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USC Thornton School of Music Announces \$4 Million Gift by Robert and Adrienne Westerbeck to create the Adrienne Westerbeck Endowed Music Scholarship

LOS ANGELES (August 10, 2011) — The University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music recently announced a gift of \$4 million from alumnus Adrienne Westerbeck and her husband Robert.

The donation will establish the Adrienne Westerbeck Endowed Music Scholarship. "The new scholarship will allow Thornton to continue to bring in top quality students," said Robert Cutietta, Dean of the Thornton School of Music.

Adrienne Westerbeck, or Addie as she was known to friends, was known throughout her Pasadena neighborhood as a music teacher who would leave her front door open so neighbors could listen to her playing the piano. Born in New York in 1906, Adrienne Zick lived in Colorado as a child before her family moved to California. At USC, she earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music as well as a master's in education. She taught music at Pasadena City College until her retirement in 1971. She was the organist for the Christian Science Church in Los Feliz until shortly before her death.

Music lessons brought the couple together. Robert Westerbeck, born in 1917, worked as an engineer for Lockheed Aircraft in Burbank and later for another local engineering firm. Later in life, he decided to take private piano lessons. His teacher was Addie, and the two fell in love.

They lived modestly in their Pasadena home for 50 years. "They were the kind of quiet people who don't get the credit," said Connie Stamos, a family friend who often drove Addie's to and from church services. "Just rock-solid, pillar-of-the-earth, doing whatever needs to be done and not looking for recognition." The couple did not have children, and split their savings between their alma maters, assets that totaled \$8 million.

The couple left an additional \$4 million to Pasadena City College, Robert Westerbeck's alma mater. Pasadena City College will establish the Robert Westerbeck Scholarship Endowment.

To celebrate the endowment, the Thornton School will feature Adrienne Westerbeck in a display case at the Alfred Newman Recital Hall.

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About the USC Thornton School of Music

The USC Thornton School of Music brings together a stellar faculty chosen from a broad spectrum of the music profession and musically gifted students from around the globe. Founded in 1884, and today the oldest continually operating cultural institution in Los Angeles, the Thornton School consistently ranks among the top one percent of the nation's music schools and conservatories. Graduates of the school attain positions with major orchestras, ensembles, recording studios and music industry firms and perform on stages and in studios around the world.

Blending the rigors of a traditional conservatory-style education with the benefits of studying at a leading research university, the Thornton School offers students a thorough music education in a real-world context. Located at the center of Los Angeles, the school is the collegiate partner of choice for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Opera, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the GRAMMY Foundation and The Recording Academy, to name a few.

In addition to their work with these ensembles, Thornton students are a constant presence in local classrooms, reaching out to the next generation of musicians through music education and appreciation courses. With its faculty, its students, its events and its work, the Thornton School is one of the most important cultural resources in Los Angeles. In 2009, the Thornton School celebrated its 125th Anniversary.