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California Polytechnic State University

Oct. 20, 2006

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EDITORIAL CONTACT: LISA WOSKE - 805/756-7110

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## **Pink Martini Shaking Things Up in Harman Hall Nov. 14**

SAN LUIS OBISPO – “If life is a cabaret, Pink Martini is the band in the existential orchestra pit.” (CMJ News)

The recipe for a Pink Martini concert is known the world over: mix equal parts Cuban rumba, chamber music, and Parisian cafe songs; shake with jazz and Latin rhythms; and serve on a stage filled with talented musicians and one starry-voiced, pitch-perfect chanteuse.

On Tuesday, November 14 at 8 p.m. in Harman Hall at the Christopher Cohan Center, Cal Poly Arts proudly presents the Central Coast premiere of Pink Martini, performing with the San Luis Obispo Symphony, Michael Nowak, music director.

Somewhere between a 1930s Cuban dance orchestra, a classical chamber music ensemble, a Brazilian marching street band, and Japanese film noir is the 11-member Pink Martini.

Part language lesson and part Hollywood musical, the Oregon-based “little orchestra” was created in 1994 by Harvard graduate and classically-trained pianist Thomas M. Lauderdale to play at political fundraisers for progressive causes such as civil rights, affordable housing, and public broadcasting.

“We’re kind of like musical archaeologists, bringing melodies and rhythms from different parts of the world together to create something which is modern,” says Lauderdale.

“It’s like an urban musical travelogue....We’re very much an American band and I think as citizens of the world and in a sense as musical ambassadors for the United States, we must always strive to study the languages, customs, and histories of other countries.

“One of our goals is to make music which has broad appeal to people, no matter who they are or where they come from... Music should be like a wonderful dinner party. I don’t want to always sit next to people who share my opinions,” Lauderdale continues.

“I think each of us wants a hugely diverse tapestry of influences in our lives. That’s what makes life much more interesting. Every day becomes an adventure.”

Equally at home performing its romantic, multi-lingual repertoire on concert stages and in dimly-lit bars, Pink Martini draws a wildly diverse crowd.

The ensemble made its European debut at the Cannes Film Festival in 1998 and in the years following, toured throughout Europe, including France, the UK, Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, and Greece, as well as Turkey, Taiwan, Lebanon, and the United States.

Pink Martini has performed with symphony orchestras across the country, including the Boston Pops, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, sharing that bill with Sergio Mendes.

Other appearances include "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," the opening party of the New York Museum of Modern Art, the Kennedy Center, and the William Morris Agency's 100th birthday celebration with soul legend, Al Green.

Pink Martini's debut album, "Sympathique," has sold over 700,000 copies worldwide. Nominated for "Song of the Year" and "Best New Artist" in France's Victoires de la Musique Awards, "Sympathique" has gone Platinum in France and Gold in Switzerland, Greece, and Turkey.

The group then released its highly-anticipated second album, "Hang on Little Tomato," which has sold over 475,000 copies worldwide and gone Gold in France, Canada, Greece, and Turkey.

Tickets for the performance range from \$36 to \$48, with student discounts available, 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 on-line at [www.pacslo.org](http://www.pacslo.org).

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**Cal Poly Public Affairs**

California Polytechnic State University

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

805.756.7266

[polynews@calpoly.edu](mailto:polynews@calpoly.edu)