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April 5, 2017: Guitarist Lynn McGrath to Perform Masterpiece of Spanish Symbolist Poetry

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Lynn McGrath Guitar Recital - performing movements from "Platero y yo"
Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 8:00pm Cal Poly Pomona Music Recital Hall
Tickets \$15 general/\$10 student available online at csupomona.tix.com or the
Recital Hall Box Office #24-188 Mon-Fri 12-1pm and one hour before showtime

Lynn McGrath Guitar Master Class
Thursday, May 4 from 3-5:00pm Cal Poly Pomona Music Recital Hall
Free and Open to the Public

The Cal Poly Pomona Music Department is excited to welcome special guest artist Lynn McGrath who will perform a selection of movements from "Platero y yo" for guitar and narrator, a masterpiece of Spanish symbolist poetry by Nobel-prize winning poet Juan Ramón Jiménez set by the Italian composer Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. Lynn McGrath simultaneously performs as narrator and guitarist, a true feat of multi-tasking. The work is deeply moving; the music evocative and a perfect companion to the humble yet profound poetry describing life in Southern Spain and the deep friendship of the poet with the gentle donkey, Platero.

More Information about "Platero y yo"

The Book: "Platero y yo" was first the title of a work by Nobel Prize Laureate and Spanish poet Juan Ramón Jiménez. Described by scholars as one of the most read works in Spanish literature, second only to Cervantes' Don Quixote, it is an important part of the educational curriculum in Spain and Latin America, and has been translated into dozens of languages. It is a book of prose poetry written in an accessible style (its first publication was for a children's series in Spain), chronicling the daily life of the poet and his friendship with his dear companion, Platero. The setting is rural Spain, Andalucía, and the work is in part autobiographical, dealing with the poet's struggle with depression, and reveling in the joys of the countryside and quiet rural life. Written between 1907 and 1914, it is a touching work which offers insight into the early style of an important symbolist poet.

The Music: The great Italian composer, Mario Castelnuovo Tedesco immigrated to the United States to flee religious persecution in his home country. In the United States, he made his living primarily as a film composer, and is famous for having taught some of the great film composers of recent history including Henry Mancini and John Williams. Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco fell in love with Platero y yo in a period of creativity dedicated to writing pieces inspired by animals. The result was a setting of 28 of the 138 poems, coupling an already Romantic yet refined style of composition with the symbolist text. The setting of music with narration is not common, but here, the Spanish text fuses with the guitar music in such a way as to heighten the effect of both. In the work, Castelnuovo-Tedesco displays his own personal and nuanced interpretation of the text.

Lynn McGrath, guitar

... Lynn McGrath managed to achieve that elusive perfect artistic balance between poetry and music... she performed the challenging guitar part with apparent ease... wonderful timing, poise, wit, and grace... Anyone who loves either music or poetry would have been charmed, but those who appreciate both, not to mention stage presence and acting skills, were electrified by this tour-de-force of artistic multi-tasking. - Richard M. Long, Editor, Soundboard

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017

Master Class 3:00-5:00pm Free Music Recital Hall	Recital 8:00pm \$15/\$10 Music Recital Hall
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Buy tickets at the Box Office #24-188, 12-1pm Mon-Fri and one hour before showtime or online at csupomona.tix.com
Music Recital Hall #24-188, 909-869-3554, 3801 W. Temple Ave. Pomona, CA 91768 - Parking \$7

CAL POLY POMONA

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About the artist

Dr. Lynn McGrath has performed, lectured, and adjudicated on four continents. Having taken part in international festivals that have included the Nikšić Festival (Montenegro), Silesian Guitar Autumn Festival (Poland), the Guitar on the Mediterranean Festival and The Volterra Project (Italy), as well as The Guitar Foundation of America Festival (US), she has toured in Canada, the UK, Peru, and New Zealand, where she performed on New Zealand National Public Radio in 2015.

Dr. McGrath has also presented at the University of Colorado Boulder, Victoria Conservatory of Music, Oberlin Conservatory, the University of Veracruz, and Mannes College as well as for prominent venues that include the Troy Savings Hall (NY), The National Hispanic Cultural Center (Albuquerque), and the Skirball Cultural Center (LA). She has collaborated with larger groups as a soloist with the Orchestra of Northern New York, with the Albuquerque-based choir Quintessence, on Santa Fe Opera's 2014 season, and is a member of the acclaimed Tantalus Guitar Quartet, praised for their "*perfect ensemble*" (Reinischer Post, Germany).

After receiving degrees in Spanish Language and Literature as well as Education, she completed a music degree with Douglas Rubio at the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam (where she later taught as a full-time instructor) and earned a MM and DMA from the University of Southern California where she was a Teaching Assistant and multiple award recipient, studying with such luminaries as William Kanengiser, Pepe Romero, and James Smith.

Also active in administrative roles, Dr. McGrath has worked for the Guitar Foundation of America for ten years, having spent seven years as the Tour Director, and the last several years as the Director of Regional Symposia and the Artistic Director of the organization's annual International Youth Competition.

A highly sought-after private teacher, her students have been accepted by some of the best undergraduate and graduate schools in the nation, have placed in international competitions, and have been featured on NPR's "From the Top". Lynn is a guitar instructor at Oklahoma City University's Bass School of Music and is represented by SoundTree Artists, LLC.



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