For Immediate Release

April 16, 2012

Tom Grant Brings Smooth Jazz To The Rose Center

Tom Grant, master pianist, accomplished singer and songwriter, will bring the smooth jazz style he helped pioneer to the Rose Center for the Arts at Lower Columbia College on Tuesday, May 1 for a community concert. The Tom Grant Band featuring Shelly Rudolph will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Wollenberg Auditorium. Tickets are $5.

The concert is the second in the Ken and Pat Hanson Memorial Music Series funded by an endowment established from the couple’s estate in Fall 2010. Grant will be performing on the Bosendorfer Imperial Grand piano, a gift to LCC from the Hansons in 2007 on their 60th wedding anniversary. The Hansons, who met as students at LCC, were longtime supporters of music programs at the college.

A polished entertainer, Grant has touched listeners worldwide with his subtle, skillful music that is cheerful and accessible yet deeply resonant. In his voice and touch on piano, listeners hear the improvisational jazz fusion that first propelled him to the top joined with the warm, melodic grooves of his more recent work.

Raised in Portland by a tap dancing father who taught him drums and piano and let him listen to jazz in his record store in the city’s black entertainment district, Grant took a high school teaching job right out of college. In 1970 he traveled to New York City with Native American saxophonist Jim Pepper, which led him to touring and recording with jazz greats Woody Shaw, Charles Lloyd, and Tony Williams.

In 1976, Grant cut his first solo record and in 1979 he formed his own band. Beginning in 1983, he started recording a series of jazz-influenced pop albums that have variously been called "New Adult Contemporary," "Quiet Storm," "Contemporary Jazz" and "Smooth Jazz". Each have been best-sellers in the "lite jazz" market. Grant has also composed music for TV and radio and has performed on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno.

Grant will also be conducting vocal and jazz band classes for music students from LCC and local high schools as part of his visit to Longview.

Ticket purchase information is available at www.lowercolumbia.edu/music or at 360.442.2245.

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