Cal Poly Wind Bands Celebrate American Music at March 2 Concert

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Local virtuoso performers Jennifer Dodson and Shelly Granger will be the guest solo artists for Cal Poly's Wind Bands Winter Concert at 8 p.m. Friday, March 2, in Harman Hall in the Performing Arts Center's Christopher Cohan Center.

The concert, titled “Wind Band Masterworks: ‘The American Dream,’ ” will feature the university’s 65-member Wind Ensemble and 70-member Wind Orchestra in celebration of music written by such great American composers such as Percy Grainger, Vincent Persichetti, John Williams and James Barnes. It will also showcase two great California musicians: Jennifer Dodson on horn and Shelly Granger on flute.

The Wind Ensemble will feature a performance of Grainger's band masterpiece “Lincolnshire Posy.” Composed in 1937 for the American Bandmasters Association, this piece is regularly listed as one of the top five most important works ever written for concert band. The work is adapted from several folk songs that Grainger collected on a 1905-06 trip to Lincolnshire, England.

The Wind Orchestra will perform the five-movement epic “Of Sailors and Whales” in tribute to its composer, W. Francis McBeth, who died in January. Subtitled “Five Scenes from Melville,” this audience favorite provides a musical portrait for several characters from “Moby Dick” and includes a brief narration from the book before each movement is performed. Music Professor Alyson McLamore will narrate.

Granger will perform the famous solo flute work titled Concertino by Cécile Chaminade. Jennifer Dodson will perform a lyrical French horn solo, titled “Sunrise,” by Paul Hart, as well as a surprise encore selection.

The program will also feature “Divertimento” by Vincent Persichetti, “March from ’1941’” by John Williams, selections from Symphony No. 3 by James Barnes, “Esprit de Corps” by Robert Jager, and more.

Cal Poly Director of Bands Andrew McMahan and Associate Director of Bands Christopher J. Woodruff will conduct the concert.

Tickets are $14 and $12 for general admission, $12 and $10 for seniors, and $10 and $8 for students. They are on sale at the Performing Arts Ticket Office 11 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 Winter Band Concert is sponsored by Cal Poly’s Music Department, College of Liberal Arts, and Instructionally Related Activities program.