FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Don Crockett & Xtet Press Release

LOS ANGELES — USC Thornton teacher Don Crockett and the new music band, Xtet, released their 21st album dubbed Tracking Inland on May 1st. Crockett and the multi-member jazz group celebrates

From Albany Records website “Donald Crockett is dedicated to creating music inspired by the musicians who perform it and this recording is no exception. It represents works composed across a span of about a dozen years and Xtet, the Los Angeles-based new music ensemble, with its highly variable instrumentation and composer/performer ethos, was the ideal vehicle to undertake the performance of this music. Donald Crockett was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2006 and has also received the Goddard Lieberson Fellowship, and an Aaron Copland Award, among many other honors. Also known as a conductor, Crockett has presented many world, national and regional premieres with Xtet. He has also been active over the years as a composer and conductor with the venerable and famed Monday Evening Concerts in Los Angeles. Donald Crockett is on the faculty of the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music and serves as Senior Composer-in-Residence with the Chamber Music Conference and Composers’ Forum of the East.”

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About Donald Crockett

Composer/conductor Donald Crockett is chair of the composition department and director of the USC Thornton Contemporary Music Ensemble, and senior composer-in-residence with the Chamber Music Conference and Composers’ Forum of the East. He has received commissions from the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (composer-in-residence 1991-97), Kronos Quartet, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, Stanford String Quartet and the California EAR Unit, among many others. Recent
projects include commissions from the Hilliard Ensemble, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and a work for piano and orchestra commissioned by USC for its 125th anniversary. Professor Crockett’s music has also been widely performed by ensembles including the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Master Chorale and the Arditti Quartet; at the Tanglewood and Aspen festivals; and by artists including violinists Ida Kavafian and Michelle Makarski, mezzo soprano Janice Felty, oboist Allan Vogel and conductors Jorge Mester, JoAnn Falletta, Hugh Wolff, Jeffrey Kahane and Christof Perick. He has received the Goddard Lieberson Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a commission from the Barlow Endowment, an Aaron Copland Award and the first Sylvia Goldstein Award from the Copland House and a Kennedy Center Friedheim Award, as well as grants and awards from the American Music Center, BMI, the Copland Fund, Meet the Composer and the National Endowment for the Arts. His music is published by Keiser Classical and Doberman-Yppan and recorded on the Albany, CRI, ECM, Laurel, Orion and Pro Arte/Fanfare labels.

Also active as a conductor of new music, professor Crockett has presented many world, national and regional premieres with the Los Angeles-based new music ensemble Xtet, the USC Thornton Contemporary Music Ensemble and as a guest conductor with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Hilliard Ensemble and the California EAR Unit. His recordings as a conductor can be found on the ECM, New World and CRI labels.

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**About Monday Evening Concerts**

Where musical history is made. Since 1939.

Founded in 1939, Monday Evening Concerts (MEC) is one of the longest running series in the world devoted to contemporary music. MEC has gained international admiration for its presentation of music frequently new, sometimes old and always uniquely stimulating. Musical history is made at Monday Evening Concerts, whether it was the American debut of Pierre Boulez, world premieres of Igor Stravinsky, or the appearances here of such artists as Marino Formenti and the Arditti Quartet. Presenting the finest local and visiting artists, MEC is the place to hear adventurous new music in Los Angeles.

Monday Evening Concerts is a seven-time national winner of the ASCAP/Chamber Music America Award for Adventurous Programming and is the subject of a full-length book entitled "Evenings On and Off the Roof," written by Dorothy Lamb Crawford.

The 2010/11 season is supported, in part, by the Goethe-Institut Los Angeles; the Istituto Italiano di Cultura; the French-American Fund for Contemporary Music; the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commision; and the Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of Los Angeles.
We are especially grateful for the contributions from individual audience members and community members, without whom the series would not be possible.

**Eudice Shapire: a life in music**

*50 years of teaching at USC*
Contemporary Music  p.51
“From Monday Evening Concerts to Stravinsky” pg.57
“Monday Evening Concerts evolved from a series called Evenings on the Rood that began in 1939 in the home of writer Peter Yates and his wife, pianist Frances Mullen. From the start, the concerts showcased or premiered works by modern composers. After Yates retired as director in 1953, Lawrence Morton took over. The following year Morton also became artistic director of the Ojai Festival