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Images available upon request

USC THORNTON BOARD OF COUNCILOR MEMBER RANDY NEWMAN AMONG 2013 ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

LOS ANGELES (April 17, 2013) – On April 18, USC Thornton Board of Councilors member Randy Newman will be inducted into the 2013 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The Oscar, GRAMMY, and Emmy award-winning songwriter is joined by an eclectic class of legendary musical minds including Quincy Jones, Lou Adler, Donna Summer, Rush, Heart, Albert King, and Public Enemy. The ceremony, which includes performances by Newman and other inductees, will be broadcast on HBO, debuting May 18 at 9:00 p.m.

“I’d like to thank the people who have supported me for all these years. It’s a great honor. I’m very happy about it,” Newman said. He also told Rolling Stone, “I really thought maybe I’d have to die first…I’m really glad it happened when I was still around to see it.”

After starting his songwriting career as a teenager, Newman launched into recording as a singer and pianist in 1968 with his self-titled album Randy Newman. Throughout the 1970s he released several acclaimed albums and began composing and scoring for films in the 1980s. The list of movies he has worked on since then includes The Natural, Awakenings, Ragtime, all three Toy Story pictures, Seabiscuit, James and the Giant Peach, and A Bug’s Life. He is currently working on Disney/Pixar’s upcoming Monsters University, the prequel to Monsters Inc., which he also scored.

In addition to his recent Hall of Fame induction, Newman’s many honors include six Grammys, three Emmys, and two Academy Awards. He was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2002, and was honored as a Disney Legend in 2007. Newman also received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2010.
“As one of the many prominent members on the USC Thornton Board of Councilors, Randy Newman has been a valuable and contributing member to the USC Thornton School of Music,” said Robert Cutietta, Dean of the USC Thornton School of Music.

The current Board of Councilors also includes Gregg Field, drummer and partner at Concord Music Group; film composer James Newton Howard (*The Fugitive, I am Legend, Green Lantern*); Christopher Kolsch, Chief Operating Officer at L.A. Opera; record executive Mo Ostin who has worked with Ella Fitzgerald, Sammy Davis, Jr. and the Kinks at Verve, Reprise Records (recruited by Frank Sinatra), Warner Brothers Records and DreamWorks; and other distinguished members.

Newman also helped develop the Thornton School’s acclaimed Popular Music program and has worked closely with its students. He has further demonstrated his dedication to the students in the Thornton School’s Mentorship Program, which strives to bring students into a cross-section of the music industry, as exemplified by the members of the Board. Students are selected to work with one of the board members each year, reflecting the diversity of USC Thornton’s program, which seeks to bring together all aspects of the music world for a rich conservatory experience.

“He is part of the tradition of the best in popular music,” says Grammy nominated artist and Popular Music Program Chair, Patrice Rushen. “When our students connect with Randy Newman, they don’t only see someone who has written hit songs, motion picture soundtracks, and film scores. He leads by example, showing them what it means to use the contemporary music palette as musical expression while honoring the balance of intuition and craftsmanship.”

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**About Randy Newman**

With songs that run the gamut from heartbreaking to satirical and a host of unforgettable film scores, Randy Newman has used his many talents to create musical masterpieces widely recognized by generations of audiences.

The highly praised 2008 *Harps and Angels* was Newman’s first album of new material since 1999. The *Austin Chronicle* wrote “the characters are memorable, the satire sharp, the music luxurious, and the arrangements maybe the most gorgeous in all pop music.”

*The Randy Newman Songbook Vol. 2*, which is the second in a series of new solo piano/vocal recordings of his songs spanning his five-decades, was released in 2011. *Time Out New York* said of the series, which will receive a third volume in 2013, “The Songbook records strip away the orchestrations of his regular albums, leaving Newman alone at the piano, singing…three-minute masterpieces from throughout a half-century career.”

That same year, Nonesuch Records released a live CD and DVD recorded at London’s intimate LSO St. Luke’s, an 18th-century Anglican church that has been restored by the London Symphony Orchestra, where he was accompanied by the BBC Concert Orchestra, conducted by Robert Ziegler. The 22-song set features some of his best-known songs like “Short People,” “Louisiana 1927,” and “I Think It’s Going to Rain Today,” as well as newer songs such as “A Few Words in Defense of Our Country” and “Laugh and Be Happy.”
Newman released a new song, “I’m Dreaming,” in the months before the 2012 Presidential election. With lyrics from the viewpoint of a voter who casts his ballot solely based on skin color, the song draws attention to something Newman has noticed and written about for 40 years: racism in America. The solo recording was available online only, as a free download.

Thornton School Board of Councilors


2012 Students in the Mentorship Program

Undergraduate: Daniel Blanck, Brett Fromson, Saad Haddad, Scott Heiner, Lisa Laracuente, Frederico Lopez Flores, Liya Melikyan, Mia Minicheillo, Olivia Mitchell, Marcus Petitt, Lacee Sandberg, Anne Schulze, Michelle Tseng. Masters: Charissa Barger, David Chinn, Emily Cooley, Georgi Dimitrov, Mak Grgic, Erika Miras, Emily Schroeder. Graduate Certificate: Jackson Greenberg, Christine Hals, Dashiel Reed, Emily Schroder, Duncan Thum. Doctorate: Kait Dunton, Eric Jacobs, Elizabeth S. Palmer, Phil Popham, Daniel Szabo, Peter Walsh.

About the Popular Music Program

USC Thornton’s Popular Music program, which began in 2009, is a music degree program for rock, pop, R&B, folk, Latin and country artists. It has become highly competitive, with prospective students from around the world auditioning for a chance to enroll.

The USC Thornton School began this program because it recognized the opportunity to address the needs of musicians who did not fit the traditional classical and jazz offerings that are typical in most university music programs. In bringing these students together in Los Angeles, a music industry capital, the program also aspires to address the dynamic and changing landscape of the music profession.

About the 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.
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.