



775 fiero lane, suite 100
san luis obispo, ca 93401
ph 805.788.0280
fx 805.788.0282
moreinfo@aspectstudios.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2006

Contact: David Thayer
(805) 788-0280

Documentary Film on Local Artist to Begin
Wachtang “Botso” Korisheli’s talents, influence will be explored

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – What inspires people to create art and music, even in the most difficult of times?

“Botso: The Passion of Music, The Survival of Art” is a documentary film on the exceptional life and accomplishments of Wachtang “Botso” Korisheli, who escaped the regime of Josef Stalin and went on to become an international treasure. Filming begins soon.

The world-renowned musician, sculptor and teacher makes his home on the Central Coast, and the film will not only chronicle his life, but also will explore creativity’s genesis and the value of arts in education.

Concert pianist, conductor and co-founder of the San Luis Obispo County Youth Symphony, Dr. Korisheli also is a celebrated sculptor whose works grace several locations in Morro Bay, as well as private collections in the United States and Europe. Hundreds of students around the world have been influenced by Botso’s passion for his art and music, including Kent Nagano, head of Berlin’s Deutsche Symphonie/director of the Los Angeles Opera; Gerald Folsom, principal French horn player with the Los Angeles Philharmonic; and Bob Bennett, trumpeter and veteran of the Woody Herman and Brian Setzer orchestras.

“For years I have felt that the story of Botso Korisheli’s life is an extraordinary one,” said Director/Producer Thomas Walters. “I have been involved with the Youth Symphony for over a decade and have developed a deep gratitude for what Botso helped establish in our community 40 years ago. How many lives he has touched along the way is impressive.”

Added Writer/Producer Hilary Grant: “This film is an opportunity to support that legacy and to use the documentary format to show how passion for the arts can inspire others in a very direct way.”

To fund the film, the producers are enlisting the support of local arts patrons and community members who believe in this non-profit project, along with grant organizations that support documentary films. All proceeds from sales and distribution of the film will go directly into a Youth Symphony Endowment Fund, allowing future generations the gift of music.

Walters has produced and directed more than 50 educational films as well as two internationally distributed documentary programs. Grant is a veteran documentary producer whose network television credits include “Unsolved Mysteries,” “Proof Positive” and “Against All Odds.”

“Botso” is a production of Cinema House Films in association with Aspect Studios and the San Luis Obispo County Youth Symphony. More information about the film, as well as additional updates on the project, can be found at www.aspectstudios.com or by calling David Thayer, 805-788-0280.

#