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USC THORNTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC CELEBRATES 28TH AND FINAL CHARLES DICKENS DINNER

The University of Southern California Thornton School of Music celebrates the final Charles Dickens Dinner and the lasting legacy of 28 years of philanthropy by honoring Glenn Dieterow, former concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic and current USC Thornton faculty, music icon and famed songwriter John Fogerty, and acclaimed poet Dana Gioia, the Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture at USC.

Friday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel

LOS ANGELES – This year marks the 28th and final Charles Dickens Dinner for the USC Thornton School of Music, titled Remembering Dickens Past, hosted at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel on Friday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. For its final installment, the Dickens Dinner will honor Glenn Dieterow, former concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic and current USC Thornton faculty; music icon and famed songwriter John Fogerty; and acclaimed poet Dana Gioia, the Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture at USC.

The annual event will entertain approximately 380 guests with a black-tie musical gala, costumed carolers and roving instrumentalists. Chaired by USC Executive Board Member Christine Marie Ofiesh, the Final Charles Dickens Dinner in USC Thornton’s history aims to solidify the commitment and dedication to music education that has come to define the school for more than 125 years.

Robert Cutietta, Dean of USC Thornton, reflected on the lasting impact of the Dickens Dinner 28 years after its inception.

“I think the real legacy of the Dickens Dinner is that every time we have honored someone, it created a new scholarship for a student,” Dean Cutietta said. “After doing this, we have created over 50 scholarships that will help students in the future as part of the Thornton School.”
As a tribute to the honorees, USC Thornton will create new scholarships reflecting their names that will be awarded to students pursuing fields that each honoree represents. On Friday, Thornton student **Annelle Gregory**, an undergraduate in the Strings department, will receive the Glenn Dicterow Scholarship and perform a solo violin piece in his honor. Popular Music student **Max Quilici** will receive the John Fogerty Scholarship and play a medley of Fogerty’s songs. **Tina Huynh**, a Master’s student in Music Education, will receive the Dana Gioia Scholarship, and a video about her will be shown.

Set within a festive, holiday-themed celebration of philanthropy, tradition, and music, the Dickens Dinner has helped shape the academic and personal lives of countless students.

“This event has always been about the students,” said Dean Cutietta. “It has always been about raising money for scholarships to ensure that the best students can come and get the quality education they deserve.”

Previous honorees have included industry icons such as Herb Alpert, Quincy Jones, Barry Manilow, Leonard Bernstein, Randy Newman, and John and Liz Argue.

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**ABOUT THE HONOREES**

After 32 years as concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, **Glenn Dicterow** joined the USC Thornton faculty in Fall 2013 as the first person to hold the Robert Mann Chair in Strings and Chamber Music at Thornton. A native of Los Angeles, he made his debut at the age of 11 with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, where his father, Harold, served in the violin section for more than 50 years. As a teenager, Dicterow studied with legendary violinist and USC faculty member Jascha Heifetz. Prior to joining the New York Philharmonic, Dicterow served as associate concertmaster and concertmaster of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Over his remarkable five-decade career, **John Fogerty** has produced some of the most memorable songs in rock and roll history. As a singer, songwriter and guitarist, he has sold over 100 million records, earning 18 gold albums and 10 platinum albums. He was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1993, won a Grammy Award for his album *Blue Moon Swamp* in 1997, and was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2005. He was also a recipient of the BMI Icon Award. Fogerty and his chart-topping 1985 single “Centerfield” were honored during the 2010 National Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies — the first time the National Baseball Hall of Fame has immortalized a musician or song as part of the annual ceremonies. He is also one of the few musicians honored on *Rolling Stone*’s 100 Greatest Guitarists and 100 Greatest Singers lists.
Dana Gioia is an acclaimed poet and essayist who served two terms as chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). He is the Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture at USC, a title reserved for eminent individuals from the arts, sciences, professions, business and community leadership. Gioia’s university-wide appointment includes affiliations with the USC Thornton School of Music; USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences; USC Marshall School of Business; and the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy.

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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.