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"Whirled" Music Comes to Spanos Theatre Oct. 7

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Acoustic Guitar Magazine exclaims: "The Vikings are invading…but this time brandishing not battle axes, but an eccentric array of acoustic instruments, burning down the global village with their sonically devastating blend of ancient sounds, timeless tunes, and modern sensibilities."

Sweden’s own Väsen -- a brilliant ensemble that creates more electricity on their acoustic instruments than most rock bands generate with their amps turned all the way up – will perform at the Spanos Theatre at 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 7, 2006.

Cal Poly Arts presents the group as part of its special Director’s Choice series.

"The sound may be traditional, but the attitude is completely modern, mixing up the ideas of folk, the virtuosity of progressive music, and the humor of the insane asylum into a Cuisinart of acoustic bliss. Visual whirled music." (Wired).

Väsen plays music based in the rural Swedish tradition with a contemporary flavor. They carry acoustic ensemble interplay to new levels with an energy and attitude that is rarely found in acoustic bands.

Nyckelharpa (keyed fiddle) and viola melodies are propelled by 12-stringed guitar. Their music can connote classical string quartets at one moment and upbeat folk/pop another.

Swedish musicians Mikael Marin (viola), Roger Tallroth (12-string guitar), and Olov Johansson on nyckelharpa give Väsen its signature sound and deliver a concert that is filled with their evident glee for performing, punchy improvisations, and rowdy musical fun.

A special pre-concert lecture will be held by Cal Poly Music Dept. professor Kenneth Habib at 7 p.m. in the Philips Recital Hall.

Tickets for the performance are $28 and $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.


Sponsored by American Airlines/American Eagle and KCBX 90.1 FM. For audio and video samples of Cal Poly Arts events, visit www.calpolyarts.org.

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