At the USC Thornton School of Music, we celebrate our location in Los Angeles, the nation’s center for creativity and innovation. As the music profession changes, we offer a forward-thinking education that prepares students for careers at the highest level as performers, composers, educators and industry leaders.

Our three exceptional divisions offer cross-genre experiences unique among the country’s top music schools. As a leading research institution, USC offers students a rigorous, broad-based education that enriches their artistic and musical development.
Part of a growing trend, students across USC Thornton’s Classical Performance & Composition division are forming new chamber ensembles and commissioning classmates, professors and alumni to create and premiere original works across Los Angeles. Two groups, Sakura (shown here) and Hocket, are blossoming in the city’s thriving music scene.

Read more at music.usc.edu/viewbook
“If you monitor the New York arts press, you will quickly understand that Los Angeles is hot. The coast-to-coast current has changed course: young painters, writers and musicians are flocking here.”

- Mark Swed, Los Angeles Times music critic

One Composer, Two Philharmonic Premieres

Lightning strikes twice for student composer

Julia Adolphe, a doctoral composition student, had her Dark Sand, Sifting Light performed by the New York Philharmonic in 2014, a work premiered during USC Thornton’s New Music for Orchestra concert a few months earlier. She received a commission from the same orchestra for a new viola concerto premiered by principal violist and Thornton alumna, Cynthia Phelps ’78.

See more at music.usc.edu/viewbook

Hitting the Streets of Los Angeles

A groundbreaking mobile opera features USC Thornton faculty, alumni and students

People do many things while stuck in traffic, but sing arias? Hopscotch, the celebrated mobile opera by The Industry that unfolded throughout the city, featured an artistic team that is a cross-section of classical and new music in Los Angeles, including more than 20 USC Thornton faculty, alumni and students. Two horn players, alumni Matt Otto and Tawnee Lynn Pumphrey, performed on the rooftop of a Toy District loft 24 times a day. Said Otto: “It’s one of the most complex creative endeavors I’ve ever been involved with.”

Read more at music.usc.edu/viewbook

USC Thornton alumni are well represented on the rosters of major American orchestras: New York Philharmonic (4, incl. assistant concertmaster & principal viola), Boston Symphony (1, principal flute), Chicago Symphony (5, incl. principal tuba and assistant principal bassoon), San Francisco Symphony (5, incl. the conductor), Los Angeles Philharmonic (18, incl. principal percussion and timpanist, assistant principal cello and viola), and Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (16, incl. principal harp, percussion and trumpet, assistant principal viola, and composer in residence).

87% of recent alumni said they would likely enroll at USC Thornton if they had to do it all over again.
Piatigorsky International Cello Festival Returns to USC
A Who’s Who of cellists spent 10 days on campus, and 109 of them performed on one stage at Disney Hall.

Student is Loaned Two Legendary Violins
A student of Midori Goto won an international competition and suddenly had a Stradivarius and a Guarneri.

A Springtime Celebration of Composer Morten Lauridsen
The National Medal of Arts winner reflected on his extraordinary career in 10 short videos.

Read these stories and see the videos at music.usc.edu/viewbook

A Day in the Life of a Classical Guitarist
Have guitar, will tour internationally
An average day at USC Thornton for Mak Grgić is anything but ordinary. The award-winning classical guitarist and artist diploma student is always on the go, from his class studies to the weekly concert series he curates, Music@Rush Hour, to rehearsals for his current project, Duo Deloro, with flamenco guitarist and faculty member Adam del Monte.

We Heard Her Here, First
Soprano Yelena Dyachek ‘16 was selected as a winner at the Grand Finals of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Several Thornton Vocal Arts alumni, including baritone Joseph Lim ‘10 and soprano Angela Meade ‘04, have won the competition in past years and gone on to flourishing international careers.

Why is this Man in a Red Sweater and Sunglasses Singing on Campus?
Students from the Choral & Sacred Music department turned into a flash mob on Hahn Plaza before the holidays, performing a version of Bethlehem, a Nigerian song, in preparation for the annual Choral Winter Gala. The gala featured 250 singers and instrumentalists, including the USC Thornton Trombone Choir, Scholarship Brass Quintet and more.

88% of USC Thornton undergraduates complete their degrees in six years, but most (72%) graduate in four. The national six-year completion rate is 59%.

Each year, 5 student composers have their works premiered by the USC Thornton Symphony in the unique New Music for Orchestra program. These premieres often lead to commissions with major American orchestras.

Bringing Music Behind Bars
Pianist Evan Pensis ’16 performed before an Arizona audience that had likely not heard live classical music in years. Pensis played two recitals for 300 inmates at the Arizona State Prison’s facility in Florence. Pensis is interested in the idea of the prison as a place where music could have great power. Said Pensis: “Some of the responses that I got were the most powerful things anyone has ever said to me.”

We Heard Her Here, First
Soprano Yelena Dyachek ’16 was selected as a winner at the Grand Finals of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Several Thornton Vocal Arts alumni, including baritone Joseph Lim ’10 and soprano Angela Meade ’04, have won the competition in past years and gone on to flourishing international careers.

