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NEWS RELEASE FROM CAL POLY ARTS:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Met: Live in HD “Manon” Opera Screen on April 7

Massenet’s “MANON” – **Saturday, April 7, 2012 at 9 a.m.**

METROPOLITAN OPERA “LIVE IN HD” SERIES

Co-presented by CAL POLY ARTS and OPERA SAN LUIS OBISPO

Massenet's opera centers on its charming but contrary heroine, the vivacious young Manon who longs for luxury and excitement. We first encounter her en route to a convent, where her family is sending her to be educated.

Along the way, she falls in love with the young student Des Grieux, and, impetuously, runs off with him. She soon leaves him, however, to become the mistress of a rich nobleman. Thus begins her descent into criminality and depravity, all too soon dragging the besotted Des Grieux with her, until she is imprisoned.

Despite its tragic story, the opera is full of French charm and vitality – typified by the ambiguous Manon herself. Her plight is touching because of the subtle play of innocence and calculation in her character. The score contains many sparkling arias and ensembles, moving rapidly from moods of exuberance to tenderness, with perfect dramatic timing.

Anna Netrebko's dazzling portrayal of the tragic heroine in Laurent Pelly's new production comes to the Metropolitan Opera from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Piotr Beczala and Paulo Szot also star, with the Met's Principal Guest Conductor, Fabio Luisi, at the podium.

Run Time: 4 hours. Two intermissions.

Local screening sponsored by The Neon Carrot Restaurant.

The Met: Live in HD is the Metropolitan Opera's Peabody and Emmy Award-winning series of performances transmitted live by satellite in high-definition to more than 1400 movie theaters around the world.

General admission/seating. Ticket prices include all facility fees and PAC-sponsored parking.

\$25 General; \$10 students with valid I.D.

Tickets may be purchased at the Performing Arts Center Ticket Office, 11 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.

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

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