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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Music Devotee Donates Concert Grand Piano to Cabrillo Music Department** ***Piano Dedication at the Franz Liszt Bicentennial Celebration, October 19***

Aptos, CA—In September the Cabrillo College Music Department received a significant contribution of a Yamaha seven-foot, ebony C5 Concert Grand Piano from Douglas Tozier. Tozier, who died unexpectedly after making the gift, will be honored at the Cabrillo Music Recital Hall on October 19, at 12:30 PM, with a Music Department concert celebrating Franz Liszt's 200th Birthday.

The Yamaha Concert Grand donation is significant not only in the quality and value of the piano, but also because of the man who gave it. Douglas Tozier, a Vietnam veteran and the cofounder of Santa Cruz Gymnastics, was a passionate devotee of piano music. His home in the Santa Cruz Mountains was designed by local architects Thatcher and Thomson, specifically around the piano. The piano occupied the central position in the house with all rooms feeding into the central space that housed the piano and overlooked the mountains. "The location of that piano in his house is a direct metaphor to the location of piano music in his life - it was central," commented Tozier's friend and Cabrillo music instructor Fred Squatrito.

After Mr. Tozier, who suffered from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), lost the ability to play piano, it became very important to him that the piano should go where it would be used and loved by people who would appreciate it, so he chose the Cabrillo College Music Department. Tozier also donated his entire collection of piano literature—about 100 volumes of music from various composers— as well as a collection of violin music that belonged to his father, accomplished violinist Bradford Tozier.

The piano was delivered to Cabrillo on September 9, as 35 students from the Music Theory III class, along with several faculty members, were in attendance at the Music Recital Hall to witness the set-up and meet Mr. Tozier. One student, soprano Sydney Gorham, sang a Schubert song and Instructors Fred Squatrito and Susan Bruckner played some Liszt, followed by students taking short turns on the new piano. This brought great joy to Mr. Tozier, seeing the appreciation the piano received from students and faculty, and he also stayed to listen to Leanora Brown, a guest artist from the University of Utah, rehearse for her Master Class. "We told Doug how excited we were to have such a fine instrument in the Recital Hall, and he countered immediately, in his heavily slurred speech from ALS, that HE was the one who was excited!" recalled Squatrito. "Doug's wife later told me that the experience of the Master Class being given on his piano and the quality of artistry he heard in Leonora Brown was one of the greatest days of his life," continued Squatrito.

Unfortunately, Mr. Tozier passed away suddenly on September 20, from a fall that caused fatal injuries. "We in the Cabrillo Music Department were deeply saddened to learn of the Doug's passing," said Michele Rivard, Music Department Chair. "His contribution to the Cabrillo Music Department insures that his memory lives on and his love of music will be passed down, enriching the lives of Cabrillo's music students."

**What:** Franz Liszt Bicentennial Celebration and Dedication of the Tozier Piano

**When:** Wednesday, October 19 - 12:30 PM

**Performances** by the Advanced Piano Class, Cabrillo faculty and guests

**Where:** Cabrillo Music Recital Hall, 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos

**Parking:** \$4 in all lots

### **About Cabrillo College**

Cabrillo College is a leading California community college serving Santa Cruz County with locations in Aptos, Scotts Valley and Watsonville. It is ranked #1 in transfers to UC Santa Cruz. Founded in 1959, the college offers more than 100 academic and career technology programs that serve multiple educational goals such as A.A. and A.S. degrees, certificates of achievement, skills certificates, transfer to four-year institutions or for lifelong learning and personal enrichment. Its mission is to enhance the intellectual, cultural and economic vitality of its diverse community by assisting all students in their quest for lifelong learning and success in an ever-changing world.