



ROBERT AND MARGRIT  
**MONDAVI CENTER**  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
**UCDAVIS**



#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

Jessica Kelly, [jjkelly@mc.ucdavis.edu](mailto:jjkelly@mc.ucdavis.edu), 530-754-5428

#### **FULL SCHEDULE AND IMAGES**

<http://mondaviarts.org/press>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Nov. 10, 2008

### **Anat Cohen Performs a Series of Sax/Clarinet Concerts at the Mondavi Center**

**Davis, Calif.**—One of the primary voices of her generation on both the tenor saxophone and the clarinet, **Anat Cohen** brings her fiery, sophisticated blend of jazz, classical, South American and Afro-Cuban music—with a bit of klezmer for good measure—to the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis**, for four evening **Studio Theatre** performances, **Wednesday–Saturday, Dec. 10–13**, at **8 p.m.**

**Pricing** is \$35 for regular tickets and \$17.50 for students and children. Purchase tickets online at [MondaviArts.org](http://MondaviArts.org), through the Mondavi Center box office at 530-754-2787 or 866-754-2787 (toll-free), or at the door. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please note that ticket availability is limited for the Dec. 13 performance. These concerts are presented as part of the Mondavi Center's **Studio Jazz Series**.

“Through recording and live performance, Anat Cohen has proven time and again that there is real substance behind the superlatives,” says **Jeremy Ganter**, Mondavi Center associate executive director. “Believe the hype—she is thrilling, extraordinarily prolific and an important part of the evolution of jazz.”

**Anat Cohen** is an established bandleader and prolific composer, idiomatically conversant with modern and traditional jazz, classical music, Brazilian choro, Argentine tango, and an expansive timeline of Afro-Cuban styles. In September, Cohen released “Notes from the Village,” her fourth album as a leader. Cohen’s previous outings, “Noir” and “Poetica,” were released simultaneously in April 2007, inspiring a string of enthusiastic reviews. Following these releases, “The Washington Post” said that “Cohen has emerged as one of the brightest, most original young instrumentalists in jazz ... [she] has expanded the vocabulary of jazz with a distinctive accent of her own.”

Cohen has performed for audiences in New York’s Village Vanguard, Jazz Standard, Iridium, Jazz Gallery and JVC Jazz Festival. She has also appeared at the Chicago Jazz Festival, Kennedy Center, Yoshi’s (San Francisco) and the Monterey and Montreal jazz festivals.

Cohen’s accomplishments have been recognized in a flurry of awards and distinctions from critics and fans alike. She topped the Rising Star–Clarinet category in the 2007 and 2008 “Down Beat” critics’ polls and placed prominently in a total of four categories, including Rising Star Jazz Artist. Cohen was also mentioned in the 2007 and 2008 “Down Beat” readers’ polls, and the Jazz Journalists Association named her Clarinetist of the Year in both 2007 and 2008, the first time in the history of the awards that an artist has earned top clarinet honors two years running. “Noir” and “Poetica” both appeared on many year-end best-of summary lists, including those of “Paste,” “Slate,” “JazzTimes” and “The New York Sun.”

Born in Tel Aviv, Israel, Cohen grew up with musical siblings; her older brother Yuval is himself a saxophonist of note, and her younger brother Avishai is one of New York's busiest trumpeters. She began clarinet studies at age 12 and played jazz on clarinet for the first time in the Jaffa Conservatory's Dixieland band. At 16, she joined the school's big band and learned to play the tenor saxophone. The same year, she entered the prestigious Thelma Yelin High School for the Arts, where she majored in jazz. After graduation, she discharged her mandatory Israeli military service duty from 1993–95, playing tenor saxophone in the Israeli Air Force band.

In 1996, Cohen matriculated at Berklee College of Music in Boston. There she met faculty member Phil Wilson, who encouraged her to play clarinet. During her Berklee years, Cohen visited New York during breaks between semesters, making a beeline for Smalls to soak up the hybrid of grooves, world music and mainstream jazz that people like Jason Lindner and Omer Avital were then evolving. Back in Boston, she played tenor saxophone in a variety of musical contexts and with various bands. Cohen also began her association with Sherrie Maricle's top-shelf all-woman big band Diva Jazz Orchestra, which continued into the new millennium.

Once ensconced in New York, Cohen quickly found work in various Brazilian ensembles and also started performing with David Ostwald's Gully Low Jazz Band, which explores the music of Louis Armstrong, Bix Beiderbecke, Jelly Roll Morton and Sidney Bechet and their Pan-American contemporaries. Cohen documented her bona fides on her debut CD, "Place and Time," one of All About Jazz–New York's Best Debut Albums of 2005.

On the liner notes for "Notes from the Village," jazz historian Ira Gitler wrote, "She is formidable. Long may she continue to enrich the music in myriad ways." There is every indication that her star will continue to rise for a long time to come. For more information on Anat Cohen, visit [anatcohen.com](http://anatcohen.com).

- **Anat Cohen**
- **Wed.–Sat., Dec. 10–13, 8 p.m.**
- **Mondavi Center, Studio Theatre**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$35 regular; \$17.50 students, children**
- **530-754-2787**  
**866-754-2787 (toll-free)**  
**530-754-5402 (TDD)**  
[MondaviArts.org](http://MondaviArts.org)

###