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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## *Cal Poly Orchestis Dance Company to Present 'Suspension' Feb. 1-9, 2013*

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The exciting choreography and compelling themes of Cal Poly's Orchestis Dance Company will create a diverse performance at its 43rd anniversary concert, "Suspension," in February at the Spanos Theatre on campus.

Cal Poly's College of Liberal Arts Dance Program will present shows at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 1 and 2, and Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 7-9. A 2 p.m. matinee is scheduled Sunday, Feb. 3.

The Orchestis concert will feature the choreography of nationally acclaimed guest artists, Cal Poly faculty, local choreographers and selected top dance students. The dances this year embrace current trends and explore new perspectives on classic forms.

Guest choreographers include Keith Johnson, professor of dance at Cal State Long Beach and director of his own company, Keith Johnson/Dancers. Johnson has an impressive career as a dancer with the internationally acclaimed companies Ririe/Woodbury Dance Company, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, and Doug Varone and Dancers. As the recipient of two Lester Horton Awards for Outstanding Choreography, Johnson brings a fresh and creative voice to Cal Poly.

To create his dance for Orchestis, Johnson involved the Orchestis students in a unique collaborative process, resulting in movement vocabulary that is provocative and original, said Orchestis Director Diana Stanton. Johnson said his dance "is about bullying, name calling and hypocrisy."

Wade Madsen, an honored choreographer from Seattle and an Orchestis guest artist, created "Water," a lyrical and thought-provoking piece. "With subtle shifts in expression, sequences of movement mysteriously appear and transform throughout the dance," Stanton said. Madsen, professor of dance at Cornish College of the Arts, has since 1977 produced and performed his own work with his company, Wade Madsen and Dancers.

Cal Poly's Theatre and Dance Department is also honored to feature the work of new faculty member Christy McNeil from Seattle. She will present a new work that fuses classic jazz with contemporary rhythms and style.

This year's performance also includes works by other dance faculty and local choreographers, including "Elementary," a finale to music by Earth Wind and Fire created by Lisa Deyo. "'Elementary' expresses the importance of keeping dance, especially with others, as an integral part of our lives and demonstrates how dance impacts the world around us," Deyo said.

Cal Poly faculty members Michelle Walter and Stanton will present ambitious classical works in collaboration with Cal Poly's Music Department. Both choreographies will premiere in the Orchestis Concert and then will be performed with a live orchestra as part of the Cal Poly Symphony's Winter Concert on March 9 in the Performing Arts Center.

Tickets for "Suspension" are \$13 for the public and \$10 for students. Tickets are on sale at the Performing Arts Center ticket office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. They also can be ordered by phone at 805-756-4TIX, fax at 805-756-6088, or online at [www.pacslo.org](http://www.pacslo.org).

The Orchestis Dance Company concert is sponsored by Cal Poly's Theatre and Dance

Department, the College of Liberal Arts, and Instructionally Related Activities program. For more information, call Stanton at 805-756-2039.

*For high-resolution photos, contact Diana Stanton at 805-756-2039 or [dstanton@calpoly.edu](mailto:dstanton@calpoly.edu).*

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