Forbes Organ Recital Series Continues Oct. 7

SAN LUIS OBISPO – After years of artistic anticipation, the Forbes Pipe Organ is in place and in voice at the Performing Arts Center.

Praised for his technical facility, solid musicianship, and creative programming, Santa Clara University Music Dept. professor and premier organist James Welch leads the Forbes Pipe Organ Recital Series on Sunday, October 7, at 3 p.m. in Harman Hall/Christopher Cohan Center.

The Forbes Pope Organ Recital Series is sponsored by Bert and Candace Forbes and by Cal Poly Arts.

Welch has crafted a newly-revised afternoon program of imaginative works from around the world, highlighting two great monuments of organ literature: Bach’s exuberant “Prelude and Fugue in G major” and the virtuosic “Toccata from Symphony No. 5” by Charles-Marie Widor.

Welch joined the Santa Clara Music Department faculty in 1993 after having taught at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He also serves as organist of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto.

He received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance from Stanford University, where he studied under Herbert Nanney and served as Assistant University Organist.

Further studies have been with John Walker, Alexander Schreiner, Josef Doppelbauer of the Mozarteum Akademie in Salzburg, Austria, and with Jean Langlais, Basilique Ste. Clotilde, Paris, France.

Welch has concertized internationally, with performances in such prestigious venues as Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. He has also performed and taught in Beijing, Taipei, Hong Kong, New Zealand, and Jerusalem.

A particular interest of his is Latin American organ music. He received a Fulbright award to perform and conduct research on historic 19th-century Cavaillé-Coll organs in Brazil; since then, he has performed in Mexico and edited three volumes of organ music by contemporary Mexican composers.

Welch’s articles have appeared in The American Organist and The Diapason and he has released numerous CDs, recorded on a variety of organs in the United States and Europe. Many of his recorded performances have been aired on Public Radio International's "Pipedreams" series.

A pre-concert lecture with Welch will be held in the Philips Recital Hall at 2 p.m.

General public tickets for the performance range from $14 to $26, with student discounts available on all seats, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088.


The James Welch organ recital is also sponsored by the Foundation for the Performing Arts Center and dedicated to local arts patrons Gerry and Peggy Peterson, with additional support provided by KCBX 90.1 FM.

For more information on all Cal Poly Arts events, including audio and video samples, please visit...