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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## *Cal Poly Arab Music Ensemble to Perform June 8*

SAN LUIS OBISPO — The Cal Poly Arab Music Ensemble and guest artists will perform a diverse program of music and dance from the Eastern Mediterranean and larger region at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 8, in the Spanos Theatre on campus.

The concert will feature some of the most celebrated musical and poetic repertoire from the Middle Ages to the present. Renowned composers and performers include Farid Al-Atrash of Syria and Egypt, Umayma Khalil, Marcel Khalife, Fairuz, the Rahbani Brothers of Lebanon, and Nadhim Al-Ghazali of Iraq.

Musical treasures made famous by Zeki Muren of Turkey and by Vigen and Pouran of Iran will add dimension to the program by bringing historically interconnected cultures and shared traditions of song to the stage, said Ken Habib, director of the 40-member Cal Poly Arab Music Ensemble.

Habib is a composer and performer with a doctorate in ethnomusicology and specializations in the Middle East and American popular music. Critically acclaimed guest artists will include Egyptian violinist Adel Iskander Guirguis and Assyrian qanun player Ishmael. Ensemble lead percussionist Keeth CrowHawk will also perform, and San Luis Obispo dance director Sandra Sarrouf will lead her troupe in folk dances.

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 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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