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**USC THORNTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC FACULTY AND ALUMNI WIN AT THE 56TH
ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS**

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

LOS ANGELES (January 27, 2014) – The 56th Annual GRAMMY Awards further distinguished USC Thornton as one of the premiere music institutions in the world as three USC Thornton representatives were winners at the award ceremony, while various others received GRAMMY nominations.

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

Previously nominated four times for the Academy Award for Best Original Score, USC Thornton Board of Councilors member and five-time GRAMMY Award-winner Thomas Newman won the “Best Score Soundtrack for Visual Media” category for his work as composer of the James Bond film, *Skyfall*. Newman also studied at USC.

Also, USC Thornton Strings Chair and the Jascha Heifetz Chair in Violin, Midori, was featured on *Hindemith: Violinkonzert; Symphonic Metamorphosis; Konzertmusik* (conducted by Christoph Eschenbach), which won the award for “Best Classical Compendium.”

“I am delighted that Christoph Eschenbach and the NDR Symphony Orchestra invited me to play Hindemith’s Violin Concerto as part of their CD tribute to Paul Hindemith,” Midori said.

“Hindemith is one of the musicians I respect and admire the most. I hope our recording brings more awareness and appreciation of this great artist.”

With additional GRAMMY nominations throughout a wide range of categories, these Thornton-affiliated nominees represented the outstanding repertoire of honorable performances from the past year.

Jazz studies alumnus Gerald Clayton received his third GRAMMY nomination for “Best Jazz Instrumental Album” 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,” said Clayton on his nomination.

Keyboard studies faculty Aron Kallay and Thornton alumna Vicky Ray were nominated alongside William Winant and Tom Peters for “Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance,” for the recording, *Cage: The 10,000 Things*.

This group of winners and nominees emphasizes Thornton’s multidisciplinary mission, with the best of today’s jazz, classical, and contemporary music all represented. The oldest continuously operating cultural institution in Los Angeles, USC Thornton ushers students into all the facets of the city’s music world. From strong technical training in classical repertoire, to jazz studies, composition, Popular Music, Music Industry, and more, the working faculty, students, and alumni continue making their mark in the ever-changing 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.