

California Polytechnic State University

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### **Classical Pianist Stephen Hough to Play at Cal Poly Oct. 14**

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Possessing "a luminous, envelopingly warm tone and enough technique for any two ordinary pianists" (Time Magazine), classical pianist Stephen Hough makes his Central Coast debut in the Spanos Theatre at 8 p.m. on October 14, 2004.

Widely known for his keyboard prowess, precision, strength, and speed, Stephen Hough has emerged as a unique presence on the international concert scene.

He has performed in recital at Carnegie Hall and The Louvre, made more than 30 critically-praised recordings, and has appeared with major orchestras around the world.

In recognition of his achievements and contributions to classical music, Hough was awarded a 2001 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship ("genius grant").

Presented by Cal Poly Arts, the evening program includes Berg's "Sonata, Op.1," Schubert's "Sonata in G Major, D.894," the Granados "Vales Poeticos," "Evocacion and Triana (from Iberia)" by Albeniz, Debussy's "La Soir dans Grenade (from Estampes)" and "La Puerta del Vino (from Preludes Book II)," Ravel's "Alborado del Gracioso," and "Caprice Espagnol, Op.37" by Moszkowski.

Since winning First Prize in the Naumburg International Piano Competition in 1983, Hough has performed with most of the major American orchestras and numerous European orchestras with conductors including Abbado, Dohnanyi, Dutoit, Gergiev, Levine, Rattle, Salonen, Temirkanov, Tilson Thomas, and Vanska.

Hough regularly gives recitals in major halls and series all over the world and has been a frequent guest at many international festivals including Aspen, Ravinia, Tanglewood, Blossom, the Hollywood Bowl, Mostly Mozart, Edinburgh, Salzburg and the Proms, where he has appeared over a dozen times.

Recent performance highlights include engagements with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the National Symphony; tours throughout the U.S. with the BBC Scottish Orchestra and the Australian Chamber Orchestra; appearances at Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center with the Philharmonia Orchestra led by Vladimir Ashkenazy; and recitals in Pittsburgh, Seattle, Vancouver and Toronto.

European appearances include performances with the London Symphony Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; recitals at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and the Royal Festival Hall in London; and chamber music projects at the Salzburg Festival, Konzerthaus in Vienna, and Wigmore Hall.

In addition, Hough returned to Japan to appear with the NHK Symphony Orchestra and at the Pacific Music Festival.

Stephen Hough has made over thirty recordings, many of which have won international prizes, including Gramophone's "Record of the Year" award for "The Complete Works for Piano and Orchestra of Saint-Saëns" with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and for his 1996 recording of concertos by Scharwenka and Sauer.

Additional recordings include Mendelssohn's complete works for piano and orchestra, Lowell Liebermann's two piano concertos, Mompou's solo piano music (a Diapason d'Or and Gramophone Award winner), and his 1998 release, "New York Variations," which was chosen as "Best Classical CD of the Year" by Time magazine.

Hough's latest releases are solo recital discs of Hummel, Schubert, Liszt, Brahms and various English composers

As a chamber musician, Stephen Hough collaborates on a regular basis with colleagues such as Steven Isserlis, Joshua Bell, Pamela Frank, Tabea Zimmermann and Michael Collins.

He has also performed with the Cleveland, Emerson, and Juilliard Quartets and recorded the complete sonatas of Beethoven and Brahms with violinist Robert Mann.

A pre-concert lecture will be held by Cal Poly Music professor William T. Spiller, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Philips Recital hall.

Tickets for the performance are \$32 & \$38, 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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