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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 6, 2009

The Mondavi Center Presents Music Portraits from Heber Springs:

Bill Frisell's Disfarmer Project

Davis, Calif.—The **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts**, UC Davis, presents **Musical Portraits from Heber Springs: Bill Frisell's Disfarmer Project** on **Saturday, April 4, at 8 p.m.** in **Jackson Hall**. Using the black-and-white period portraits of photographer **Mike Disfarmer** as inspiration and projected backdrop, Frisell's Disfarmer Project creates a multi-media musical and visual world imagining life in a small Arkansas mountain town of the 1940s. Genre-crossing, GRAMMY-winning **guitarist and composer Bill Frisell** is joined by **steel guitarist Greg Leisz**, **violinist Jenny Scheinman**, and **bassist Viktor Krauss** on this innovative musical journey. Accompanying the event is a **Pre-performance Lecture** with UC Davis professor **Terry Nathan** at **7 p.m.** in **Jackson Hall**.

Says **Don Roth**, Mondavi Center executive director, "The great Bill Frisell draws his musical inspiration in this show from the photos of the Midwestern eccentric genius Mike Disfarmer. The music he's composed for this performance seamlessly integrates with Disfarmer's images of rural American life. This is an important and compelling musical event."

Pricing is \$45/35/25 for regular tickets and \$22.50/17.50/12.50 for students and children. Purchase tickets online at 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. This event is presented as part of the Mondavi Center's **American Heritage Series**.

In the small mountain town of Heber Springs, the Arkansas artist Mike Meyer, better known as **Mike Disfarmer**, captured the lives and emotions of the people of rural America 1939–1945. Critics have hailed Disfarmer's remarkable black-and-white portraits as "a work of artistic genius" and "a classical episode in the history of American photography." Now musician/composer Bill Frisell uses these striking images as a backdrop for a soundscape that, in Frisell's words, represents "the sound of [Disfarmer] looking through the lens."

Bill Frisell's recordings over the last decades span a wide range of musical influences. His catalog, including 20 recordings for Nonesuch, has been cited by Down Beat as "the best recorded output of the decade." It includes original Buster Keaton film scores to arrangements of music for extended ensemble with horns ("This Land, Blues Dream"), adaptations of his compositions originally written as soundtracks to Gary Larson cartoons ("Quartet"), interpretations of work by other classic and contemporary American composers ("Have a Little Faith") and collaborations with the acclaimed rhythm section of bassist Viktor Krauss and drummer Jim Keltner ("Gone," "Just Like a Train," "Good Dog," "Happy Man"). "The Intercontinentals," nominated for a GRAMMY in 2004, is an album that combines Frisell's own brand of American roots music and his unmistakable improvisational style with the influences of Brazilian, Greek and Malian sounds. His recent collaborative project with drummer Matt Chamberlain and producers Lee Townsend and Tucker Martine, "Floratone" (Blue Note), was described by All About Jazz as "a modern masterpiece." Frisell's latest album "History, Mystery," was released in May 2008 on Nonesuch and nominated for a GRAMMY award for best instrumental jazz.

- **Bill Frisell's Disfarmer Project**
- **Sat., April 4, 8 p.m.**
- **Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$45/35/25 regular; \$22.50/17.50/12.50 students, children**
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