Melting the Borders Between Film, Animation and Music
The USC Thornton Symphony and conductor Carl St.Clair traveled to Santa Barbara for a stunning multimedia presentation of Modest Mussorgsky’s Pictures at an Exhibition at the historic Granada Theatre, a collaboration with animators from the USC School of Cinematic Arts.

A Springtime Celebration of Composer Morten Lauridsen
The National Medal of Arts winner reflected on his extraordinary career in 10 short videos.

Read these stories and see the videos at music.usc.edu/viewbook
Some musicians go their whole lives without playing the Troubadour, the legendary West Hollywood hall of rock, but every spring seniors in the Popular Music program perform their original music on the same stage where Bob Dylan, James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, the Byrds, Elton John, Carole King and hundreds of others have played.

Read more at music.usc.edu/viewbook
We prepare and expect students to work. I recommended a student to sub for me with a big band, and the leader decided he would keep on calling my student instead of me. I thought that was great. It’s thrilling to see your students excel.”

- Peter Erskine, director of Drumset Studies

---

**Digital Music Making in His Dorm Room**

A new degree in music production

Today’s producers literally do it all: composing and arranging, performing live and in the studio, audio engineering and mastering. USC Thornton’s new Music Production degree covers all these bases plus the business side of music. Tom Carpenter, part of the inaugural class, got a head start on his career by turning his room into a makeshift studio.

See more at music.usc.edu/viewbook

---

**The Art of the Musical Director**

When Karina DePiano came to USC, she didn’t know what a musical director was. Luckily for her, she enrolled in the Popular Music program, one of the industry’s best. Even before graduation, Karina toured as a keyboardist for singers Troye Sivan and Rita Ora. With Patrice Rushen’s guidance, she led bands featuring her classmates while working toward a career as a musical director.

Read more at music.usc.edu/viewbook

---

**Laying Down Tracks in Capitol Records Studio A**

In the studio where Sinatra, McCartney and Neil Young recorded, the USC Thornton Jazz Orchestra played a composition by a Thornton scoring student, while students from Thornton technology classes assisted in the control room. It’s one of many examples of strong USC-Hollywood connections.

See more at music.usc.edu/viewbook

---

**EDM Extravaganzas Start Here**

Where do EDM artists such as Skrillex and ZEDD get their light shows, video projections and special effects? They go to Production Club, a design and logistics firm founded by USC alumni. Many of the company principals met when they were students in the Music Industry program. They gave back by inviting current students to see the behind-the-scenes work of creating festival magic.

See more at music.usc.edu/viewbook

---

**Assignment: Write Your Own Jazz**

Peek into any rehearsal room in the Jazz Studies program and you will hear something you’ve never heard before. The emphasis is on original music. Alex Hahn ‘16 and Jon Hatamiya ‘16 (left) and Alex Hahn ‘16 in downtown Los Angeles

---

**Ben Bram and Scott Hoying Win Another GRAMMY Award with Pentatonix**

Music Industry grad Bram is the arranger for the a cappella super group, which includes former Popular Music student Hoying.

---

**Drummer Ana Barreiro ‘15 Uses Jazz to Spotlight Sexual Violence Against Women in Africa**

She rounded up USC musicians to compose and record music for YouTube videos on women who survived attacks.

Read these stories and see the videos at music.usc.edu/viewbook
CREATING A SPACE FOR ARTISTS

It’s called the Eastside Café, but it isn’t a coffee shop. It’s a community gathering space in East Los Angeles hosting classes, exhibitions and music. Every Saturday, alumna Angela Flores leads a traditional jam session. Through the USC Arts Leadership program, she is working with her community to convert a group of abandoned bungalows near the café into artists’ studios.

See more at music.usc.edu/viewbook
We study early music because there is a mistaken notion that old music is outdated. When you perform a piece of music, you are hearing the echoes of music and ideas that still resonate today. It feels alive.”

- Adam Gilbert, director of the Early Music program

50% of current doctoral students presented papers at scholarly conferences during the past year.

The Emphasis is on Performing with Feeling
Teaching students to prize passion as well as perfection
For middle school bands and orchestras, festivals too often reward careful, reserved performances, said DMA student Richard Perez (facing page). Technical proficiency is important, but Perez takes pride in students performing in an authentic way, with feeling. His research looks at how playing in a group creates a sense of belonging, thereby elevating a community. “Music is a means of social advancement,” he said. Read more at music.usc.edu/viewbook

Developing a Vietnamese Children’s Songbook
A thesis turns into a love letter to a family’s cultural homeland
Tina Huynh (left), a doctoral student in Music Teaching & Learning, turned to children’s songs as a reflection of Vietnamese-Americans’ bridge to their language and culture while raising their children so far away. The Vietnamese Children’s Songbook, an illustrated children’s book with a CD of traditional songs, was completed in 2016. What Huynh hopes to highlight with her book is the simple wonder of connecting childhood with history. She said: “How much more meaning would your life have if you knew where you came from, if you knew the history of your people and the songs of your people?” Read more at music.usc.edu/viewbook
Collaborate Across Campus

Nearly one-fourth of USC Thornton undergraduates pursue a major or minor in a discipline outside of music, attracted by the offerings at a top research university that include 162 undergraduate majors and 155 minors.

