FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Media Contact:
Evan Calbi
calbi@thornton.usc.edu
(213) 740-3299

RAISING MUSICAL KIDS

Robert Cutietta, dean of the USC Thornton School of Music releases the second edition of “Raising Musical Kids,” a book that composer John Williams calls “a 'must-read' for every parent with a musical child.”

LOS ANGELES (Dec. 12, 2013) – Robert Cutietta can credit many impressive titles to his name—educator, researcher, musician, composer, arts leader, and, most recognizably, Dean of the USC Thornton School of Music. But there is another title, one that is inextricably tied to his life, both professionally and personally, that he may identify with most strongly of all: parent.


“It is easier now to raise musical children than ever before,” Cutietta said. “There are many great options available for parents, and I hope this book helps them nurture a love of music in their children.”

In the new edition, Cutietta explores everything from assembling a listening library for kids to matching a child’s personality with that of an instrument and finding musical resources in your community. This book combines a humorous and insightful approach with a “clear and elegant” sensibility and “useful and refreshing” perspective, as noted by record producer, Glen Ballard.
In much the same way we find music to be as unique and multidimensional as the children who learn to love it, Cutietta provides diverse and enriching notes of wisdom for any parent in this comprehensive guide. Answering pivotal questions concerning early music education, the expectations parents should have for a child’s teachers and lessons, and the seemingly daunting task of motivating kids to practice, Cutietta reminds readers to never forget the “joy of participating in music for its own sake.”

With Cutietta’s “brilliant demystification of the world of music,” as noted by David Stull, president of the San Francisco Conservatory, it would seem that the opportune time to develop a child’s musical education is, in fact, now.

Cutietta’s new edition includes chapters dedicated to music at private schools and home-schooled children, public school music curricula, recommendations for age-appropriate musical activities and information on careers in the recording industry.

“For the second edition, it was important to feature how much technology has changed the way we approach music education since the book was first published ten years ago,” said Cutietta. “I had to skip over CDs and go straight from albums and cassette tapes to digital downloads.”

As American music icon Randy Newman said of the book, its “fascinating [and] thoroughly researched information...will surprise you and will change the way you think about your children’s education.”

That Cutietta is able to bring a wealth of experience, knowledge, expertise and common sense to writing about music and children is a testament to his longstanding career both as a specialist in music education and as a passionate leader in the arts.

Put best by Academy Award-winning composer John Williams, “Raising Musical Kids” is “a ‘must-read’ for every parent with a musical child.”

###

ABOUT ROBERT CUTIETTA

Robert Cutietta is dean of the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California. Since 2002, he has overseen an expansion in endowment, programs, and space while building upon the traditional quality of education that is the school’s trademark.
Under his leadership, the school has introduced innovative new degrees in music education, arts journalism, visual and performing arts studies, choral music, vocal jazz, and the groundbreaking popular music performance program. Other advancements include an “immersive” music education curriculum designed for graduating seniors with the core philosophy that future teachers should be immersed in the culture of public school teaching only after completing a rigorous four-year program as a musician. In the near future, a graduate degree in Music Leadership will be introduced in conjunction with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, further positioning the Thornton School as an innovator in music instruction.

In 2010, the Thornton School will move into a combination of new and newly renovated spaces, constituting a 40% increase in physical size. A new practice room facility, orchestral rehearsal hall, and amplified rehearsal hall will be supported by totally renovated homes for jazz, studio guitar, student services, film scoring, and technology.

During his tenure, the school’s endowment saw a dramatic increase of over 53%, peaking at well over the $125 million goal set for the school’s 125th anniversary celebration in 2009. With the addition of three new endowed chairs and one new professorship, the faculty has grown and continues to attract some of the most renowned musician/educators to supplement the already illustrious faculty.

Since 2006, he has hosted Ask the Dean, a popular weekly segment on Classical KUSC, the largest classical music station in the nation. He continues to perform and compose music for television and movies.

He is a founding member of Montana Public Broadcasting and currently a member of the Advisory Board of Classical KUSC Radio in Los Angeles, The Orange County School of the Arts, The Maestro Foundation, and the GRAMMY Blue Ribbon Adjudication Committee. He is listed in Who’s Who in America and was designated the 2001 Alumni of the Year from the College of Arts and Architecture at Penn State University. In 2007, he received the Amicus Poloniae Award from the Government of the Republic of Poland. Cleveland State University awarded him the 2008 Alumni of the Year from the College of Arts and Letters.

He has published a wide range of articles on many subjects related to Music Education. These have appeared in journals such as The Music Educators Journal, Journal of Research in Music Education, The Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education, Psychology Today, The Psychology of Music, The American Music Teacher and many others. He is also author, co-author or editor of four books and has contributed chapters to several others including The Handbook of Research on the Teaching and Learning of Music. He has sat on the editorial boards of the Journal of Research in Music

Prior to his appointment as dean, Dr. Cutietta had a successful career as a musician and researcher. He was director of the School of Music and Dance at the University of Arizona and held faculty positions at Kent State and Montana State Universities. He received his doctorate in music education and psychology from Penn State University and his undergraduate and masters degrees from Cleveland State University.

###

**ABOUT THE USC THORNTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

For more than 125 years, the USC Thornton School of Music has prepared students to excel as performers, composers, industry leaders, and educators on stages and in studios around the world. Founded in 1884 and today the oldest continually operating cultural institution in Los Angeles, USC Thornton is internationally recognized as one of the finest conservatories and music schools in the U.S.

By blending the rigors of a traditional conservatory-style education with the benefits of a leading research university, USC Thornton offers a curriculum designed to prepare students for successful careers in the 21st century.

USC Thornton brings together a stellar faculty chosen from a broad spectrum of the music profession and gifted students representing 40 countries. The school features legendary musicians and educators on its faculty, including internationally renowned performers, musicologists, and winners of prestigious awards.

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 center. Every week, students engage with leading professionals in all aspects of the music, recording, and entertainment industries, and collaborate with such pillar organizations as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, LA Opera, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Grammy Foundation, and The Recording Academy. Thornton students are also a constant presence in local classrooms, helping to shape the next generation of musicians.

Raising Musical Kids