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**Cal Poly Arts Brings Classical Music with a Comic Twist:
PDQ Back Plays April 30 at the PAC**

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Composer, musician, author, and satirist Peter Schickele is internationally recognized as one of the most versatile and entertaining artists in the field of music. After 40 years of mischief and with the help of his alter ego, P.D.Q. Bach, Schickele -- the maestro of musical mayhem -- has convinced millions of fans that classical music audiences do indeed have a sense of humor.

On Saturday, April 30, 2005 at 8 p.m. in the Christopher Cohan Center, Peter Schickele joins the San Luis Obispo Symphony and San Luis Obispo Vocal Arts Ensemble in "PDQ BACH – The Vegas Years."

In describing the evening presented by Cal Poly Arts, director Ralph Hoskins explains, "Peter Schickele serves more as ringmaster than host for the event. The Symphony and Vocal Arts will be demonstrating some unique skill sets working under the wild and whimsical artistic direction of Maestro Schickele."

The program reads like a satire itself, with offerings such as P.D.Q. Bach's "Cantata No. 11, 532.9: 'Gott sei dank, daß heute Freitag ist' ("Thank God It's Friday"), S. 5" and selections from P.D.Q.'s "Oedipus Tex, S. 150."

The repertoire also includes the traditional "Swing Sweet, Low Chariot," as well as Schickele's own "Songs from Shakespeare" and "If Love Is Real."

All of Schickele's orchestral programs -- "Peter Schickele Meets P.D.Q. Bach" and "P.D.Q. Bach Strikes Back" as well as his non-orchestral program, "P.D.Q. Bach and Peter Schickele: The Jekyll and Hyde Tour" -- have received wide acclaim.

The following is an excerpt from Schickele's official biography of P.D.Q. Bach:

"The conspiracy of silence that has surrounded P.D.Q. Bach (1807-1742?) for two centuries began with his own parents. He was the last and the least of the great Johann Sebastian Bach's twenty-odd children, and he was certainly the oddest.

"His father ignored him completely, setting an example for the rest of the family (and indeed for posterity), with the result that P.D.Q. was virtually unknown during his own lifetime; in fact, the more he wrote, the more unknown he became.

"(P.D.Q.) finally attained total obscurity at the time of his death, and his musical output would probably have followed him into oblivion had it not been for the zealous efforts of Prof. Peter Schickele.

"These efforts have even extended themselves to mastering some of the rather unusual instruments for which P.D.Q. liked to compose, such as the left-handed sewer flute, the windbreaker, and the bicycle."

Schickele's works -- well in excess of 100 for symphony orchestras, choral groups, chamber ensembles, voice,

movies and television -- have given him "a leading role in the ever-more- prominent school of American composers who unselfconsciously blend all levels of American music." (*The New York Times*)

Schickele has performed with many prestigious American orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, the Boston Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic and his music has been recorded on virtually every classical music label.

His commissions include works for the National Symphony, the St. Louis Symphony, the Minnesota Opera, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Audubon and Lark string quartets, and the Minnesota Orchestral Association. Schickele has also penned compositions for distinguished instrumentalists and singers.

Recent premieres include the "Symphony No. 2 'The Sweet Season,'" premiered by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the "Concerto for Cello and Orchestra 'In Memoriam F.D.R.," performed by Paul Tobias with the Pasadena Symphony, and the "New Goldberg Variations" for cello and piano, performed by Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax.

Schickele is the popular host of the award-winning syndicated weekly radio program, "Schickele Mix," heard nationwide on Public Radio International since January 1992.

Projects have included arranging one of the musical segments for the Disney animated feature film "Fantasia 2000" and creating the musical score for the film version of Maurice Sendak's children's classic "Where the Wild Things Are," and narrating another Sendak classic, "In the Night Kitchen."

As a lecturer, Schickele has appeared in cities coast to coast; the Smithsonian Institution presented him in a series of four integrated lectures in 1997 and, during the Chicago Symphony's 2004-05 season, he is scheduled to serve as a concert host for a new and popular series for three different programs with that orchestra.

Vanguard Label has released 11 albums of the fabled genius P.D.Q.'s works, as well its own recent compilation on CD, "The Dreaded P.D.Q. Bach Collection." Random House has published 11 editions of Schickele's "The Definitive Biography of P.D.Q. Bach."

Schickele received four consecutive Grammy Awards for "P.D.Q. Bach: 1712 Overture and Other Musical Assaults," "Oedipus Tex and Other Choral Calamities," "WTWP—Classical Talkity-Talk Radio," and "Music for an Awful Lot of Winds and Percussion," winners in the Best Comedy Album category each year from 1990 through 1993, respectively.

In the course of his career, Schickele has also created music for four feature films, including the prize-winning "Silent Running," as well as for documentaries, television commercials, and several "Sesame Street" segments.

He was also one of the composer/lyricists for the musical "Oh, Calcutta!" and has arranged for Joan Baez, Buffy Sainte-Marie, and other folk singers.

Tickets for the performance range from \$32 - \$44, 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.

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- 30 -

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