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California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California

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August 15, 2011

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TICKET SALES: 805/756-2787

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2011 La Guitarra California Festival Held at the PAC

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA – Cal Poly Arts presents the 2011 La Guitarra California Festival on September 9 - 11 at the Performing Arts Center.

This expansive three-day classical guitar event will present 20 world-renowned artists over 16 events, including 11 concerts, four master classes, a free lecture, dozens of luthier exhibits, and a display of the famous Forderer Collection of Rare and Historic Guitars.

“La Guitarra California has grown over the past decade to become one of the premier classical guitar events in the world,” said Steve Lerian, Director of Cal Poly Arts. “We are honored to present to our Central Coast audience these concerts and master classes, featuring some of the greatest artists to have ever mastered this instrument.”

Full Festival details and concert scheduling and pricing are available at www.laguitarracalifornia.com.

LINE-UP:

The Festival's internationally acclaimed artists hail from Belgium, Israel, England, Tunisia, Spain, The Czech Republic, France, Sweden, Guam, Croatia, and the United States.

The Friday, September 9 Festival Opening Night concerts in the Cohan Center feature The San Francisco Guitar Quartet (7 p.m.) and classical music’s living legend Pepe Romero at 8 p.m. *(Both concerts sold as one ticket)*

Romero, who continues to mesmerize audiences throughout the world, has performed thousands of concerts with the legendary Romero Quartet and as a solo instrumentalist. Maestro Romero is undeniably regarded as the “World Ambassador of Guitar.” *(Separate master class scheduled with artist)*

The SFGQ are proponents of new music as well as the classics, drawing from a rich background of musical traditions including classical, world/ethnic traditions, and improvisation. SFGQ members have each distinguished themselves as soloists and chamber musicians; the ensemble has received a Fulbright Scholarship and has brilliantly performed at Carnegie Hall.

Additional Festival artists performing at the Spanos Theatre September 10 & 11:

Ana Vidovic was performing internationally at age 11 and at age 13, had become the youngest student to be accepted at the eminent National Music Academy in Zagreb, Croatia. She has received First Place Awards at The Albert Augustine International Competition in England, The Fernando Sor Competition in Italy, and The Francisco Tarrega Competition in Spain. *(Separate master class scheduled with artist)*

Adam Del Monte is one of the most recognized guitarists in both classical and flamenco styles, becoming the First Prize winner of the 1997 International Stotsenberg Guitar Competition and performing at the prestigious Guitar Foundation of America Conventions in 1996, 1997 and 1999. *(Separate master class scheduled with artist)*

Thomas Viloteau was born in Paris and at age 15, was enrolled at Spain's Barcelona Conservatory of Music and later trained at the French National Conservatory of Music. After a stunning 2009 performance at The Kennedy Center, Viloteau received a scholarship for San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Roland Dyens has been recognized for decades as one of classical guitar's greatest performers, improvisers, and composers; his many compositions and arrangements are performed by musicians globally and taught in music schools the world over. *(Separate master class scheduled with artist)*

Pavel Steidl is a unique musician, a spectacular guitarist, and a master teacher. In 2003, the classical guitar magazine *GuitArt* named him one of the top eight guitarists in the world. His highly expressive performances on authentic period instruments add a wonderful dimension to his exceptional performances.

Raphaella Smits was born Belgium and received her first guitar at age 11. At 13, she was accepted into The Music Academy in Mechelen, Belgium and was later accepted into The Royal Conservatory of Antwerp and The Royal Conservatory of Music in Brussels. She was the first woman awarded Spain's coveted First Prize at The Francisco Tarrega International Competition.

Johannes Möller earned a Bachelor of Music With Honours from the Royal College of Music in London and a Masters Degree at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague. In 2005, he became the first guitarist ever to win The Bromsgrove Festival International Young Musicians Platform in England; in 2007, he became the first guitarist ever to win The Junggrenska Competition in Sweden; in 2010, he won the 2010 Guitar Foundation of America International Competition.

Chris Burton Jácome continued his training while living in Sevilla, Spain, studying flamenco guitar. His music has been heard on PBS television and in movie soundtracks. He is the musical director for the 22-member company, Calo Flamenco; other members of his quartet are dancers Marielena Jácome and Martín Gaxiola and singer Olivia Rojas.

Calmenco! includes three highly-acclaimed artists: Paso Robles' own Tony Harmon, Santa Barbara's Ray Pannell, and Spanish-born Johnny Sandoval.

A master musician in his own right, guest lecturer and Cal Poly professor Dr. Craig Russell often speaks at musicological conferences and conventions in North America, Mexico, and Spain and has published over forty articles on eighteenth-century Hispanic studies, Mexican Cathedral music, the California Missions, baroque guitar music, and American popular culture. He is the author of two well-received books and his 1992 release, *Concierto Romantico* for guitar and orchestra, received enthusiastic reviews in *Soundboard, New Times*, and the *Los Angeles Times,* among others. Dr. Russell will be presenting a free lecture at the Festival on Sunday, Sept. 11.

Master class and concert tickets range from $10 - $38 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. *(Closed Mondays through Labor Day)*

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.

Festival support is provided in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Show sponsors include James Landreth in memory of Esther Landreth, Dr. Joseph Schwartz in memory of Dr. Nancy Speed, Tom & Susan Stenovec, and the Savarez Company of France.

Support also provided by KCBX 90.1 FM and by The D'Addario Music Foundation.

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

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