MEDIA ADVISORY
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COLLABORATION THRIVES AT USC THORNTON THIS SPRING

This Spring's events are marked by a uniquely collaborative spirit at the USC Thornton School of Music with concerts planned across departments, ensembles, and even schools.

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A few of the many highlights in an incredible Spring semester:

**Popular Music – A New Venue for the Senior Showcase**
The annual Senior Showcase for the USC Thornton School of Music’s Popular Music program is moving to a new location, the El Rey Theatre, on March 26. More than just a culmination of four years of hard work, the showcase is an opportunity for the entire community to celebrate these extraordinary young artists as they embark on professional music careers.

**Orchestra Program – Mahler’s Fifth, Beethoven’s Ninth, and a Premiere by Frank Ticheli**
The USC Thornton Symphony performs Mahler’s Fifth Symphony with guest conductor Yoav Talmi on March 9th. On March 30th, the Symphony will team with the USC Thornton Chamber Singers and Concert Choir to perform one of the most beloved symphonies, Beethoven’s Ninth, under the baton of Maestro Carl St.Clair.

The USC Thornton Wind Ensemble continues to champion new works, premiering a piece by Thornton student Celka Ojokangas on February 9th along with other contemporary pieces, and premiering faculty member Frank Ticheli’s Serenade for Kristin, with oboe soloist Kristin Reynolds, on April 13th.

**Choral & Sacred Music – Soundscapes and Reflections on Matthew Shepard**
The USC Thornton Chamber Singers will join forces with the Concert Choir on March 2nd to present a wide-ranging “Soundscapes” concert, featuring music from Baltic composers to Thornton’s own faculty member, Morten Lauridsen.
On April 8th, guest composer Craig Hella Johnson will lead the Chamber Singers in his profoundly reflective oratorio, *Considering Matthew Shepard*, in a special concert presented by USC Visions & Voices.

**Vocal Arts & Opera – A collaboration across performing arts schools for West Side Story, and a vivid Postcard from Morocco**

Ken Cazan, chair of USC Thornton’s Vocal Arts & Opera program, will direct a new production of Leonard Bernstein’s classical musical, *West Side Story*, from March 29th to April 8th, produced in collaboration with the USC School of Dramatic Arts and the USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance. Thornton’s renowned opera program will present a new production of Dominick Argento’s vivid one-act, *Postcard from Morocco*, April 18th-22nd, directed by School of Dramatic Arts faculty member John DeMita.

**Faculty Recitals – Judith Farmer, Andrew Shulman, Jeffrey Kahane, and More**

Collaboration will be at the heart of the February 6th faculty recital with bassoonist Judith Farmer and cellist Andrew Shulman, inviting faculty pianist Jeffrey Kahane, alumni pianists Nadia Shpachenko and Nic Gerpe, and clarinetist Edgar Lopez to share the stage in works by alumnus Gernot Wolfgang. Pianist Stephen Pierce will team with guest soprano Bronwen Forbay on February 13th for “An Exploration of 20th Century Afrikaans Art Song.” On March 27th, Composition faculty member Chris Rozé will present an evening of original works performed by Thornton students, past and present.

**New Music – New Work for Percussion, the Annual New Music for Orchestra Concert, a Premiere by Stephen Hartke, and a Genre-Bending Collaboration with yMusic**

New music is alive and well at USC, with performances by the USC Thornton Percussion Group (April 3rd) and the annual New Music for Orchestra concert on February 23rd, featuring the USC Thornton Symphony performing original works by student composers. On April 10th, Donald Crockett leads the Thornton Edge in the West Coast premiere of a concerto for piano and ensemble by Stephen Hartke, featuring guest pianist Xak Bjerken.

On April 4th, the genre-bending yMusic ensemble will join forces with faculty composer Andrew Norman, USC Kaufman choreographer Jennifer McQuiston Lott, and video director Nathan Johnson to create a hybrid “chamber music video” in an innovative performance event for USC Visions & Voices that’s not to be missed.

**Jazz – Jeffrey Keezer Joins the USC Thornton Jazz Orchestra, and Peter Erskine Joins the Honors Combo**

Composer and pianist Geoffrey Keezer will join Bob Mintzer and the USC Thornton Jazz Orchestra for a March 5th program of standards and original compositions.
On Thursday, March 29, the Jazz Honors Combo, a select group of USC Thornton jazz musicians led by Jason Goldman, presents an evening of original jazz featuring Peter Erskine, Grammy Award-winning drummer and director of Drumset Studies at Thornton.

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As always, almost all of USC Thornton’s concerts, events, and masterclasses are free and open to the public. Pick up your copy of our Spring brochure today – and sign up for our ThisWeek@Thornton email newsletter to keep up with the latest news and events.

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ABOUT THE USC THORNTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC

For more than 130 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.