FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USC Thornton School of Music to honor James Smith With Memorial Concert

Esteemed friends and colleagues to honor James Smith, the former chair of the classical guitar program. Performers and speakers include Pepe Romero, Christopher Parkening, Liona Boyd, and the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet.

Wednesday, January 19, 2011, 7:30 p.m., at Bovard auditorium at USC

Los Angeles (January 13, 2011) – on Wednesday, January 19, 2011, the University of southern California’s Thornton school of music will honor James smith, longtime Thornton faculty member and chair of the classical guitar program, with a memorial concert.

The event will include video presentations, spoken tributes, and performances by many esteemed colleagues and friends, including Endre Balogh, William Vestal, Christopher Parkening, Pepe Romero, the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, William Kanengiser, Scott Tennant, Brian Head, Harold Micay, Kenton Youngstrom, Sungmin Shin, Jason Yoshida, Hazel Ketchum, Lynn McGrath, Andrew York, Liona Boyd, Benjamin Verdery, Douglas Masek, Sunyoung Kim, John Walz, David Shostac, Antoinette Perry, Martha Masters and the classical guitar students of the Thornton school of music.

Smith died on September 24, 2010 after battling brain cancer for nearly two years. One of his lasting contributions to the guitar world was building the classical guitar program at the USC Thornton school of music into one of the most innovative in the country. Among smith’s notable achievements were the training and nurturing of the Falla Trio and the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet; organizing the 1981 and 1986 Segovia Master Classes at USC; and the tireless advocacy for new music and championing of talented composers.

Smith served on the executive board of the Guitar foundation of America in its early years and served as the group’s president in 1985. He was an active member of the international guitar community, giving master classes and performances at a number of schools and festivals around the world.
EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT:
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WHEN:
Wednesday, January 19, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

WHERE:
Bovard Auditorium
3551 Trousdale Parkway
Los Angeles, CA 90089
(located on the Usc campus in downtown la; ample parking is available)

TICKET PRICES:
Admission is Free.

About the USC Thornton School of Music

The USC Thornton School of Music brings together a stellar faculty chosen from a broad spectrum of the music profession and gifted students from around the globe. Founded in 1884 and today the oldest continually operating cultural institution in Los Angeles, the Thornton School consistently ranks among the nation’s top music schools and conservatories.

By blending the rigors of a traditional conservatory-style education with the benefits of a leading research university, USC Thornton offers an impressive range of performance opportunities and a curriculum designed to prepare students for successful careers in the 21st century. The Thornton School presents more than 500 concerts each year and is the only music school with a weekly radio broadcast in a major media market featuring student performances.

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Located in the heart of Los Angeles, USC Thornton offers students every advantage of studying, performing, and networking in the world’s most vibrant music industry hub. Every week, our students engage with leading professionals in all aspects of the music, recording, and entertainment industries, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, LA Opera, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Grammy Foundation*, and The Recording Academy*. Our students also are a constant presence in local classrooms, reaching out to the next generation of musicians. More at www.usc.edu/music, or call (213) 740-3233.