FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Stephanie Mesones
951-454-9346
smesones86@gmail.com

USC POPULAR MUSIC STUDENT NOMINATED FOR LATIN GRAMMY

Note: Suemy Gonzales will be available for phone interviews, schedule permitting, on Friday, November 16.

LOS ANGELES (November 14, 2012) - University of Southern California senior Suemy Gonzales, a violinist and singer enrolled in the groundbreaking Popular Music Performance Program at USC’s Thornton School of Music, has been nominated for a Latin GRAMMY award with her female mariachi group, Trio Ellas.

The group fuses traditional material with rock and romantic influences. The other members are Stephanie Amaro on guitar and Nelly Cortez on guitarron.

The group was nominated for best ranchero album, Con Ustedes... Trio Ellas. The album, released in May 2012, was produced by USC Thornton faculty member Andy Abad. Fellow Popular Music Performance Program student Matias Mora created original artwork for the album.

The Latin GRAMMY Awards air from Las Vegas on Univision on Nov. 15.

Gonzales told the USC student newspaper, the Daily Trojan, that she couldn’t believe it when her group was nominated.

“When I was watching the press conference where they announced the nominees, they started listing the names of all these well-known people and then they announced us at the end, Trio Ellas, and I started shaking when I heard our name,” she said.

(Read the full Daily Trojan interview with Gonzales here: http://dailytrojan.com/2012/11/13/usc-student-wins-nomination-for-latin-grammy/)
Gonzales, who hails from Sacramento, CA, began playing classical music at the age of 5, and was introduced to mariachi music around the age of 11 by her parents, who wanted her to get in touch with her Mexican heritage.

After high school, Gonzales toured with professional mariachi groups before attending Mount San Antonio College just east of Los Angeles, and then transferring to USC’s Popular Music Performance Program in 2010.

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.

The program is open to instrumentalists, vocalists and songwriters pursuing studies in contemporary pop/rock, folk-rock, R&B/urban, Latin/salsa and other popular styles with a concentration on small ensemble performance, live performance, studio and film scoring sessions.

###

About Trio Ellas:

Trio Ellas was formed in 2006, and has been steadily gaining attention. This year alone, the trio completed a tour of Okinawa for USO (performing 17 shows in 5 days), and was honored to perform at the annual LULAC convention in Orlando, FL., as well as at the Latinos Unidos event at Democratic National Convention in North Carolina. The summer of 2012 also included a two-week run at the Hollywood Bowl's "Summer Sounds" children's program, and a performance the San Jose Latin Music Festival.

Trio Ellas has lent its skill to recordings for artists such as Benjamin Gibbard and Lady GaGa, and has performed live with artists ranging from Cristian Castro to Mariachi El Bronx.