

California Polytechnic State University

May 3, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jo Ann Lloyd  
(805) 756-1511

### **Cal Poly Symphony Concert May 23 To Be 'Swanson's Swan Song'**

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- The Cal Poly Symphony's Spring Concert on Sunday, May 23, will be "Swanson's Swan Song" -- the final symphony performance to be conducted by its founder, Clifton Swanson, who will retire from Cal Poly at the end of spring quarter after 37 years.

The concert, at 2 p.m. in Harman Hall in the Performing Arts Center, will open with the "Háry János Suite" by Zoltán Kodály. Theresa Dimond will be the featured soloist playing the cimbalom (Hungarian hammered dulcimer).

Dimond is timpanist and percussionist with the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival and Los Angeles Opera, as well as with numerous Hollywood studios. She has performed the "Háry János Suite" as soloist with the Pasadena Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. She also has been asked to perform it under the baton of Kurt Masur (former conductor of the New York Philharmonic and currently with the London Philharmonic) at Tanglewood.

The concert will also include performances by winners of the Music Department's Solo Competition: Jordan Ray, euphonium, will perform movements 2 and 3 of Mozart's Concerto for Bassoon in B-flat major; Jessica Reed and Jonathan Lopez will sing "Pa Pa Pa" from Mozart's opera "The Magic Flute"; and Brittany Ridley, viola, will perform "Trauermusik" (Music of Mourning) by Paul Hindemith. Ray, Reed and Ridley are music majors, and Lopez is an architecture major.

The program will conclude with Vaughan Williams' "Serenade to Music" featuring PolyPhonics and guest soloists.

A retirement reception honoring Swanson will be held immediately after the concert. Concert-goers planning to attend are asked to notify the Music Department as soon as possible at 756-2406.

The Music Department is compiling anecdotes and well-wishes for a memory book for Swanson. Those wanting to contribute can do so online at <http://music.calpoly.edu>.

Swanson has had a tremendous impact – both on and off campus – since arriving at Cal Poly in 1967. With the exception of three years, he has been chair of the Music Department since 1983.

He has received numerous awards, including the university's President's Award for Contributions to the Arts of San Luis Obispo County. He was a member of the steering committee for design and construction of the Performing Arts Center, a member of the board of directors of Cal Poly Arts, and a member of the Advisory Board for the Performing Arts Center.

As a bass player, he has performed with many organizations and in numerous festivals, including the Group for Contemporary Music in Portland, the Peter Britt Festival and the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival. He is currently principal bass for the San Luis Obispo Symphony.

He played a major role in the evolution of music in San Luis Obispo County. He co-founded the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival in 1970 and conducted the San Luis Obispo Symphony from 1971 to 1984. He was also instrumental in turning the Performing Arts Center into a reality.

“As a colleague and as chair of the department, Clif has left his stamp on every aspect of the program,” said Music Professor Craig Russell. “During his years at the helm, our fledgling music major program – which he helped conceive and implement – has flourished and grown into one of the most respected in the state.

“He is an artist, an inspired teacher, a wise leader, a ‘softy,’ a listener, a Mozart expert, a kind and benevolent human being and a dear friend. It already hurts to think how much we’ll miss him.”

Tickets to the concert are \$6 to \$11 and can be bought at the Performing Arts Ticket Office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

The concert is sponsored by Cal Poly's Music Department, College of Liberal Arts, and

Instructionally Related Activities program. For more information on the concert or Swanson's retirement reception, call the Music Department at 756-2406.

###

*(NOTE TO EDITORS: A photo of Clif Swanson is attached.)*

[CP Home](#) • [CP Find It](#) [Get Adobe Reader](#) • [Microsoft Viewers](#)

[Events](#) • [Recent Releases](#) • [Cal Poly Magazine](#) •  
[Cal Poly Update E-newsletter](#) • [Contact Public Affairs](#) • [Alumni](#) • [Giving](#) • [Athletics](#)

**Cal Poly Public Affairs**

California Polytechnic State University

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

805.756.7266

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