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CONTACT: LISA WOSKE

(805) 756-7110

Rythm and Blues Rocker Bonnie Raitt Plays Cal Poly Nov. 18

SAN LUIS OBISPO- Nine-time Grammy Award-winner Bonnie Raitt will bring her "Silver Lining Tour" to the Christopher Cohan Center November 18 as part of the Cal Poly Arts Center Stage Series. The concert starts at 8 p.m.

The concert will also feature an array of roots, R&B and funk music styles by special guests Jon Cleary and the Absolute Monster Gentlemen.

A best-selling artist, respected guitarist, expressive singer, and accomplished songwriter, Bonnie Raitt has become an institution in American music. In 2000, she was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Thirty years after her recording debut, Raitt's sixteenth album, "Silver Lining," continues her search for universal elements in diverse musical cultures to incorporate with her mastery of the blues.

Born to a musical family, Raitt is the daughter of celebrated Broadway singer John Raitt ("Carousel," "Oklahoma!," "The Pajama Game") and accomplished pianist/singer Marge Goddard. By the late '60s, she was deeply involved with folk music and the blues and was opening for artists such as Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker.

In 1971, she released her debut album, "Bonnie Raitt." Her interpretations of classic blues made a powerful critical impression. Over the next seven years, she recorded six albums and delivered her first hit single, a gritty Memphis/R&B arrangement of Del Shannon's "Runaway."

Three Grammy nominations followed in the 1980s and a compilation of highlights from the Warners albums, as well as two unreleased live duets, was released in 1990 as "The Bonnie Raitt Collection."

During this time, Raitt also devoted herself to playing benefits and speaking out in support of many social causes, including stopping the war in Central America, the Sun City anti-apartheid project, and the historic 1980 No Nukes concerts at Madison Square Garden.

She won four Grammy Awards in 1990: three for her "Nick of Time" album and one for her duet with John Lee Hooker. Raitt's album, "Luck of the Draw," (1991) featured two more hit singles, "Something to Talk About" and "I Can't Make You Love Me" and garnered three more Grammys. 1993's "Longing in Their Hearts" received a Grammy for Best Pop Album.

Raitt also has guest-performed on records by artists such as B. B. King, Keb' Mo, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Bruce Cockburn, as well as on tribute records for Richard Thompson, Lowell George, and Pete Seeger.

She picked up another Grammy for Best Rock Instrumental Performance for her collaboration on "SRV Shuffle," an all-star tribute to Stevie Ray Vaughan in 1996. She also performed with her father in concerts and on his Grammy-nominated album, "Broadway Legend."

Today, when not in the studio or on tour with her veteran band, Raitt continues to use her growing influence to affect the way music is perceived and appreciated in the world. In the foreword she wrote to "American Roots," the book based on last year's PBS series of the same name, she stated:

"I feel strongly that this appreciation needs to be out there so that black, Latino and all kids can understand the roots of their own musical heritage," she explains. "The consolidation of the music business has made it difficult to encourage styles like the blues, all of which deserve to be celebrated as part of our most treasured national resources."

Tickets for the performance are \$52 & \$58 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.

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Cal Poly Public Affairs

California Polytechnic State University

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

805.756.7266

polynews@calpoly.edu