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For Immediate Release

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El Camino College Faculty Member Valerie Stern to Perform Piano Duo Recital *Guest pianists Karen Spurney and Susan Kim-Pedroza add to the performance*

El Camino College faculty member Valerie Stern will perform a duo piano recital with guest pianists Karen Spurney and Susan Kim-Pedroza, featuring American music favorites. The performance is scheduled for 8 p.m. June 8 in the Campus Theater.

Stern, an award-winning and internationally recognized pianist, will play songs that will lead the audience on a musical journey through styles that have defined U.S. history, including historic folk songs, blues, ragtime, 1920s popular songs, and excerpts from Disney films. Classics by George Gershwin and Aaron Copland will be performed, as well as the premiere of Sterns' new duo piano interpretation of the American folk tune "Shenandoah" and an arrangement of "Bohemian Rhapsody" by British rock band, Queen.

As a performer, Stern has been a prize winner in the triennial Carmel Music Society Piano Competition, the New West Symphony Discovery Artists Competition, and the Torrance Symphony Concerto Competition. She presented a solo recital at the U.S. State Department after winning second prize in Washington D.C.'s International Young Artist Piano Competition. She has also toured Japan and the U.S.

Joining Stern is guest pianist Susan Kim-Pedroza, who attended the Manhattan School of Music, and USC, where she earned a master's degree in piano performance. Guest pianist Karen Spurney holds a bachelor's degree from USC in piano performance. She is also the co-author of "noteBUSTERS," a music workbook that improves sight-reading skills for beginning to intermediate music students. Both have taught and performed in large and small ensembles and individually as well.

Tickets to the performance are \$15 and may be purchased at www.centerforthearts.org, by phone at 310-329-5345 or toll-free at 800-832-ARTS. The Ticket Office is open Monday-Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and one hour prior to performance. Campus Parking is \$3. The Campus Theater is located at El Camino College, 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance 90506.

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