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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Vocal Powerhouse Sam Harris Returns to Cal Poly Oct. 4 For Encore Performance

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Popular singing star SAM HARRIS will be showcasing his versatile vocals, charm, and comic wit in an encore performance on Saturday, October 4, 2008 at 8 p.m. in the Spanos Theatre.

Harris appeared at the Spanos Theatre in January 2008; the audience's enthusiasm, ovations, and requests to bring the performer back prompted Cal Poly Arts Interim Director Peter Wilt to book Harris again with the promise of an all-new repertoire.

"Harris hits the ground running... One show-stopper after another, punctuated by sidesplitting topical wit and audience hysteria." (LA Times)

Accompanied by long-time musical director/pianist Todd Schroeder, the return engagement is presented by Cal Poly Arts. An artist meet/greet and CD-signing will be held in the lobby immediately following the concert.

"Not only does Sam Harris have a spectacular voice, with a range that plumbs the depths of soulful blues and ballads and scales the heights of some classic rock and show tunes, he's hilariously funny as well." (LA Magazine)

With a career that spans over two decades, Harris has plenty of material from which to choose; he's added a dozen new songs to the list with his July 2008 release, *Free*. Most of the original tracks were co-written by the singer; the CD also features Bonnie Raitt's "I Can't Make You Love Me" and John Lennon's "Imagine."

While his success has run the gamut from singer/songwriter to Broadway stage, film, and television actor to writer, producer, and director, Harris is a consummate entertainer, with audience raves from the White House and Carnegie Hall to London's celebrated West End.

Television audiences will remember Harris starring in the CBS sitcom, "The Class," and can look forward to his new daily network talk show, slated to debut early 2009.

Long before "American Idol," a teen-aged Harris became a household name on the premiere season of the innovative talent show, "Star Search."

An unprecedented 25 million viewers tuned in weekly to follow Harris as he created his own pop, gospel, and theatrical brand of emotionally-charged performances, ultimately winning the grand prize.

With a nod to friend Liza Minelli, Harris' "Star Search" rendition of "Over the Rainbow" has remained a signature piece, along with his dynamic vocal style and flair on the concert stage.

Listed on numerous "Top 100 Records of All Time" lists, Harris has enjoyed a successful recording career, with multiple collections covering Broadway, classic standards, pop, and rock.

His Broadway acting credits include Grease, The Producers, and The Life, as well as an extensive national tour of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Harris has appeared on numerous television specials and live productions and has been a guest on and/or hosted virtually every talk show, among them "The Tonight Show," "The Today Show," and "The View."

A frequent "Oprah" guest, Harris was the one Winfrey asked to perform when her show first aired after September 11, 2001.

"Sam Harris is awe-inspiring." (Variety)

At the request of Elizabeth Taylor, Harris became one of the first celebrities to lead the fight against AIDS. It would mark the beginning of his work as a tireless human rights activist and campaigner for political fairness, which are still integral aspects of his commitment today.

For more artist information, performance clips, and music, visit [www.samharris.com](http://www.samharris.com) and [www.samtube.com](http://www.samtube.com).

General public tickets for the performance are \$38, with student discounts available on all seats, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

Groups of 10+ receive a 10% discount.

To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088.

Order on-line at [www.calpolyarts.org](http://www.calpolyarts.org).

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For more information on all Cal Poly Arts events, including audio and video samples, please visit [www.calpolyarts.org](http://www.calpolyarts.org).

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