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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Music Faculty to Present 'Evening of American Song'

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- The Cal Poly Music Department will present "An Evening of American Song" at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, in the Pavilion of the Performing Arts Center on campus.

Katherine Arthur, soprano, and Susan Azaret Davies, piano, will perform two famous works: Aaron Copland's "Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson" and Samuel Barber's "Knoxville: Summer of 1915." Songs composed by Cal Poly faculty member Kenneth S. Habib, set to poems by E.E. Cummings, will also be performed.

The "Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson" was Copland's first major vocal piece, and some consider it one of the great song cycles of the 20th century. Barber's "Knoxville: Summer of 1915," set to excerpts from James Agee's poem, is a nostalgic look at Agee's native Knoxville, Tenn. The work depicts an evening in the American South, narrated by a child who seems, at times, to transform into an adult. Both parts are sung solo soprano.

Habib's "Poems of E.E. Cummings" is a cycle of eight poems that have been arranged in pairs. The opening pair is from "Chansons Innocentes."

Arthur, who teaches voice at Cal Poly, has appeared as a soloist with the Southwest Chamber Music Ensemble, Santa Barbara Oratorio Society and Pacific Repertory Opera. As a guest artist in Europe, she recorded works for the Austrian Radio.

Davies has performed at the Oregon Bach Festival, Cabrillo Festival, Long Beach Bach Festival and San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival. She has also performed in concerts with the Gachinger Kantorei of Stuttgart, Germany, and the New York Philharmonic. She teaches piano and accompanies at Cal Poly and for the Cuesta Master Chorale.

Tickets are \$10 for the public and \$8 for seniors and students. 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. They are on sale at the Performing Arts Ticket Office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call SLO- ARTS (756-2787).

The recital is sponsored by the Cal Poly Music Department and College of Liberal Arts. For more information, call 756-2406.

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