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U. S. Coast Guard Band To Perform Free at Cal Poly July 16

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The U.S. Coast Guard Band will perform a free concert of American music Saturday, July 16, at 8 p.m. in Harman Hall of the Performing Arts Center's Christopher Cohan Center.

Under the direction of Cmdr. Kenneth W. Megan, the band will weave a rich tapestry of patriotic and classical works, including a wind ensemble arrangement of Aaron Copland's aria "The Promise of Living" from the opera "The Tender Land." Other classical pieces include Alfred Reed's "Armenian Dances," Morton Gould's "Santa Fe Saga," and Frank Ticheli's "Wild Nights."

In addition, the program will feature marches by John Philip Sousa, including "George Washington Bicentennial" and "Hands Across the Sea." Soprano soloist Musician 1st Class Megan Weikleenget will sing Samuel Augustus Ward's poignant "America the Beautiful." Trumpet soloists Chief Musician Gino Villarreal and Musician 1st Class Thomas Brown will perform George Bizet's robust "Carmen Fantasia."

The band will also play two original works for wind orchestra: Roger Nixon's "Music of Appreciation" and Mark Camphouse's "The Shining City," a work for band and narrator. "The Shining City" is based on speeches made by then-President Ronald Reagan. Richard E. Wyman will conduct the band, while principal conductor Megan will provide the narration.

The concert is part of the U.S. Coast Guard's California tour, which follows their appearances in Taiwan at the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles Conference.

The concert is free and open to the public; however, tickets are required. Tickets are available at the Performing Arts Ticket Office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Tickets are limited; there are no reserved seats. For more information, call SLO-ARTS (756-2787).

This concert is made possible through a donation by Jesse Norris, a local businessman. The concert is also sponsored by Cal Poly's College of Liberal Arts, Music Department, and The Tribune.

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