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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 23, 2009

The Mondavi Center Presents the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center with Mezzo-Soprano Stephanie Blythe

Davis, Calif.—The **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts**, UC Davis, presents the **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center** with **mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe** at **8 p.m., Friday, April 24** in a first-time appearance in **Jackson Hall**.

“The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center continues to be known for programming that is never predictable, always interesting,” say **Don Roth**, Mondavi Center executive director. “The centerpiece of this wonderful program of **American chamber music** is a new work by **Alan Louis Smith**, ‘**Vignettes: Covered Wagon Woman**.’ Brilliant mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe portrays pioneer Margaret Frink in this poignant musical setting of the journey west.”

Smith’s ‘Covered Wagon Woman’ is a quartet for voice, piano, violin and cello. The evening’s program also includes **John Antes’ String Trio in D Minor, op.3**; **Amy Beach’s Piano Quintet in F-Sharp Minor, op. 67**; and **George Gershwin’s Lullaby for String Quartet**.

Both **Blythe** and **Smith**, along with **UC Davis musicologist Chris Reynolds**, will participate in a **Pre-performance Lecture** at **7 p.m.** in the **Studio Theatre**.

Pricing is \$65/55/35 for regular tickets and \$32.50/27.50/17.50 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 **Raley’s and Bel Air Concert Series**, which concludes with **Yo-Yo Ma** on **May 14**.

The **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (CMS)**, founded in 1969, is one of 12 constituents of New York City's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the largest performing arts complex in the world. Along with other constituents such as the New York Philharmonic, New York City Ballet, Lincoln Center Theater and the Metropolitan Opera, CMS has its home at Lincoln Center in Alice Tully Hall. The performing artists of CMS, a multigenerational selection of expert chamber musicians, constitute an evolving repertory company capable of presenting chamber music of every instrumentation, style and historical period. Its annual activities include a full season of concerts, national and international tours, nationally televised broadcasts on "Live from Lincoln Center," a radio show broadcast nationwide, and regular appearances on American Public Media's "Performance Today." For more information, visit chambermusicsociety.org.

Mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe is one of the most highly respected artists of her generation. She was named Musical America's 2009 Vocalist of the Year. Her most recent solo recordings include a collection of pieces by Mahler, Brahms and Wagner and an album of Handel and Bach arias, all released on the Virgin Classics label. She has sung in many of the renowned opera houses in the United States and Europe, including the Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera, the Royal Opera House Covent Garden and the Opera National de Paris. Her many performances include the title roles in "Carmen," "La Grande Duchesse" and "Mignon," as well as roles in "Il Trovatore," "The Rake's Progress" and "Die Fledermaus." This season, Blythe adds new roles to her repertoire, including the title role in "Orfeo" and Ježibaba in "Rusalka" with the Met. She has appeared with many of the world's finest orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony Orchestra (in Boston and in Tanglewood) and the **San Francisco Symphony with Michael Tilson Thomas**, who will appear at the **Mondavi Center's Jackson Hall on May 21**.

- **CMS Lincoln Center with Stephanie Blythe**
- **Fri., Apr. 24, 8 p.m.**
- **Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$65/55/35 regular; \$32.50/27.50/17.50 students, children**
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