no. 1;
- **Henri Duparc:** *La vie antérieure, Chanson triste, Phidyle;*
- **Francis Poulenc:** *Voyage à Paris, Hôtel, Les chemins de l'amour (Valse Chantée);*
- **Jake Heggie:** "Monologue" (from *Masterclass*);
- **Benjamin Britten:** *Evening;*
- **Aaron Copland:** *Why do they shut me out of Heaven?*
- **Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari:** Rispetto I: *Quando ti vidi a quel canto apparire*, op. 12, no. 1; Rispetto III: *E tanto c'è pericol ch'io ti lasci*, op. 11, no. 3;
- **Giacomo Puccini:** "Sole e amore"

"Kiri Te Kanawa is one of the noblest sopranos of our time, and her 'Farewell Tour' performance promises to be a very special experience for all of us at the Mondavi Center and our audience," said Mondavi Center Executive Director **Don Roth.**

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**What:** Dame Kiri Te Kanawa  
"Farewell Tour"  
**When:** Friday, October 5, 2007 • 8 pm  
**Where:** Jackson Hall  
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts  
University of California, Davis  
**Admission:** \$79/\$65/\$55 Adults • \$39.50/\$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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