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Cal Poly Alumnus to Give May 9 Recital of 17th Century Italian, French Music

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly Music Department alumnus Michael Leopold will present a recital titled “Tablature de theorbe: Italian and French Music for the Theorbo” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9, in Room 218 of the Davidson Music Center (Building 45) on campus.

Leopold will perform on the theorbo or chitarone, a large bass lute. The instrument was widely used in Italy in the final decades of the 1500s when there was a shift in music away from the “equal voice polyphony” of the Renaissance into what would become the Baroque era.

The program will feature music from the 17th century, including works by Girolamo Kapsberger, Alessandra Piccinini, Charles Hurel and Robert de Visée.

Leopold lives in Milan, Italy, and has performed as a soloist and as an accompanist throughout Australia, Chile, Europe, Japan, Mexico and the U.S. He earned a bachelor’s degree in music from Cal Poly in 1995, a master’s degree in historical plucked instruments from Sacramento State University in 1998, and a degree in lute and theorbo from L’Instituto di Musica Antica of the Accademia Internazionale della Musica in Milan, Italy, in 2004.

After his Cal Poly performance, he is scheduled to perform with the San Francisco Opera in its production of “Così fan tutte” and then with Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown, N.Y., for “Camelot.”

The recital is free and open to the public. The event is sponsored by Cal Poly’s Music Department and College of Liberal Arts and the Tevis Fund for Visiting Artists.

For more information, call the Music Department at 805-756-2406.

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