

Cabrillo dedicates Samper Recital Hall

Cabrillo College - 2000
Building named after college benefactor

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✓ APTOS — Hundreds of guests were treated to a cornucopia of musical talent at a dedication ceremony Friday afternoon, with students putting on display talents nurtured and honed through Cabrillo College's visual and performing arts programs.

The performances were part of a dedication ceremony for Samper Recital Hall, named in honor of Barbara Samper. The Danville resident is the largest

individual donor to Cabrillo, and its student activities center also bears her name.

The 365-seat recital hall is part of the \$80 million visual and performing arts center. The complex opened in the fall of 2009 and also includes the 524-seat Crocker Theater and the 150-seat Black Box Theater.

Samper grew up in Los Gatos in a family filled with musicians, from a classical pianist mother to a jazz pianist father.

"I want every student musician to be able to take advantage of the recital hall because it has such wonderful acoustics," she

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Piano soloist Kiefer Taylor performs at Cabrillo College on Friday during the grand opening of the new performing arts center, Samper Recital Hall.



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Cabrillo Youth Strings plays in the Samper Recital Hall on the Cabrillo campus in Aptos on Friday during the grand opening of the newly dedicated performing arts center.

CABRILLO

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said before the ceremony began.

The event honored a \$1 million donation she made in March to the Cabrillo Education Foundation. Some of those funds were used to provide \$500 scholarships to more than 100 low- and middle-income high school students, now enrolled at Cabrillo, as well as an endowment so the program can continue.

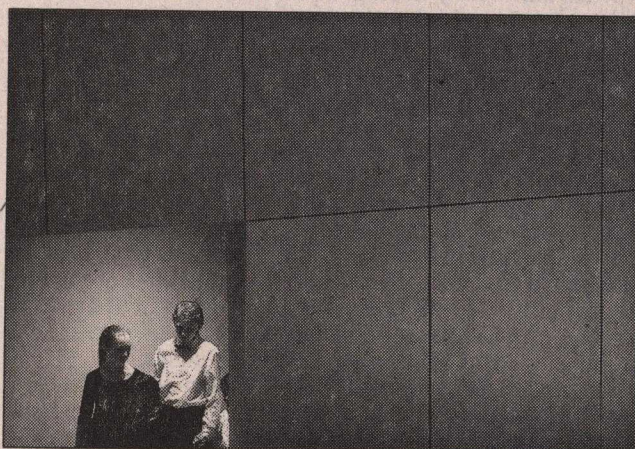
Another endowment was created to cover the costs of maintaining the recital hall and to support the visual and performing arts program, according to Melinda Silverstein, executive director of the Cabrillo College Foundation.

Those are the courses that suffer most deeply when

cuts to education are made, Assemblyman Bill Monning said at the dedication, before presenting Samper with a certificate of recognition.

This year's donation was the second largest gift Samper had made in recent years. In 2007, she gifted \$1 million to the Cabrillo Advancement Program, a scholarship and enrichment program aimed at preventing students from dropping out of middle and high school.

At the dedication ceremony, 14 students who either were or are currently enrolled in the program filed onto the stage, many wearing white shirts emblazoned with the words, "Future College Graduate." One student who was formerly enrolled in the program talked about how much it helped her achieve her goal of attending college, then she and several



KEVIN JOHNSON/SENTINEL

Choir performers wait in an entrance to the newly dedicated Samper Recital Hall at Cabrillo College on Friday.

others took turns reading a proclamation in Samper's honor.

In a videotaped segment shown before the musical performances started, Samper talked about getting off to a rough academic start, the troubles height-

ened by dyslexia.

"I would like to be remembered for improving people's lives through education," she said in the video.

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