USC THORNTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC FACULTY AND ALUMNI RECEIVE GRAMMY NOMINATIONS

2014 GRAMMY nominees include a diverse array of faculty and alumni University of Southern California Thornton School of Music.

LOS ANGELES (December 13, 2013) – The 56th Annual GRAMMY Awards will further distinguish USC Thornton as one of the premiere music institutions in the world. USC Thornton alumni and faculty have garnered six GRAMMY nominations in categories ranging from Instrumental Composition to Best Score Soundtrack for Visual Media. These Thornton-affiliated nominees represent the finest performances and productions over the past year.

With a career spanning nearly 50 years, Thornton alumnus Herb Alpert’s musical accomplishments include: five number one albums and 28 albums total on the Billboard charts, eight GRAMMY awards, 14 platinum-selling albums and 15 gold albums. Alpert received his ninth GRAMMY nomination this year in the “Best Pop Instrumental Album” category for his album Steppin’ Out.

Previously nominated four times for the Academy Award for Best Original Score, USC Thornton alumnus and five-time GRAMMY Award-winner Thomas Newman has been nominated for “Best Score Soundtrack for Visual Media” for his work as composer of the James Bond film, Skyfall. Son of iconic film composer Alfred Newman and cousin of musician and USC Thornton Board of Councilors member Randy Newman, Thomas has made a name for himself throughout his career with his powerful blend of orchestra and instinctive elements of jazz, popular and classical music for both film and television compositions.

Jazz Studies faculty Vince Mendoza received his 26th GRAMMY nomination for “Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocalist(s)” for the track “Spain (I Can Recall).” Mendoza has produced and arranged for singers as diverse as Robbie Williams, Björk and Elvis Costello, and his work has appeared on six GRAMMY Award-winning albums.

Jazz Studies alumnus Gerald Clayton received his third GRAMMY nomination in the “Best Jazz Instrumental Album” category for his album Life Forum.
“We have a responsibility as musicians to try to make music at our greatest ability…it was really an honor to get that kind of recognition,” Clayton said of his nomination.

Keyboard Studies faculty Aron Kallay and Thornton alumna Vicky Ray, alongside William Winant and Tom Peters, were nominated for “Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance” for the recording *Cage: The 10,000 Things*. A champion of contemporary composers, the award-winning solo and chamber musician Kallay is dedicated to expanding what it means to be a pianist in the 21st century. Ray is one of the leading interpreters of contemporary piano repertoire, and a long-time champion of new music with her incorporation of electronics, video, recitation and improvisation into her concerts.

This group of winners and nominees emphasizes Thornton’s multidisciplinary mission, representing the best of today’s jazz, classical, and contemporary music. The oldest continuously operating cultural institution in Los Angeles, USC Thornton ushers students into all the facets of the music world. From classical performance to jazz studies, composition, Popular Music, Music Industry, and more, the faculty, students, and alumni of USC Thornton continue to make their mark in an ever-changing musical landscape.

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**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.