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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Scots Highlanders Bring British Pageantry to Cohan Center Feb. 27

SAN LUIS OBISPO - British pageantry and patriotism will fill the Christopher Cohan Center stage as the Band of the Grenadier Guards and the Pipes, Drums, and Highland Dancers of the Scots Highlanders make a tour stop in San Luis Obispo on Thursday, February 27, at 8 p.m.

Cal Poly Arts presents the Band of the Grenadier Guards and Scots Highlanders, who are parts of Regiments in her Majesty's Forces and represent two of Great Britain's most acclaimed, honor-bound military bands.

"By the time the program closed...the audience was on its feet, swept away in a tide of British patriotism," wrote the Ft. Worth Star-Telegram.

The evening will showcase their high standards of musical excellence, which have been legendary for hundreds of years.

The Band of the Grenadier Guards represents a historic regiment whose roots can be traced to 1656. Over the years, it was expanded to include French horns, clarinets, flutes, bassoons, drums, tambourines and, by the mid-19th century, saxophones.

The Band has played to enthusiastic reviews around the world and has performed for the Queen's Birthday and the Mounting of the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle.

In addition to their music, players also are trained as medics in wartime, including nuclear or chemical warfare. They served in that role as recently as the Gulf War. The Band is stationed at Wellington Barracks, near Buckingham Palace in central London.

The Highlanders Regiment dates to 1778, when troops were raised in the

Scottish Highlands to help fight revolutionaries in America and France. The modern regiment was created in 1994.

The Pipes and Drums are considered to be one of the world's foremost military bands. The regiment continues to recruit from the Highlands and islands of Scotland. Members sport three tartans: Mackenzie, Gordon, and Cameron, each of which is worn by all ranks.

These musicians are fully-trained combat soldiers. Over its two centuries of history, members have won 42 Victoria Crosses and 185 major battle honors for combat from Waterloo and Egypt to El Alamein and the Persian Gulf.

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 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088.

This performance is sponsored by Jim and Joan Sargen.

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