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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Arab Music Ensemble to Perform March 16

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Cal Poly Arab Music Ensemble and renowned guest artists will perform classic and contemporary music and dance from the Eastern Mediterranean and larger Middle East at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 16, in the Spanos Theatre on campus.

The ensemble will present old and new vocal and instrumental selections by some of the most celebrated composers and performers from the Ottoman era to the present day. In addition to time-honored traditional repertoire, the concert will feature songs made famous by Umm Kulthum and Zakariya Ahmad of Egypt and Fairuz and the Rahbani Brothers of Lebanon.

Acclaimed guest artists on the program include Egyptian master violinist Adel Iskander Guirguis, distinguished Assyrian qanun player Ishmael, and Near Eastern percussion specialist David Martinelli. Also performing will be ensemble lead percussionist Keeth CrowHawk and San Luis Obispo dance instructor Sandra Sarrouf leading her troupe in folk dances.

The 30-member Cal Poly Arab Music Ensemble is under the direction of Music Department faculty member Kenneth S. Habib, a composer and performer with a doctorate in ethnomusicology and specializations in the Middle East and American popular music. Included on the program will be a suite of his original compositions presented by the guest artists in a chamber ensemble and with a dance choreographed by Sarrouf.

Tickets to the concert are \$12 for the public and \$9 for senior citizens and students. New pricing includes all Performing Arts Center fees, and event parking is sponsored by the PAC. Tickets are sold at the Performing Arts Ticket Office between noon and 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. To order by phone, call SLO-4TIX (756-4849).

The Music Department offers a 10 percent discount to patrons who buy season tickets to four of its events through the Performing Arts Ticket Office; a 15 percent discount is given on tickets to five or more 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.

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