

Sept. 22, 2008 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Grammy Winner Branford Marsalis Brings Jazz to Performing Arts Center Oct. 9

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Grammy Award-winning jazz saxophonist BRANFORD MARSALIS stars in the mesmerizing musical program, Marsalis Brasilianos, performing on stage at the Cohan Center on Thursday, October 9, 2008 at 8 p.m.

Presented by Cal Poly Arts, Marsalis Brasilianos features Marsalis in a unique collaboration with the Philarmonia Brasileira, under conductor Gil Jardim. The fascinating project celebrates the music of revered Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos on the 50th anniversary of his death.

A series of successful concerts was performed in Brazil prior to this North American Tour.

The program includes Villa-Lobos' Fantasia for Saxophone (soprano) and piano or orchestra and Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 and No. 9, as well as Darius Milhaud's La Creation du Monde, Op. 81 and Scaramouche for Saxophone (alto) and orchestra Op. 165c.

Marsalis Brasilianos is keenly suited to Marsalis' mastery of both jazz and classical music, allowing the language of Villa-Lobos' compositions to truly shine.

Reviewing the program at the Ravinia Festival, The Chicago Tribune wrote, "(Marsalis played) with a subtlety of tone and phrasing only the finest interpreters can attain."

In a performance with the Alexandria Symphony, critic Joseph McLellan noted that Marsalis played, "with brilliant musicianship and a fine control of his instrument."

Marsalis, who has long been known as one of the leaders in the jazz world, has re-dedicated himself to classical music and has gained a reputation as a complex and sensitive classical musician.

onhifi.com call him "an innovative jazz saxophonist who also happens to be a classical performer with phenomenal technique."

Marsalis' 2001 Sony Classical recording, Creation, features the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and was the acclaimed saxophonist's first classical recording in 15 years.

Marsalis has also performed classical recitals with prestigious symphonies in a host of American and European cities, including Chicago, Seattle, Philadelphia, and Düsseldorf.

In all of his appearances, Marsalis applies the same impeccable technique and interpretive insight that he brings to his work with one of the jazz world's premier ensembles, the Branford Marsalis Quartet.

"There are a lot of classical pieces for saxophone, but there are not a lot of those pieces that I would enjoy

playing," Marsalis says. "They become exercises. They show off the technical possibilities of the instrument, not the beautiful possibilities.

"I prefer music by composers who did not hear the saxophone as a bastard instrument, but simply believed in things that are beautiful and I've found my collaboration with great classical ensembles to be like jazz, when jazz is good.

"Everybody has a say in the course and direction of where the music goes, with the understanding that what matters is the music. When everybody's on that page – it's magic."

Established in 1994, the Philarmonia Brasileira, under Jardim's artistic direction, quickly gained acclaim through its participation in Brazilian cultural events and its involvement in the glorification and preservation of the work of Villa-Lobos.

Recently, the Orchestra performed a concert and released a CD that accurately reconstructed the first concert Villa-Lobos held in Paris in 1924. This recording, entitled Villa-Lobos in Paris, was awarded the Diapason d'Or from the well-known magazine Diapason, and was nominated for the 2nd Bravo Culture award.

A pre-concert lecture by Cal Poly Music Professor Ken Habib will be held at the Performing Arts Center Pavilion at 7 pm.

General public tickets for the performance range from \$42 to \$48, 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.

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

Order on-line at www.calpolyarts.org.

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