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Cal Poly Symphony's May 30 "Looking East, Looking West" Concert to Feature Pianist Tianshu Wang

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- The Cal Poly Symphony's Spring Concert, "Looking East, Looking West," will explore European music that evokes the East and Chinese music that leads back to the European orchestral tradition at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 30 in Harman Hall in the Performing Arts Center's Christopher Cohan Center.

The concert will be divided into three acts. First, the Cal Poly Symphony will perform music of Borodin, Ravel and Puccini, which captures Eastern cultures from a European point of view. Second, the Shenyang Early Music Ensemble will perform traditional Chinese music on traditional instruments. Based in Shenyang, China, the ensemble features the sound of China, uninterpreted by European composers.

Finally, pianist Tianshu Wang will join the symphony in a performance of the "Yellow River Concerto," written during the Cultural Revolution in China by a committee of composers. "Yellow River Concerto" is a reworking of the patriotic "Yellow River Cantata," written in 1939 by Xian Xinghai.

"During the Cultural Revolution, European arts were considered unpatriotic," said symphony Conductor David Arrivée. "It is miraculous that a group of composers were able to rework the patriotic cantata into a genre of music so closely tied to the tradition of European virtuosi — a piano concerto."

Wang has appeared on concert stages in the United States, China and Mexico and has also received invitations to perform in Europe, Taiwan, Thailand and Singapore. Winner of many competitions, including the first prize in the National Young Artist Piano Competition in Colorado, she is active in both solo and collaborative performances and has played with many major orchestras in China and the U.S.

Tickets for the concert are \$10 and \$12 for the public, \$8 and \$10 for seniors and \$6 for students. They are on sale at the Performing Arts Ticket Office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call SLO-ARTS (756-2787).

Patrons who buy season tickets to four Music Department events through the Performing Arts Ticket office will receive a 10 percent discount; a 15 percent discount is given to those who buy tickets to five or more events.

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

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