Jan. 12, 2009

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Cal Poly Arts Hosts Do-Wop Blast from the Past Jan. 25

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA – It will be a true blast from the past as Rock- and-Roll Hall of Fame stars perform their million-selling hits of the fabulous 50's and 60's, live on stage at the Performing Arts Center.

Cal Poly Arts presents THE BEST OF DOO WOP, rockin' and a-boppin' down memory lane on Sunday, January 25, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the Cohan Center.

The shining all-celebrity showcase stars:

- Danny & the Juniors ("At the Hop," "Rock and Roll is Here to Stay")
- The Buck Ram Platters ("Only You," "Great Pretender")
- The Olympics ("Good Lovin'," "Western Movies")
- The Four Preps ("26 Miles/Catalina," "Gidget")
- Brenda Holloway ("You Made Me So Very Happy," "When I'm Gone")

A special Drifters Tribute rounds out the super-charged show.

The evening is backed by the versatile American Gold Band, led by Bill Cormier, and features comic host Scott Wood.

In 1955, THE BUCK RAM PLATTERS hit the Billboard charts at No. 5 with a song written and produced by Ram, entitled "Only You." Less than one year later, "The Great Pretender" was released and hit the charts at No. 1. Sixteen Gold records followed, representing over 120 million records sold.

DANNY & THE JUNIORS' debuted "At The Hop" in the mid-50s; the song became a monumental hit on five continents, reaching No. 1 on the pop, country, and rhythm/blues charts. Billboard Magazine's "List of No. 1 Hits" cites the cut as the 23rd all-time biggest record. The group's "Rock and Roll is Here to Stay" became an anthem of the era.

In 1958, THE FOUR PREPS recorded a song that would create a new genre of West Coast music. Dick Clark would later refer to it as "the first surfer hit" and later yet, Jimmy Buffett would name a chapter after it in his autobiography. That first million-seller was "26 Miles (Santa Catalina)." Brian Wilson would cite a Preps performance as one of his inspirations for starting The Beach Boys.

THE OLYMPICS were the originators of the No. 1 song, "Good Lovin'." '"Western Movies" – their very first chart release in May 1958 – reached No. 7 on the R&B charts and No. 8 on the Pop charts. Several other chart hits followed, including "Hully Gully" which played into the current dance craze of the time.

Motown chanteuse BRENDA HOLLOWAY is a California native, born in Atascadero. An accomplished songwriter

and classically-trained violinist, she is known for her signature hits – the melancholy ballad, “Every Little Bit Hurts” and the sassy “When I’m Gone.” She may have been Motown’s first L.A.-based artist, but she is now a nationwide touring star, playing to packed houses across the country.

SCOTT WOOD has been hailed as one of the funniest “clean” comedians working today. Known as “Mr. Punchline,” Wood’s style of rapid-fire one-liners and improv has proved popular in a wide variety of television, radio, and stage appearances.

BILL CORMIER, musical conductor of The American Gold Band, has decades’ worth of rock-and-roll direction, having backed The Coasters, The Platters, Little Anthony, Mickey Dolenz from The Monkees, Chuck Negron from Three Dog Night, and Bobby Kimball, former lead singer from the 80’s supergroup ,Toto.

Student and adult tickets for the performance range from $30 to $44 and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Center 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.

24-hour on-line ordering at www.calpolyarts.org.

Sponsored by Al and Patty Moriarty, Best Western Royal Oak Hotel, and Q104.5 FM.

For more information on all Cal Poly Arts events, including audio and video samples, please visit www.calpolyarts.org.

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