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<http://www.MondaviArts.org/press>

For immediate release:

Croatian Guitarist Robert Belinić to Play Mondavi Center Recital

April 9, 2008; Davis, California—**Robert Belinić**, a 27-year-old virtuoso who in 2002 became the first guitarist to win the prestigious Young Concert Artists International Competition, will play two solo recitals in the intimate confines of the Studio Theatre at the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis**. Acclaimed as “a genius, a poet, a super-sensitive musician” (*sandiego.com*), the Croatian instrumentalist will be play works by **J.S. Bach, John Dowland, Antonio Lauro**, and more in recitals that local guitar aficionados will not want to miss.

Performances will begin at 8 pm on May 3 and 2 pm on May 4 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. The event is presented as part of the Mondavi Center’s **Debut Series**.

Born in 1981 in Zagreb, Croatia, Robert Belinić grew up in the nearby town of Popovača. He started his musical studies at age three, when he began to play the drums, and at age eight also launched a movie career, starring in director **Krsto Papic**’s *Prica Iz Hrvatske (A Tale from Croatia)*, the first film released in newly-independent Croatia in 1991.

Belinić began to study classical guitar at the age of 11 at the music school in Kutina with **Zvonko Susnjar**, and continued his studies with **Ante Cagalj** in Zagreb. Every year since 1995, he has participated in the **International Summer School for Guitar** on the Croatian island of Hvar. He graduated from the **Leopold Mozart Hochschule für Musik** in Augsburg, Germany, where he currently holds an assistantship and is pursuing postgraduate studies with **Franz Halasz**.

Belinić’s came to international attention as the sole winner of the 2001 Young Concert Artists European Auditions in Leipzig, Germany and in 2002 became the first guitarist to win the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York. He was also recipient of the 2002 Ivo Vuljevic Award for the best young Croatian musician and a prizewinner in the 2006 Parkening International Guitar Competition.

He has given recitals all across the United States at venues including **Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, La Jolla Music Society**, the **University of Nebraska at Omaha, Western Michigan University, Southwest Missouri State University**, and **Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory**, and has appeared on the Grand Teton Music Festival’s Medalist Series, the John E. Marlow Guitar Series in Washington, DC,

and the Gainesville Pro Musica Concert Series. He has performed as soloist with the **Phoenix Symphony**, the **Paducah Symphony Orchestra**, the **Zagreb Philharmonic**, and the **Zagreb Soloists**. Belinić has performed abroad in Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Poland, Italy, Germany, Lichtenstein, and the Czech Republic, and is a founding member of the **Croatian Guitar Quartet**.

Belinić is increasingly in demand, and his busy schedule for 2008 has included recitals at the **Morgan Library & Museum**, **Glenridge Performing Arts Center**, the **Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts**, as well as the Mondavi Center. He will also make his concerto debut, performing with the **Orchestra of St. Luke's** under conductor **Michael Stern**.

The program for Belinić's Mondavi Center recital will be:

- John Dowland: "Lachrimae," "My Lady Hunsdon's Puffe," "A Fancy," "The Most Sacred Queene Elizabeth," "Her Galliard";
- J.S. Bach: Prelude, Fugue & Allegro in E-flat Major, BWV 998;
- Fernando Sor: **Introduction, Theme & Variations on a Theme from Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Op.9;**
- **Leo Brouwer**: Sonata;
- **Ante Gagalj**: Three Croatian Pieces;
- **Antonio Lauro**: Three Venezuelan Folk Dances.

"It is always a pleasure to host the up-and-coming stars of classical music who play our Debut Series, and we are particularly pleased to be able to present Robert Belinić in our Studio Theatre, a venue that is near-perfect for the acoustic classical guitar," said Mondavi Center Executive Director **Don Roth**.

What: **Robert Belinić, guitar**
When: Saturday, May 3 • 8 pm
Sunday, May 4 • 2 pm
Where: Jackson Hall
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts
University of California, Davis
Admission: \$29 Adults • \$14.50 Students, Children
Tickets/Info: 530.754.2787
866.754.2787 (toll-free)
<http://www.MondaviArts.org>
530.754.5402 [TDD]

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