

## News University News & Information

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California

April 27, 2011 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 🖸 SHARE 🔣 🖽 ...

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## Cal Poly Hosts Pianist Robert Thies for Performances May 24 and 28

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Culminating a week-long residency at Cal Poly, Robert Thies will perform two concerts at Cal Poly:

- Tuesday, May 24, at 8 p.m. in Spanos Theatre in a two-piano recital with W. Terrence Spiller
- Saturday, May 28, at 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center's Christopher Cohan Center as a soloist with the Cal Poly Symphony

On May 24, Thies will be joined by Spiller in a two-piano recital featuring rarely heard piano duo repertoire with works by Mozart, Poulenc, Debussy, Shostakovich and Rachmaninoff. Spiller, a prize-winner in international piano competitions, was recognized as the outstanding doctoral graduate of 1991 by the University of Southern California's School of Music. He has performed across the United States as soloist, recitalist, chamber musician and accompanist. He is chair of the Music Department.

On May 28, as the culmination of his residency, Thies joins the Cal Poly Symphony, directed by David Arrivée. He will perform George Gershwin's "Piano Concerto in F," a fusion of jazz and the classical tradition. The symphony will also perform Howard Hanson's Symphony No. 2, "Romantic."

A pianist of "unerring, warm-toned refinement, revealing judicious glimmers of power," [Los Angeles Times] Thies first captured worldwide attention in 1995 when he won the Gold Medal at the Second International Prokofiev Competition in St. Petersburg, Russia. With this victory, Thies became the only American pianist to win first prize in a Russian piano competition since Van Cliburn's famed triumph in Moscow in 1958.

Thies enjoys a diverse career as an orchestral soloist, recitalist and chamber musician. He has already performed forty concerti with orchestras all over the world.

Tickets for the concerts 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 (805-756-2787). Discounts are given to patrons who buy tickets to four or more Music Department events.

The concerts are sponsored by Cal Poly's Music Department and College of Liberal Arts. The symphony concert is additionally supported by the Instructionally Related Activities program. For more information, call the Music Department at 805-756-2406.

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