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THE USC THORNTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCE THE NEXT IN THE SERIES OF MASTER SESSIONS, FEATURING HIT SONGWRITER BILLY STEINBERG

LOS ANGELES - September 10, 2013 – The University of Southern California Thornton School of Music and the Songwriters Hall of Fame have jointly announced the second session in their continuing series of Songwriters Hall of Fame Master Sessions at the USC Thornton School of Music. The next Master Session will feature hit songwriter and Songwriter Hall of Fame inductee, Billy Steinberg, on September 20th, 2013.

WHAT: Songwriters Hall of Fame Master Sessions at USC Thornton School of Music featuring Billy Steinberg

WHEN: Friday, September 20, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Carson Soundstage, USC Campus

MORE INFO: (213) 740-3224, popularmusic@thornton.usc.edu

Billy Steinberg has been among the most successful songwriters of the past 30 years. He and songwriting partner Tom Kelly, who were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2011, have had five #1 singles on Billboard's "Hot 100" chart, including "Like A Virgin" (Madonna), "True Colors" (Cyndi Lauper), "So Emotional" (Whitney Houston), "Eternal Flame" (Bangles) and “Alone” (Heart). Additionally, Billy and Tom co-wrote other well-known Top 10 U.S. pop hits, including "I'll Stand By You" (Pretenders, Carrie Underwood), "I Touch Myself" (Divinyls), "I Drove All Night" (Roy Orbison, Cyndi Lauper, Celine Dion), "In Your Room" (Bangles), and “Look Me In The Heart” (Tina Turner).
In the mid-1990s, Steinberg teamed with songwriter, Rick Nowels. The duo won Grammy Awards for writing and producing, "Falling Into You," for Celine Dion. They also wrote the #1 UK hit, “I Turn To You” for Melanie C., and songs for kd lang, Enrique Iglesias, Sinead O’Connor, and others.

Since 2004, Billy has been working with songwriting partner, Josh Alexander. As a team, they have written and produced songs that have been released by a variety of recording artists, including JoJo’s Top 5 Billboard Hit, “Too Little Too Late”, #1 UK hit, “Don’t Hold Your Breath” by Nicole Scherzinger, and Demi Lovato’s recent hit, “Give Your Heart A Break.”

“SHOF Inductee Billy Steinberg’s long track record of classic Top 10 and award winning hits is undeniable,” said SHOF President/CEO Linda Moran. “It will be an extraordinary experience for students to be given an inside glimpse of his songwriting process.”

The Songwriters Hall of Fame Master Sessions at USC Thornton School of Music is an ongoing series which is integrated into the curriculum of USC Thornton’s groundbreaking Popular Music Program. Launched in 2009, the USC Thornton Bachelor of Music in Popular Music was the first degree program of its kind within a major university. The first class from the program graduated in May 2013. Students in the program have secured significant recording and publishing contracts, placed songs in films and television, launched successful national and international tours, won nationally televised competitions and received a Latin GRAMMY nomination. The Songwriters Hall of Fame has a long tradition of providing a forum for young songwriters to get an intimate view of the craft and processes of some of the most important songwriters of the day.

USC Thornton’s Vice Dean of Contemporary Music and founding director of the Popular Music program, Chris Sampson, will be moderating the sessions that present a wide-range of Masters.

“We are so fortunate to have this partnership with the Songwriters Hall of Fame,” says Sampson. “the SHOF Master Sessions provides an incredible enhancement to their music studies.”

Each Master Session takes place at the Carson Soundstage on the USC campus as an intimate class that will be part lecture, performance, masterclass and interview. Students have ample opportunity for Q&A and conversation with each guest. The inaugural Master Session took place at USC in April and featured legendary songwriter/artist/producer, David Foster.

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About The Songwriters Hall of Fame

The Songwriters Hall of Fame’s ongoing mission is to preserve, honor and celebrate the legacy of the great songwriters whose work has enriched the world’s culture, while developing new
writing talent through professional education, Master Sessions, workshops, showcases, scholarships and digital initiatives.
http://songhall.org/
http://songwritershalloffame.org/

About The USC Thornton Popular Music Program

Founded in the fall of 2009, the Popular Music Program at the USC Thornton School of Music is a unique music degree program for the rock, pop, R&B, folk, Latin and country artist. The USC Thornton School of Music began this program to address the needs of musicians who did not fit the traditional classical and jazz offerings that are typical in most university music programs. Each class is highly selective and limited to 25 talented songwriters, vocalists and instrumentalists who enroll from all regions of the United States. In bringing these students together in Los Angeles, USC’s home and a music industry capital, the program aspires to address the dynamic and changing landscape of the music profession.

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