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For immediate release:

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis to Perform at Mondavi Center

January 2, 2008; Davis, California—The hardest-swinging big band in jazz, the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis**, will perform at the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** at **UC Davis**. As the resident jazz orchestra of the **Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts** in New York City since 1988, JALC is dedicated to celebrating the jazz tradition with performances of a vast repertoire of masterpieces by **Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Thelonious Monk**, and other jazz greats. Under the leadership of Artistic Director **Wynton Marsalis**, a trumpeter renowned as one of the great musicians of our time, the group will perform *Ellington Love Songs*, a program featuring some of the best-loved songs of the great Duke Ellington, as well as music by other jazz greats.

The event will begin at 8 pm on Tuesday, January 29, 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. The concert is presented as part of the Mondavi Center's **90.9 KXJZ Improvisations Series**.

Composed of 15 of the finest soloists and ensemble players in jazz today, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra is dedicated to inspiring and enlarging the audience for jazz through performances, education, and broadcast events for audiences of all ages. Under the leadership of Wynton Marsalis, a nine-time Grammy Award winner and widely considered one of the top musicians and most eloquent spokesmen in jazz, JALC will produce nearly 2,000 events during its 2007-08 season in its home in New York City and around the world. The group has been consistently rated by critics as among the very best in jazz.

“What Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra offered...was considerably more than a history lesson or an exercise in brand reinforcement,” *The New York Times* wrote of one recent performance. “Unveiling nearly a dozen new arrangements...the band sounded energized and challenged. Its performance, over the course of a brisk two hours, was deeply impressive.”

Wynton Marsalis' importance to contemporary jazz can hardly be overstated. Often described as the most influential musician of his generation, Marsalis has been credited as being a key figure in sparking a resurgence of interest in traditional “straight-ahead” acoustic jazz during the late 1970s and early 1980s. He has long been recognized as a brilliant trumpeter with impeccable technique, which allowed him in 1983 to become the first musician to win a Grammy Award in both classical and jazz categories, winning Best Instrumental Soloist Performance with Orchestra for his recording of trumpet concertos by **Haydn, Mozart**,

and **Hummel**, as well as Best Jazz Instrumental Solo for his album *Think of One*. He is increasingly recognized as a composer, with his jazz oratorio *Blood on the Fields* winning the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1997, and for role as an educator and cultural ambassador, for which he has received countless honorary degrees and the 2005 National Medal of Arts.

Born in New Orleans in 1961, Wynton Marsalis is the son of renowned jazz pianist and educator **Ellis Marsalis**, and part of a family that includes saxophonist **Branford Marsalis** and trombonist **Delfeayo Marsalis**, both of whom performed at the Mondavi Center during the 2006-07 season, as well as drummer **Jason Marsalis**. He was given a trumpet at age seven by a friend of his father, the legendary New Orleans trumpet player **Al Hirt**, and quickly learned to play well enough to perform with a wide variety of local groups, playing everything from traditional New Orleans jazz to classical music. At 14, he performed with the **New Orleans Philharmonic Orchestra**, and as a teenager he regularly performed with local youth orchestras, jazz ensembles, and a popular funk band, the **Creators**. He entered the **Juilliard School** at age 17 and by age 20 had achieved international fame as the new trumpeter of the longstanding and legendary group **Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers**. He has since performed with virtually every major figure in jazz and issued more than 30 jazz and 16 classical recordings, firmly establishing himself as one of the most prolific, popular, and influential musicians of our time.

Marsalis is also an internationally respected teacher and spokesman for music education, and has received honorary doctorates from dozens of universities and colleges throughout the U.S. He conducts educational programs for students of all ages and hosts the popular *Jazz for Young People* concerts produced by Jazz at Lincoln Center. He has also written four books, most recently *Jazz ABZ*, in collaboration with **Phil Schapp**, and illustrated by poster artist **Paul Rogers**. In 2001, Marsalis was appointed Messenger of Peace by **Kofi Annan**, secretary general of the United Nations, and he has also been designated a cultural ambassador to the United States of America by the U.S. State Department. He is also well-known to television audiences for his prominent role in filmmaker **Ken Burns**' documentary *Jazz*.

Slated to perform at the Mondavi Center concert are Marsalis and fellow trumpeters **Sean Jones**, **Ryan Kisor**, and **Marcus Printup**; trombonists **Vincent R. Gardner**, **Christopher Crenshaw**, and **Elliot Mason**; saxophonists **Walter Blanding**, **Victor Goines**, **Sherman Irby**, **Ted Nash**, and **Joe Temperley**; pianist **Dan Nimmer**; bassist **Carlos Henriquez**; and drummer **Ali Jackson**. The program, *Ellington Love Songs*, features some of the best-known love songs written by the legendary Duke Ellington, as well as music by other jazz greats and new compositions by JALC Orchestra members.

“The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra is known worldwide for maintaining the highest standards of musicianship and for playing with a dynamic sense of swing that few groups can match,” said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center’s executive director. “We look forward to the group’s performance of music by Duke Ellington and other jazz greats.”

What: Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis
When: Tuesday, January 9, 2008 • 8 pm
Where: Jackson Hall
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts
University of California, Davis
Admission: \$59/\$49/\$39 Adults • \$29.50/\$24.50/\$19.50 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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