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Don Roth

Don Roth is the executive director of the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis. He holds a lectureship in the UC Davis Music Department. In spring 2009, he taught the graduate course “Non-Profit Management of the Performing Arts” in the Graduate School of Management, UC Davis. Roth serves on the Leadership Team and chairs the Film Committee of Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson’s *For Arts Sake* regional planning effort.

A native of New York City, Roth joined the Mondavi Center in June 2006, arriving from the Aspen Music Festival and School, where he served as president from 2001 through 2006. In Aspen, Roth oversaw a series of innovations in programming (funded by a \$1 million grant from the Wallace Foundation) and facilitated the creation of a new strategic plan for AMFS educational work. He initiated the national symposium, held in 2005, “Bringing the Worlds of Music Education and Music Performance Together,” funded by the Mellon, Duke, and Dana Foundations.

Prior to his tenure in Aspen, Roth was president and executive director of the Saint Louis Symphony from 1998-2001. During that time, the Symphony achieved major artistic successes including tours to Carnegie Hall and throughout Europe. Under Roth’s leadership, the Symphony took significant strides toward financial stability, including the receipt of the then-largest gift ever to a symphony orchestra, \$40 million from the Jack Taylor family. The St. Louis Symphony received national recognition during Roth’s tenure from the Knight, Mellon, and Ford Foundations, the latter as one of a small number of millennium awards to the arts made in 2000.

During the 1980’s and 1990’s, Roth held leadership positions on the West Coast at the San Francisco Symphony as general manager and the Oregon Symphony as president. In both capacities he oversaw major presenting programs in addition to symphony operations. He initiated significant outreach and education programs in both San Francisco and Portland, receiving almost \$2 million in National Endowment for the Arts challenge grants to underwrite these initiatives.

Roth serves on the Board of Overseers of the Curtis Institute of Music. In addition, he is a member of the Directors Council (emeritus Board) of the League of American Orchestras, the national organization of symphony orchestra professionals, trustees, and volunteers. For almost 10 years, he chaired the League’s Orchestra Management Fellowship Program, the leading training program for symphony executives in the U.S. He has chaired numerous panels for the National Endowment for the Arts. Roth serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Philharmonic. He also serves on the Governance and Nominating Committee of the Western Arts Alliance.

Roth received a BA from Brown University and an MA from Yale University in American History and holds a doctorate from the University of Texas with a specialty in African-American History. The findings of his dissertation, “‘Grace not Race’”, were summarized as a chapter of the anthology [Black Americans and the Missionary Movement in Africa](#), Sylvia Jacobs, editor (Westport, 1982). He has written about popular music for *Rolling Stone* and *Texas Monthly*. He also has worked as an independent consultant in the arts; his consulting engagements have included the Shreveport (LA) and Kansas City (MO) symphonies.