The Brain and Creativity Institute at the USC Dornsife School of Letters, Arts and Sciences, where the effects of music on brain development is one area of study, is popular, as is USC’s fabled School of Cinematic Arts, with concentrations in filmmaking, animation, game design and other disciplines. Other students seek out courses at the highly ranked Marshall School of Business, Viterbi School of Engineering and 19 other schools and academic units.

Welcome to the (Arts) Neighborhood

Unusual for a research institution, USC boasts six world-class arts schools: music, dance, cinematic arts, dramatic arts, architecture and fine arts/design. Most are adjacent to the USC Thornton buildings, forming a creative arts neighborhood. USC’s extensive program of visiting performers and events, Visions and Voices, brings arts and humanities to the entire campus.

The Trojan Family is Forever

USC Thornton roots run deep at major entertainment and cultural institutions, from the GRAMMY Museum and Hollywood studios in Los Angeles to major orchestras around the world. Strong alumni networks are active worldwide, and help open professional doors for Thornton graduates.
How to Apply

Application Procedures
1. Determine the specific application requirements for your chosen program (details at music.usc.edu/admission).
2. Complete the appropriate USC Application for Admission (available at usc.edu/admission).
3. Complete the supplemental music portions of the USC application, and upload the appropriate media submission(s) (including prescreen material, as required) through the SlideRoom portal (instructions at music.usc.edu/admission).
4. Perform an audition, if required, according to the specific audition requirements of your chosen program (details at music.usc.edu/admission). For more information, contact: 800-872-2213 uscmusic@thornton.usc.edu

Financial Aid
University-wide
All domestic students are encouraged to apply for need-based financial aid. Academic scholarships are also available for undergraduate students. For more information, visit usc.edu/financialaid.

USC Thornton School
Applicants to scholarship-eligible programs are automatically considered for music scholarships based upon their application and audition. Teaching assistantships are available for some graduate programs. Applications can be downloaded from music.usc.edu/admission.

Gainful Employment Disclosures
The United States Department of Education requires that not-for-profit educational institutions disclose certain types of information regarding programs that lead to gainful employment in a recognized occupation. In the USC Thornton School of Music, three programs are subject to these federal requirements: (1) the Artist Diploma program; (2) the Graduate Certificate program in Arts Leadership; and (3) the Graduate Certificate program in Music Performance. The required information for these programs is available at music.usc.edu/admission/gainful-employment-disclosures.

Admission Timeline

December
- Application deadline for all programs
- All materials must be received by this date

January – March
- Live auditions (by invitation only) held in late January and early February
- Application and/or portfolio review

April 1
- Admission and financial aid notification

April 15
- Graduate enrollment commitment deadline

May 1
- Undergraduate enrollment commitment deadline

ADMISSION TIMELINE

December
• Application deadline for all programs
• All materials must be received by this date

January – March
• Live auditions (by invitation only) held in late January and early February
• Application and/or portfolio review

April 1
• Admission and financial aid notification

April 15
• Graduate enrollment commitment deadline

May 1
• Undergraduate enrollment commitment deadline

Degrees & Majors

Undergraduate Majors include the Bachelor of Music (BM), Bachelor of Arts (BA), and Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees.

Undergraduate Minors include Jazz Studies, Music Industry, Music Production, Music Recording, Musical Studies, Musical Theatre, Popular Music Studies, and Songwriting.

Graduate Programs include the Master of Arts (MA), Master of Music (MM), Graduate Certificate (GCRT), Artist Diploma (ARTD), Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA), and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

Classical Performance & Composition
Brass (BA, BM, MM, GCRT, ARTD, DMA)
Choral Music (BA, MM, DMA)
Classical Guitar (BA, BM, MM, GCRT, ARTD, DMA)
Composition (BM, MM, DMA)
Keyboard Collaborative Arts (MM, GCRT, ARTD, DMA)
Organ (BA, BM, MM, GCRT, DMA)
Percussion (BA, BM, MM, GCRT, ARTD, DMA)
Piano (BA, BM, MM, GCRT, ARTD, DMA)
Sacred Music (MM, DMA)
Strings (BA, BM, MM, GCRT, ARTD, DMA)
Vocal Arts (BA, BM, MM, GCRT, DMA)
Woodwinds (BA, BM, MM, GCRT, ARTD, DMA)

Contemporary Music
Jazz Studies, Instrumental (BA, BM, MM, GCRT, DMA)
Jazz Studies, Vocal (BA)
Music Industry (BS, MS)
Music Production (BM)
Popular Music Performance (BM)
Screen Scoring (MM)
Studio/Jazz Guitar (MM, GCRT, DMA)

Scholarly & Professional Studies
Arts Leadership (MS, GCRT)
Early Music Performance (MA, GCRT, DMA)
Music Teaching & Learning (MM, DMA)
Musicology (PHD)

70% of current USC Thornton students receive financial awards that do not need to be repaid.
Popular Music students playing on a rooftop east of downtown Los Angeles