



## News

University News & Information

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California

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# Cal Poly Presents State's Best High School Musicians in Concert on April 17

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Cal Poly Music Department will host the All-State Festival Concert, featuring more than 130 of the state's best high school musicians, at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 17, in Harman Hall in the Performing Arts Center.

The All-State Festival Wind Orchestra, Festival Symphony Orchestra and Festival Jazz Band will perform as part of the closing festivities of Cal Poly's three-day Open House event. The festival's Solo Competition winner will also perform, accompanied by pianist Susan Azaret Davies.

### The Festival Symphony Orchestra

The Festival Symphony Orchestra will perform selections from Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet," one of the 20th century's most stunning ballet scores.

Conductor will be Peter Askim, a composer, conductor, bassist and music director and composer-in-residence of the Idyllwild Arts Academy. As a composer, he has been called a "Modern Master" by The Strad magazine and has had commissions and performances from such groups as the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and the Honolulu Symphony. His guest conducting engagements have included the Sewanee Philharmonia, the Oregon Festival of American Music, the Wroclaw (Poland) Chamber Orchestra Sotto Voce and the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra. A champion of new music, Askim has premiered numerous works and collaborated with leading interpreters internationally.

### The Festival Jazz Band

The Festival Jazz Band will perform "Rush" from "Cowboy Bebop," a Japanese anime series; "Tri-Bop," a modern jazz piece combining bebop with pointillistic effects; "A Night in Tunisia," a jazz classic written by Dizzy Gillespie and arranged by one of the greatest big band composers, Sammy Nestico; and "Jack the Knife," which is based on Kurt Weill's "Mack the Knife" from

his "Three Penny Opera."

Composer, educator and jazz/Latin-jazz pianist Mark Levine will serve as guest conductor. Levine has recorded and composed for such jazz greats as Mongo Santamaria, Freddie Hubbard, Tito Puente, Pete Escovedo, James Moody, Dizzy Gillespie, Chet Baker, Bobby Shew and Poncho Sanchez. Jazz Times magazine named his "Jazz Theory Book" as the No. 1 choice in its "recommended basic jazz library." He also wrote "The Jazz Piano Book," which has become the bible for jazz pianists worldwide.

### The Festival Wind Orchestra

The Festival Wind Orchestra will perform a traditional program of works written for concert band. The program includes such favorites as "Pineapple Poll" by Sir Arthur Sullivan, "Sea Songs" by Thomas Knox and "The Diplomat March" by John Philip Sousa.

Frank Wickes will conduct. Wickes served as the director of bands at Louisiana State University from 1980 until his retirement in 2010. Prior to this appointment, he worked for 14 years as a high school band director in Delaware and Virginia and seven years as a college band director in Florida. Wickes is in constant demand as a clinician, having served in that capacity throughout the U.S. and in England, South America, Mexico and Canada. He has conducted more than 40 all-state bands and appeared several times at the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Mich.

Tickets to the concert are \$16 and \$19 for the public, \$13 and \$15 for seniors, and \$8 and \$11 students. They can be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order, call SLO-ARTS (805-756-2787). Discounts are given to patrons who buy tickets to four or more Music Department season events.

The concert is sponsored by Cal Poly's College of Liberal Arts, Music Department and Instructionally Related Activities program. For more information, call the Music Department at 805-756-2406 or go to <http://music.calpoly.edu>.

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