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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Version of 'Lord of the Rings' Symphony To Highlight Cal Poly Pops Concert March 16

The 100 members of the two Cal Poly wind orchestras and the 87 members of the Pasadena Young Musicians Orchestra will perform a new version of Johan de Meij's Symphony No. 1, "Lord of the Rings," at the annual Cal Poly Pops Concert March 16.

The performance, at 8 p.m. in the Christopher Cohan Center's Harman Hall, marks the West Coast premiere of the rewritten symphony, which now includes a large section of violins, violas, cellos and string basses and extended wind and percussion sections.

"Composed prior to the recent motion picture, de Meij's work captures the spirit of the J.R.R. Tolkien trilogy with five movements, 'Gandalf,' 'Lothlorien,' 'Gollum,' 'Journey in the Dark' and 'Hobbits,'" said William Johnson, Cal Poly music professor and wind orchestras conductor. Cal Poly's wind orchestras will also perform "Symphonic Suite from Star Wars: Episode I, The Phantom Menace" by John Williams. The suite includes the main theme, "Duel of the Fates," "Anakin's Theme," "Augie's Great Municipal Band" and the end credits.

The Cal Poly Wind Orchestra One will play Philip Sparke's "Year of the Dragon," an original work for wind orchestra composed to mark the Chinese Year of the Dragon in 2000.

The Pasadena orchestra, under the direction of Jo Raquel Stoup, will perform "Rondo" from Concerto No. 1 for Clarinet by Carl Maria von Weber, Adagio Moderato from Concerto for Cello and Orchestra by Edward Elgar, and "Alasdroim" by Kirt Mosier.

The Pasadena Young Musicians Orchestra, now in its 45th year, has provided an important musical training ground for gifted young instrumentalists of high school and college age, according to Johnson. "The members of the orchestra are among the finest young musicians in the Los Angeles area. Considered to be one of the top youth orchestras in the nation, it draws large audiences at its regular concert series performed at Pasadena City College. The orchestra also performs at

music conferences throughout the West Coast," Johnson said.

The Cal Poly wind orchestras have grown into two ensembles of approximately 50 musicians each.

Wind Orchestra One recently toured New Zealand and Australia. While in Australia, the orchestra performed in the Sydney Town Hall and the Sydney Opera House. Its recent CD, titled "Speech of Angeles," has been distributed internationally and, according to Johnson, has received glowing reviews.

Tickets to the Pops Concert are \$9 to \$19 and can be bought at the Performing Arts Ticket Office 10 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call SLO-ARTS (756-2787); to order by fax, dial 756-6088.

The concert is sponsored by Cal Poly's College of Liberal Arts, Music Department, Instructionally Related Activities program and Associated Students Inc. For more information, call the Music Department at 756-2607

- 30 -

(NOTE TO EDITORS: Reporters and photographers are welcome to Cal Poly wind orchestra rehearsals 7-9 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in Room 216 in the Davidson Music Center. Several electronic images of the orchestras are available on the Web at <http://www.chris.com/wvj/WO-2000-Color-Protrait.jpg>; <http://www.chris.com/wvj/WO-2000Trom.jpg>; <http://www.chris.com/wvj/WO-2000-BC.jpg>; <http://www.chris.com/wvj/WO-2000JJTimp.jpg>; 20 <http://www.chris.com/wvj/wvj.jpg>; and <http://www.chris.com/wvj/WO-2000WVJ.jpg>. For an image of Cal Poly Music Professor and Wind Orchestras Conductor William Johnson, go to <http://www.calpoly.edu/~wvjohnso/>.)

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