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Cabaret Singer Susan Werner at PAC Pavilion Oct. 28

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA – The Village Voice claims, “(Susan) Werner is one of those singer-songwriter gems ... (Her) greatest asset is her ability to breathe new-fashioned originality into old-timey sounds.”

The Philadelphia Daily News concurs: “She conquers the cabaret jazz/pop scene with sublime originals that sound like Great American Songbook classics...(her) lyrics are pure poetry.”

Cal Poly Arts presents pianist/composer Susan Werner in an intimate solo concert held at the Cohan Center Pavilion on Saturday, October 28, 2006.

Featuring an evening of original material – “Her new songs feel like they were pulled straight from the American songbag, shimmering with melodic elegance, urbane romanticism and sly, sexy wit” (Boston Globe) – Werner will perform two shows: at 5 p.m. and again at 8 p.m.

The Pavilion concerts have cabaret seating. Food and beverages, including beer and wine, will be available for purchase.

A compelling performer, Susan Werner has virtually added a new chapter to the Great American Songbook, combining compassion and sensitivity with sharp, funny, intelligent lyrics.

A breakthrough singer-songwriter in the mid-90s, Werner has been applauded for bringing literacy and sophistication back to popular song.

Her fourth critically-acclaimed recording, “I Can't Be New” (Koch Records), offers the high quality writing that her fans have come to expect.

On her latest release, Werner performs 12 original compositions in the songbook style and continues to breathe new life into the popular song tradition.

“This is a songwriter's record. I'd describe the aim of this project as Carole King's ‘Tapestry’ meets Ella Fitzgerald's ‘Cole Porter Songbook’,” Werner suggests.

In creating “I Can't Be New,” Susan Werner may have sparked something

very new -- a revival of interest in writing traditional pop songs.

However, Werner cautions, this isn't a record for jazz purists: "The purists want old songs done in a new way," Werner says. "These are all new songs done in an old way."

With Werner's musical training and a Master's degree in classical voice, writing and singing in such an intimate fashion is a bold departure from her early days. But the woman on stage covers all the emotional bases.

"It's the economy of the Great American Songbook tunes that I admire the most," she says. "That's the hardest thing to achieve -- to pack all of this feeling, longing, heartbreak or desire into the tiniest song form. It's deceptively difficult."

A nationally-touring artist, Werner has also performed with such headliners as Joan Armatrading and Richard Thompson. Werner was also featured on the "Peter, Paul & Mary Lifelines" PBS special.

Visit Susan Werner online at: www.susanwerner.com

Tickets for the Pavilion performance \$34, with student discounts available, 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.

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