FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USC Thornton School of Music named a premiere partner in New World Symphony’s MUSAIC – a 21st century online community for classical music

The program, which launched this week, brings together the world’s finest music institutions in a digital initiative that enhances the understanding of music for students, musicians and audiences worldwide.

LOS ANGELES (September 24, 2014) – The University of Southern California Thornton School of Music was named a premiere partner in New World Symphony’s exciting new digital initiative, MUSAIC, which launched this week. The program brings together the world's finest music institutions in a digital initiative that enhances music understanding for students, musicians and audiences worldwide.

New World Symphony is the nation's orchestral academy, known for preparing graduates of distinguished music programs for leadership roles in orchestras and ensembles around the world. Its artistic director is Michael Tilson Thomas, '67, MM '76, who has been appointed Judge Widney Professor of Music at USC Thornton beginning Fall 2015.

In the spirit of New World Symphony’s laboratory approach, MUSAIC is an interactive online community that represents a new approach to the time-honored tradition of passing musical knowledge to succeeding generations. The site will be continually updated with educational video content curated by New World Symphony and produced by partner institutions.

To launch of the program, USC Thornton contributed performances by the USC Thornton Symphony and USC Thornton Wind Ensemble that were originally broadcast on KCET television's Open Call program; a series of orchestral excerpts featuring bassoon faculty Judith Farmer; and three videos with faculty Kristy Morrell covering topics ranging from breathing exercises to orchestral etiquette.

“MUSAIC represents an incredible partnership with New World Symphony,” said Lucinda Carver, vice dean of USC Thornton’s Division of Classical Performance Studies. “Online-based instruction has been used in many different academic areas for some time, but something this dynamic and comprehensive for music education is truly a breakthrough.”
USC Thornton is joined in MUSAIC by a select group of fellow universities and conservatories: Cleveland Institute of Music, Curtis Institute of Music, Eastman School of Music (University of Rochester), Guildhall School of Music and Drama (London), Manhattan School of Music, Royal Danish Academy of Music, San Francisco Conservatory of Music and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

“We are so pleased that many of our peer institutions are included in the MUSAIC project,” said Carver. “It creates a wonderful opportunity for USC Thornton to enhance our reputation as one of the top music schools in the world.”

MUSAIC videos will include excerpts from master classes, coaching sessions, lessons and online conferences, as well as live hangouts and webcasts of events. Additionally, full-length performances by master faculty, world-famous musicians and students will demonstrate the techniques discussed in selected videos.

“Some of our MUSAIC videos will be interviews with individual faculty, while others will feature faculty working with students,” said Carver. “I’m eager to work with my distinguished colleagues in the Classical Division to highlight their skills and showcase the extraordinarily gifted faculty and students that make up the USC Thornton School of Music.”

MUSAIC will be updated weekly with new content. For more information, please visit: http://musaic.nws.edu/

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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.

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.