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For immediate release:

## **Renaud Garcia-Fons Trio to Play Mondavi Center's Studio Theatre**

*September 11, 2007; Davis, California*—One of the leading lights of European jazz, **Renaud Garcia-Fons** plays his customized five-string double bass with a speed and precision that have prompted critics to dub him “the Paganini of double bass,” likening him to the legendary master of the violin. With music that draws equally upon jazz, classical, flamenco, and European folk traditions, Garcia-Fons and his trio will play a series of concerts in the cabaret setting of the Studio Theatre at the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts**.

The performances will begin at 8 pm October 10-13 in the Mondavi Center's Studio Theatre 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 **Studio Jazz Series**.

Renaud Garcia-Fons' music is an apt reflection of his multicultural heritage and his extensive travels around Europe. Born in 1962 near Paris, he is the son of noted painter **Pierre Garcia-Fons** and was strongly influenced by his family's Catalan heritage. He began learning piano and guitar at age five, and later studied double bass at the **Paris Conservatory of Music** and performed in its orchestras. He also studied privately with French double bassist and composer **François Rabbath**.

Garcia-Fons' education was rounded out on the bandstand, playing with **Le Big Band Roger Guerin** alongside some of the most renowned drummers in jazz, including **Kenny Clarke** and **Sam Woodyard**. By age 21, Renaud had achieved his degree as a professor of double bass and won several performance competitions in France. He worked with the **Orchestre des Contrebasses** and the **Orchestre National de Jazz** directed by **Claude Barthélemy**, deepening his knowledge of jazz and improvisation, and in 1987, he released *Légendes*, his first album, on the German Enja label.

Garcia-Fons' superb technique has impressed critics nearly as much as his eclectic style. “Just when you're getting tired of too many similar sounding albums, along comes one that makes you say, ‘I've never heard anything like that before!’” wrote the *Boston Sunday Herald*. “Garcia-Fons' technique is startling.”

*Bassics* magazine was similarly impressed, writing that “Garcia-Fons excels in utilizing the entire range of his instrument with an agility and a singing quality that has to be heard to be believed...Worth mentioning, too, is his impeccable intonation throughout the entire fret board. Especially during his frequent solo sojourns, you'll often find yourself exclaiming, ‘I can't believe it's a double bass!’”

In parallel to his career as a performer, Renaud has worked as a composer, fulfilling commissions as well as his desire to broaden the repertoire of his performing ensembles. At the Scene Nationale de Sceaux in October 2004, he presented *World Chamber Music*, a piece for string quartet, double bass, and two instruments of Eastern origin: the *bansuri*, a flute prominent in northern Indian music, and the *riq*, a small tambourine equipped with cymbals that is common to Arab music. A commission for the anniversary of the Entente Franco-Ecossaise resulted in a five-movement piece for Garcia-Fons, his trio, and soloists from the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**.

Garcia-Fons has led a variety of ensembles including the **Oriental Bass Band**, **Navigatore 5tet** and **8tet**, and the trio **Arcoluz**. His current trio features flamenco-influenced guitarist **Kiko Ruiz** and drummer **Pascal Rollando**. He also gives solo concerts, including a performance at the Berlin Jazz Festival in 1996 and his U.S. debut at the **Knitting Factory** in New York City in 1999. Garcia-Fons has released seven albums with Enja Records including *Légendes*, *Alboréa*, *Oriental Bass*, *Fuera* (with accordionist **Jean-Louis Martinier**), *Navigatore* (for 20 musicians), *Entremundo* (for trio) and, most recently, *Arcoluz*, a live DVD-CD recording of a trio concert given in Schloss Elmau, Germany.

“Renaud Garcia-Fons manages to sound like a master multi-instrumentalist using just one instrument, the five-stringed bass,” says *Songlines* magazine. “He summons up all manner of sounds, from classical and soaring Arabic violin to the textures of oud and cello, as well as, of course, doing what bass players normally do—defining time for the players around him.”

“Renaud Garcia-Fons is a fine example of the talent and inspiration the latest generation of European musicians is bringing to jazz, and we look forward to experiencing his virtuosity and wide-ranging imagination in the intimate setting of our Studio Theatre,” said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center’s executive director.

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**What:** Renaud Garcia-Fons Trio  
**When:** Wednesday-Saturday, October 10-13 • 8 pm  
**Where:** Studio Theatre  
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts  
University of California, Davis  
**Admission:** \$36 Adults • \$18 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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