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Cal Poly Performing Ensembles to Present Musical Extravaganza

At Parents Weekend Concert Oct. 28

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly's 2011 Parents Weekend will kick off with a musical extravaganza emceed by Music Department Chair W. Terrence Spiller at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28, in Harman Hall of the Performing Arts Center.

The Parents Weekend Ensemble Showcase will feature all Cal Poly Music Department major performing ensembles. They include the Cal Poly Symphony, Cal Poly Choirs (PolyPhonics and The University Singers), University Jazz Band I, Arab Music Ensemble and the Cal Poly Wind Ensemble.

Spiller will join the Cal Poly Symphony in a performance of the first movement of Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor, a work written when the composer was only 24. Spiller, a prizewinner in international piano competitions, has performed across the country as soloist, recitalist, chamber musician and accompanist. The symphony will be directed by David Arrivé.

The Cal Poly Choirs, conducted by Thomas Davies, will follow. The University Singers will begin with what many consider to be one of Giovanni Palestrina's most beautiful motets, "Sicut cervus." They will also sing a well-known French tongue-twister, "Ton Thé," arranged by Susan Brumfield.

PolyPhonics will perform the first of the "Trois Chansons" by Claude Debussy, followed by Ralph Vaughan Williams' setting of Shakespeare's text from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" titled "Over Hill, Over Dale."

The choirs will combine for a performance of Benjamin Britten's "Festival Te Deum." Paul Woodring and Susan Azaret Davies are the accompanists for the choral ensembles.

The University Jazz Band 1, led by guest director Andy McMahan, will perform a program of big band swing classics, with Music major Olivia Tenney as the featured vocalist.

The Arab Music Ensemble, directed by visiting conductor Bahram Osqueezadeh, will perform classic pieces of popular music from shared music traditions of the Middle East.

The program will conclude with a performance by the Wind Ensemble. Zack Fisher, a senior Music major, will be featured as a guest tuba soloist in a performance of J. B. Arban's "Variations on 'Carnival of Venice.'"

Tickets are \$15 and \$13 for the public, \$14 and \$12 for senior citizens and \$8 students. They can be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays or 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call SLO-ARTS (756-2787).

A 10 percent discount is given to patrons who buy season tickets to four Music Department events through the Performing Arts Ticket office; a 15 percent discount is given on tickets to five or more events.

The concert is sponsored by the Cal Poly 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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