SAN LUIS OBISPO - Five ensembles that include some of Cal Poly's finest student musicians will perform chamber music on Feb. 1 as a benefit to help the university's Wind Orchestra raise money to travel to New York to play at an international festival in April.

The Cal Poly String Ensemble, Trombone Choir, Wind Ensemble, String Trio and Saxophone Quartet will perform "A Night at the Mission" at 8 p.m. in the San Luis Obispo Mission.

The Cal Poly String Ensemble, under the direction of Music Professor Clifton Swanson, will perform excerpts from William Walton's "Henry V."

Roy Main, director of the Cal Poly Trombone Choir, will lead the ensemble of 12 trombone players in several traditional and contemporary works.

The Cal Poly Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Music Professor William Johnson, will feature student Kelli Johannesen in an excerpt of Mozart's Concerto for French horn.

The Cal Poly String Trio, with musicians on the violin, viola and cello, will perform varied chamber selections, and the Saxophone Quartet will perform numerous works for saxophone quartet.

The benefit concert is being held to raise money for the Cal Poly Wind Orchestra's participation in the New York Wind Band Festival in Carnegie Hall on April 3.

"It is the dream of every musician to have an opportunity to perform in Carnegie Hall," Music Professor Johnson said. "Each year the World Projects Corp. produces the International Music Festival in Sydney,
Australia, bringing musical groups from throughout the world to perform in the Sydney Opera House.

"As a result of Sept. 11, World Projects has decided to begin a new festival in New York City to bring in wind bands from throughout the United States and Japan to perform in Carnegie Hall. Cal Poly's Wind Orchestra and the University of Tennessee Wind Ensemble are the only two university groups to have been invited to perform at the festival's featured evening concert," Johnson said.

"It's hard to believe that anything could top the experience we had performing in the Sydney Opera House in June, 2000," Johnson said. "An evening concert in Carnegie Hall will certainly be on the same level and perhaps beyond. I am confident our talented young musicians will be up to the task. We will need lots of community support."

The cost per student, including airfare, is estimated at $1,100. Almost $50,000 of the $82,500 total needed to send all 75 student musicians has been raised.

"We still need more than $30,000 and are looking for public and individual support for this endeavor," Johnson said. "We are asking supporters to consider sponsoring, or partially sponsoring, one or more of the members of the ensemble, and, if possible, seek matching funds from corporations."

Donors will have their names listed in the Wind Orchestra's 2003 concert season program brochure. Donors giving $2,000 or more will be listed as a Gold Circle member, $1,000 or more as a Conductor's Circle member, $500 or more as a Benefactor; $250 or more, a Patron, $100 or more, a Sponsor, and $25 or more, a Friend.

Tickets to the concert cost $8 to $10 and can be bought at the Performing Arts Ticket Office 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon-4 p.m. Saturday. To order tickets, call 756-2787 (756-ARTS).

For more information on the concert or becoming a donor, contact Johnson at 756-2556 or wjohnson@calpoly.edu.

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