Cal Poly to Present 'Evening with Frederica von Stade' Nov. 21

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- World-class mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade, called by the New York Times "one of America's finest artists and singers," will hold a student class with select Cal Poly voice students at 5 p.m. Nov. 21 in the Pavilion of the Christopher Cohan Center.

The presentation, titled "An Evening with Frederica von Stade," is open to the public. Von Stade will hold an open class in which advanced voice students will be critiqued. Music Department faculty member Susan Azaret Davies will accompany on piano.

Von Stade's career has taken her to some of the world's great opera houses and concert halls. She debuted with New York's Metropolitan Opera in 1970 and has sung nearly all of her roles with that company. In January 2000, the Met celebrated her 30th anniversary with a new production of "The Merry Widow" specifically for her.

Von Stade has appeared with every leading American opera company, including the San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and Los Angeles Music Center Opera. In Europe new productions have been mounted for her at Teatro alla Scala, Covent Garden, the Vienna State Opera and the Paris Opera.

She appears regularly with some of the world's finest conductors and orchestras, including the Boston Symphony, New York Philharmonic, London Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Orchestra of La Scala and Washington's National Symphony.

Her artistry as a recitalist includes an extensive repertoire, ranging from the classical style of Mozart and Haydn to the popular songs of Broadway. She has been nominated for six Grammys, has recorded more than three dozen releases, and appears regularly on public television,
including performances on "Live from the Met." Von Stade holds honorary doctorates from Yale, Boston University, and her alma mater, the Mannes School of Music.

In 1983, then-president Ronald Reagan honored her with a White House award recognizing her significant contribution to the arts, and in 1998 von Stade was awarded France's highest honor in the arts.

Tickets cost $5 to $15 and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office 10 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call SLO-ARTS (756-2787); to order by fax: (805) 756-6088. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Cal Poly Music Department Scholarship Fund.

The event is sponsored by the Cal Poly Music Department and College of Liberal Arts. Call the Music Department at 756-2406 for more information.