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For immediate release:

## ***Fado* Singer Mariza to Play Mondavi Center**

September 24, 2007; Davis, California—**Mariza**, the exciting singer who's being hailed as "the new face of *fado*," will perform at the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** on October 24. The beautiful and charismatic diva, a multi-platinum recording star in Europe, will sing the soulful Portuguese folk style with her four-piece band.

The event will begin at 8 pm on October 24 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 **Global Beat Series**.

Born Mariza Reis Nune in the former Portuguese colony of Mozambique in 1973, Mariza moved with her family to Portugal when she was three and settled in Lisbon. There she heard *fado*, the often melancholy folk style sung informally in taverns such as the one her father ran. "I lived in a traditional Lisbon neighborhood and have always sung the *fado*—I know what it is; I understand myself through it," the singer has said.

Though strongly influenced by traditional musicians such as **Fernando Maurício**, **Carlos do Carmo**, and **Amália Rodrigues**, Mariza's performance style bears little resemblance to the melancholy stage presence of many traditional singers such as Rodrigues.

"The ultimate diva, Mariza doesn't so much walk as glide regally around the stage," wrote the *Financial Times* of London. "Her couture gown and trademark short, immaculately coiffed blonde hair mark her as the *fadista* of a new, image-conscious generation, but fortunately she doesn't sacrifice musical integrity for hipness... Mariza artfully controlled her emotive and powerful voice from a seductively delicate purr to an anguished roar."

*Fado*, which means "destiny" or "fate," is a Portuguese folk tradition that can be traced back to at least the early 19th century, when homesick travelers, sailors, and slaves sang together on the docks of Lisbon to the accompaniment of the traditional, 12-string Portuguese guitar. Occupying a cultural niche sometimes likened to that of blues in the United States, *fado* has been handed down through the generations as an oral tradition, and typically tells the stories of common, working-class people in a highly emotional, often melancholy style.

Traditionally, *fado* is performed with only a singer and acoustic guitar, but the generation of "new *fado*" singers who have emerged since the death of Rodrigues (the genre's *grand dame*) in 1999, has brought a greater variety of instrumentation—as well as a more upbeat feel—to the music. Mariza has been considered something of a pioneer in this regard, with a performance style that has earned comparisons to **Madonna** for

star quality and spectacle and a musical adventurousness that has prompted her to expand the repertoire of *fado*'s roughly 200 traditionally performed songs with a series of newly commissioned works.

Her first recording, *Fado em Mim*, was released in 2002 and became a triple-platinum success in Portugal, which led to international exposure and recognition of Mariza as one of the best of the emerging generation of "new *fado*" singers. Her second CD, *Fado Curvo*, was equally well-received, bringing her an award for Best European Artist in World Music from the BBC as well as an invitation to perform a duet with superstar singer **Sting** on *Unity*, the official album of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. She has since released *Live in London*, a 2005 concert DVD; the CD *Transparente* (2005); and the Latin Grammy-nominated *Concerto em Lisboa*, a live CD/DVD recording released in 2006. She has performed concerts to sold-out houses on four continents and continues to be acclaimed as one of the finest contemporary *fadistas*.

For her Mondavi Center concert, Mariza will perform with **Luís Guerreiro** (Portuguese guitar), **António Neto** (acoustic guitar), **Vasco Sousa** (acoustic bass), and **João Pedro Ruela** (percussion).

"It is always exciting to hear a new generation of artists explore and update the world's great musical traditions, and we look forward to experiencing Mariza's fresh and exciting adaptation of Portuguese *fado*," said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center's executive director.

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**What:** Mariza  
**When:** Wednesday, October 24 • 8 pm  
**Where:** Jackson Hall  
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts  
University of California, Davis  
**Admission:** \$39/\$34/\$24 Adults • \$19.50/\$17/\$12 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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