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Cal Poly Music Groups to Perform ‘A European Tour de Force’ as Benefit Concert

SAN LUIS OBISPO – PolyPhonics, the Cal Poly Early Music Ensemble and the Cal Poly Wind Ensemble will give Central Coast theater goers a sneak preview of their European concert performance at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 3, in Harman Hall in the Cohan Center.

The June 3 concert, titled “A European Tour de Force,” is a benefit performance to help send Cal Poly student musicians on a tour of Europe in July to perform in concert halls and churches in Budapest, Vienna, Schladming, Salzburg, Munich and Prague.

“A European Tour de Force” promises to be a festive and rousing evening, according to Wind Ensemble Director and Professor William Johnson.

“The cornerstone work for Cal Poly’s European tour will be Hungarian composer Frigyes Hidas’ “Requiem for Wind Ensemble, Choir and Four Vocal Soloists,” Johnson said. “The composer considers it an important work personally, and certainly it considered an invaluable addition to the wind ensemble and choral literature.

Hidas, who calls himself ‘the last of the Romantic composers,’ will attend the group’s performance in Budapest.

During the June 3 concert, four professional singers will join PolyPhonics: Cal Poly faculty member and soprano Katherine Arthur, soprano; Tihana Herceg, mezzo soprano opera singer from Croatia; Joseph Meyers, tenor, UC Santa Cruz; and Emil Cristescu, bass, Nevada Opera Company.

PolyPhonics and the Wind Ensemble together will perform “The Church” from “The Kings Go Forth” by Edward Gregson and “Sleep” by Eric Whitacre. The Wind Ensemble will perform “the echo never fades” (sic) by David Gillingham, “In the Meadow” from “Last World Standing” by Stephen Melillo, and “Blue Shades” by Frank Ticheli.

PolyPhonics will perform “Jubilate Deo” by László Halmos, “Exsultate justi” by Ludovico Viadana, “Ave Maria” by Craig Kingsbury and “Irish Blessing” by Graeme Langager. The Early Music Ensemble will perform Three Madrigals from Book V by Claudio Monteverdi.

“PolyPhonics, the Cal Poly Wind Ensemble and Early Music Ensemble are wonderful combinations of stunning virtuosity, masterful programming, and lighthearted fun,” Johnson said. “These 120 musicians produce the full richness of a symphony orchestra and choir, the intimacy of a chamber ensemble, and the toe-tapping brilliance of a military band.”

Cal Poly Music faculty member Thomas Davies conducts PolyPhonics and the Early Music Ensemble.

Tickets are $8 to $18 and can be bought at the Performing Arts Ticket Office 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. To order tickets by phone, call 756-2787 (SLO-ARTS). Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

The concert is sponsored by Cal Poly’s College of Liberal Arts, Music Department and Instructionally Related Activities program. For more information, call the Music Department at 756-2406.

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