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For Immediate Release

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TICKET SALES: 805/756-2787

Cal Poly Arts Brings Celtic Music with Great Big Sea from Canada Oct. 5

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Canadian Celtic music group Great Big Sea has been delivering great big shows for over a decade. Their unique sound will fill the Spanos Theatre on Sunday, October 5 at 7 p.m.

Join Cal Poly Arts audiences in experiencing what Canadians have known for years: Great Big Sea equals great big fun. "Their music is unique, their instrumentation is flawless, and their voices are all tremendous." (Richmond Times-Dispatch)

"The Barenaked Ladies aren't the only pop treasures to come out of the Great White North...Great Big Sea is charming." (Orange County Register)

Alan Doyle, Séan McCann and Bob Hallett formed the traditional yet diverse Newfoundland musical group in the early 90s, "firing up" growing audiences in local clubs and pubs. Although there is no single word to describe the unique sound of Great Big Sea, their music is an energetic combination of Celtic rock and sing-along folk, while remaining unmistakably traditional.

Hallett, the band's multi-instrumentalist, further describes their music this way: "(GBS) is a really aggressive folk band that marries traditional Celtic music with modern rhythms. A lot of this music has four or five hundred years of history behind it, so when you marry that to modern ideas, you've got something that's already a proven product." In reviewing a GBS concert, the Toronto Star wrote, "The band took the level of exuberance as high as it would go without breaking things and the crowd was there for every ever-loving step."

"We are showmen and we live and die by our trade," offers electrified lead singer Doyle. "I am drawn to the light and I was born to burn." The innovative band released their Warner debut album, *Up*, in the spring of 1995. Extensive touring and a raucous live show quickly propelled the record to Platinum.

Their next effort, *Play*, enjoyed even bigger success. U.S. recording executives took notice, GBS was subsequently signed to the Sire label, and the GBS sound was launched in America. Critical accolades and a solid fan following immediately ensued.

While they may improvise and grow within their music, the band always is true to their musical roots. "Our music is of Newfoundland," explains McCann. "It would be impossible to do what we do if we were from anywhere else. Our songs come from the sea and the cliffs and the rocks and all the other natural beauties our country provides. Without her, we simply couldn't exist."

However, when referring to the recent June release of their ninth album, *Fortune's Favour*, Hallett says, "We wanted to push ourselves, to be surprised by our own music." *Fortune's Favour* sees GBS boldly embracing new sounds and new ideas, pushing the boundaries of their own art and music.

In their lifelong quest to marry the traditional music of Newfoundland with their own pop explorations, this release is a new benchmark. "This album is a stew of all our influences," adds Hallett. "Bob Marley, the Clash, Fergus O'Byrne, Ron Hynes, Johnny Cash, Donal Lunny, and who knows what else!"

For more artist information and audio/video samples, please visit www.greatbigsea.com.

General public tickets for the performance are \$38, with student discounts available on all seats, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 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. Order online at www.calpolyarts.org. Sponsored by Frank and Claudia Gilbert. For more information on all Cal Poly Arts events, including audio and video samples, please visit www.calpolyarts.org.

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