



April 29, 2011

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Ticket Sales: 805/756-2787

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Great Britain's Premier Organist to Play the PAC

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA – Britain's David Briggs is an internationally-renowned organist who has built a worldwide reputation as an innovative musician and dazzling performer. Increasingly sought after for his orchestral transcriptions and improvisation, Briggs' performances are applauded for their musicality, virtuosity, and ability to engage audiences of all ages.

On Saturday, May 14, 2011 at 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center's Cohan Center, Cal Poly Arts presents DAVID BRIGGS performing a program of Haydn, Bach, and Franck on the famed Forbes Pipe Organ, plus an improvised accompaniment to Charlie Chaplin's classic silent film, *The Immigrant*.

Briggs studied organ with Jean Langlais in Paris. The first British winner of the Tournemire Prize at the St. Albans International Improvisation Competition, he also won the first prize in the International Improvisation Competition at Paisley.

Briggs is Organist Emeritus of England's Gloucester Cathedral, where he has directed the music for eight years. While at Gloucester, he oversaw the complete rebuilding of the Cathedral organ and directed the Three Choirs Festivals, conducting some of the U.K.'s finest professional orchestras – most notably, the Philharmonia.

A gifted and inspirational teacher, Briggs regularly gives master classes at the Royal Northern College of Music and at Oxford and Cambridge, and is frequently invited to serve on international competition juries.

Briggs' touring schedule includes more than 50 concerts a year. Recent engagements in Europe include the Royal Albert Hall, Westminster Abbey, and St Paul's Cathedral in London; Notre Dame de Paris; Symphony Hall, Birmingham; King's College Cambridge; Bath Abbey; and the Cologne Cathedral, Germany. U.S. concert venues include Washington's National Cathedral, St. Bartholomew's in New York City, and Grace Cathedral.

Student and adult tickets for the performance range from \$16 to \$24 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 is available at www.calpolyarts.org.

Sponsored by BERT & CANDACE FORBES and ROY & JANE GERSTEN.

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

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