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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Itzhak Perlman Returns to the Mondavi Center for Golden Anniversary Tour

Davis, Calif.—Back by popular demand: The Mondavi Center honors the 50th anniversary of Itzhak Perlman's U.S. debut on "The Ed Sullivan Show" with a special return engagement. The violin master, along with Rohan De Sliva on piano, performs **Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 8 p.m.** in **Jackson Hall** of the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts**, UC Davis.

Says **Don Roth**, Mondavi Center executive director, "We're pleased that we have the chance to bring Itzhak Perlman back for a second consecutive season. Since last year's concert was sold out, this gives more of our patrons the opportunity to hear this great artist." The evening's program includes **Handel's Violin Sonata in D Major, op. 1/13; Beethoven's Violin Sonata No. 9, op. 47 ("Kreutzer")** and **Messiaen's Theme and Variants for violin and piano**.

Ticket availability is limited. Please contact the Mondavi Center box office at 530-754-ARTS (2787) or 866-754-ARTS (toll-free) for more information.

Undeniably the reigning virtuoso of the violin, **Itzhak Perlman** enjoys superstar status rarely afforded a classical musician. He marks an important milestone during the 2008–09 season: He is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his American debut. Beloved for his charm and humanity as well as his talent, he is treasured by audiences throughout the world, who respond not only to his remarkable artistry but also to his irrepressible joy in making music.

Born in Israel in 1945, Perlman completed his initial training at the Academy of Music in Tel Aviv. He came to New York and soon was propelled into the international arena with an appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1958. Following his studies at the Juilliard School with Ivan Galamian and Dorothy DeLay, Perlman won the prestigious Leventritt Competition in 1964, which led to a burgeoning worldwide career. Since then, he has appeared with every major orchestra and in recitals and festivals around the world.

A major presence in the performing arts on television, Perlman has been honored with four Emmy Awards, most recently for the PBS documentary "Fiddling for the Future," a film about the Perlman Music Program and his work as a teacher and conductor there. Perlman's third Emmy recognized his dedication to klezmer music, as profiled in the 1995 PBS television special "In the Fiddler's House."

In July 1994, Perlman hosted the U.S. broadcast of the "Three Tenors, Encore!" live from Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. In March 2006, a worldwide audience in the hundreds of millions saw him perform live on the 78th Annual Academy Awards telecast. One of Perlman's proudest achievements is his collaboration with film score composer **John Williams** in **Steven Spielberg's** Academy Award-winning film "**Schindler's List**," in which he performed the violin solos. Perlman lent his voice as the narrator of "Visions of Israel," the 20th program of the acclaimed "Visions series," which premiered on PBS in June 2008.

In February 2008, Perlman was honored with a GRAMMY Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in the recording arts. His recordings regularly appear on the best-seller charts and have garnered fifteen GRAMMYS. His most recent releases include an all-Mozart recording with the Berlin Philharmonic (EMI), with Perlman performing as both soloist and conductor, and a recording for Deutsche Grammophon, with Perlman conducting the Israel Philharmonic. In December 2003, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts granted Perlman a Kennedy Center Honor celebrating his distinguished achievements and contributions to the cultural and educational life of the nation.

Perlman has a long association with the Israel Philharmonic, and he has participated in many groundbreaking tours with this orchestra from his homeland. In November of 1987, he joined the IPO for history-making concerts in Warsaw and Budapest, representing the first performances by this orchestra and soloist in Eastern Bloc countries. He again made history as he joined the orchestra for its first visit to the Soviet Union in April/May 1990, where he was cheered by audiences in Moscow and Leningrad who thronged to hear his recital and orchestral performances. In December 1994, Perlman joined the Israel Philharmonic for their first visits to China and India.

Over the past decade Perlman has become more actively involved in educational activities. He has taught full time at the Perlman Music Program each summer since it was founded, and he currently holds the Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation Chair at the Juilliard School.

Pianist **Rohan De Silva's** partnerships with violin virtuosos **Itzhak Perlman**, Cho-Liang Lin, Midori, Joshua Bell, Benny Kim, Kyoko Takezawa, Vadim Repin, Gil Shaham, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and Julian Rachlin have led to highly acclaimed performances at recital venues all over the world. With these and other artists he has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall and Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Library of Congress, the Philadelphia Academy of Music, and the Mozarteum in Salzburg, among others. His festival appearances include the Aspen, Interlochen, Manchester, Ravinia and Schleswig-Holstein festivals; the Wellington Arts Festival in New Zealand; and the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan. He performs frequently with Itzhak Perlman and was seen with him on PBS' "Live from Lincoln Center" broadcast in 2000. De Silva regularly tours Japan with Perlman, and in 2002 they toured the Far East, including performances in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. In 2006, he toured with Perlman and Pinchas Zukerman, including stops in Chicago, Boston, New York and Washington, D.C. In the 2007-08 season, De Silva appeared in recital with Perlman across the U.S. De Silva has been a faculty member at the Perlman Music Program since 2007.

De Silva, a native of Sri Lanka, began his piano studies with his mother, the late Primrose De Silva, and with the late Mary Billimoria. He spent six years at the Royal Academy of Music in London as a student of Hamish Milne, Sydney Griller and Wilfred Parry. While in London, he received many awards, including the Grover Bennett Scholarship, the Christian Carpenter Prize, the Martin Music Scholarship, the Harold Craxton Award for advanced study in England and, upon his graduation, the Chappell Gold Medal for best overall performance at the Royal Academy. De Silva was the first recipient of a special Scholarship in the arts from the Presidents Fund of Sri Lanka. This enabled him to enter the Juilliard School, where he received both his bachelor's and master's of music degrees, studying piano with Martin Canin, studying chamber music with Felix Galimir, and working closely with violin pedagogue Dorothy DeLay. He was awarded a special prize as Best Accompanist at the 1990 Ninth International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. He received the Samuel Sanders Collaborative Artist Award presented to him by Itzhak Perlman at the 2005 Classical Recording Foundation Awards Ceremony at Carnegie Hall.

De Silva joined the collaborative arts and chamber music faculty of the Juilliard School in 1991, and in 1992 he was awarded honorary Associate of the Royal Academy of Music. In 2001, he joined the faculty at the Ishikawa Music Academy in Japan, where he gives master classes in collaborative piano. Radio and television credits include "The Tonight Show" with Midori, National Public Radio and Radio Berlin. He has recorded for Deutsche Grammophon, CBS/SONY Classical, Collins Classics in London and RCA Victor.

- **Itzhak Perlman: Golden Anniversary**
- **Tue., Feb. 24, 8 p.m.**
- **Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$95/80/60 regular; \$47.50/40/30 students, children**
- **530-754-2787**
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