USC Thornton

Viewbook 2018/19

Music in the city of angels
As the music profession changes, the USC Thornton School of Music offers an innovative education that prepares students for careers at the highest level as performers, composers, educators and industry leaders. We do this while making the most of our location in Los Angeles, the nation’s center for creativity and original art of all kinds.

Our three exceptional divisions offer cross-genre experiences unique among the country’s top music schools. As a leading international research institution, USC offers students a rigorous, global education that enriches their artistic and musical development.
Cellist Annie Jacobs-Perkins in downtown Los Angeles, framed by the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and Walt Disney Concert Hall.
ON THE HORIZON: BRIGHT FUTURES

Classical music is as vibrant as it has ever been, but it’s changing and so are we. We’ve created a new undergraduate curriculum that will challenge students to develop a distinct artistic voice and create a thriving career in classical music. We’re calling it the ReDesign. Our goal? To train artists who will expand classical music’s influence and impact, now and in years to come.

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

Winning the Game of Musical Chairs

Recent grads across all disciplines are being hired by professional symphonies.

The odds of winning a position in a full-time orchestra are daunting. Nabbing a spot is rare, but graduates of USC Thornton have been winning these highly competitive seats at an enviable rate. “Our grads are all over the world — in the New York Philharmonic, the Concertgebouw, Swedish radio, Madrid,” says clarinet professor Yehuda Gilad.

Female Conductors Seize the Baton

Doctoral students make their musical marks at USC — and afterwards.

Three Choral & Sacred Music students and recent alums are earning plaudits on the podium as conductors. Jenny Wong, Irene Apanovitch and Shou-Ping Liu are seeing success in the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the American Choral Directors Association Graduate Conducting Competition and the orchestra and chorus at Union College.

A Semester at Sibelius

A young composer learns to appreciate Finland's cold and calm in a new study abroad program.

USC Thornton forged new ground when it established the International Exchanges program, creating opportunities for students to travel and study abroad. As part of the program, Composition major Curtis Green spent a semester at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland.
94% of recent alumni said they would likely enroll at USC Thornton if they had the chance to do it over again.

USC Thornton alumni are well represented on the rosters of major American orchestras: New York Philharmonic (5, incl. assistant concertmaster, principal viola & principal tuba); Chicago Symphony (5, incl. principal tuba); Cincinnati Symphony (5, incl. principal bass & oboe); San Francisco Symphony (7, incl. the conductor); Los Angeles Philharmonic (18, incl. principal cello, trumpet, percussion & timpani); Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (14, incl. principal harp, trumpet, viola & composer in residence); and principal chairs with the Auckland Philharmonia, Boston Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Houston Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, Nashville Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Seattle Symphony.

(L-R) Annie Ranzani, Justin Woo, Nao Kubota and Malik Taylor at the Department of Water and Power headquarters in downtown Los Angeles.
“I find Los Angeles to be the most vital artistic community in the country right now, and we really have to look no further than our campus.”

- Margaret Batjer, strings faculty member and concertmaster of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra

**Those Recital Experiences Pay Off**

*Keyboard Studies student appears at The Kennedy Center.*

Every year, the more than 300 student recitals on campus are important warmups for professional performances. Example A is So-Mang Jeagal ’15 who, while earning an Artist Diploma, won the Grand Prize at the Washington, D.C., International Piano Competition in 2014 that included a concerto appearance at The Kennedy Center.

**Student Premieres Work at Royal Ballet**

*Undergraduate found her British collaborator online, and worked via Skype.*

Composer Katya Richardson, in her junior year, collaborated with British choreographer Charlotte Edmonds on a piece for England’s Royal Ballet. After collaborating online via Skype, Richardson’s music and Edmonds’ choreography premiered in spring 2018, and Richardson traveled to London for the event.

87%

of USC Thornton undergraduates complete their degrees in six years, but most (73%) graduate in four. The national six-year completion rate is 59%. 
Two Seniors Earn Fulbrights
Two recent alumni will spend the 2018-19 academic year abroad as Fulbright Scholars. Choral & Sacred Music alumna Geetha Somayajula will travel to India to study classical music traditions, while Jazz studies alumnus Max Kapur is bound for South Korea to teach English. Both double majored at USC: Somayajula earned a second degree from the USC Marshall School of Business, and Kapur in East Asian Languages & Cultures.

Student Composer is Musical America’s New Artist of the Month
Doctoral candidate Julia Adolphe, who has had works commissioned by the New York Philharmonic and Los Angeles Philharmonic, recently was the magazine’s featured new artist. In her interview, she said gender diversity at USC Thornton was one of the reasons she chose the school.

From Classmates to Professional Colleagues
Two violinists, recent alumni Michelle Tseng and Tianyun Jia, both won jobs in the LA Phil, while cellist Peter Myers is the new assistant principal cello of the San Francisco Opera. The runner-up? His classmate and fellow member of the Sakura cello quintet, Yoshika Masuda.

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

These Singers Do It All
Singers as producers, directors, music arrangers, set builders, costumers and prop masters. For more than a dozen years, The Chamber Opera of USC has been thriving as a student-run organization that provides performing opportunities to undergraduate singers and directing opportunities to graduate students. The students produce two opera or musical theater productions every year, and learn how to be true ensemble participants.
Celeste Butler (center) with Amir Kelly, Nyallah Noah and Eddie Stone, performing at the 2018 Popular Music Senior Showcase at the El Rey Theatre.
From Popular Music to Screen Scoring to Jazz Studies, the programs in the Division of Contemporary Music are among the industry’s best and most celebrated. They have always been musical pathfinders, and are also known for their embrace of new technology and creative collaborations with new media, dance, theater and musicians located around the world.

Read more at music.usc.edu/viewbook
“There are so many sides to being a composer in the film industry. The business. The creative. USC does a wonderful job of giving you that whole package.”

- Duncan Thum (’06, GC ’13)
Emmy-nominated film composer and Screen Scoring alum

A New Space for a Song

USC Thornton unveils new Songwriter’s Theater.

The school debuted a brand new venue for songwriting — a space dedicated to words, music and creation. The 980-square-foot space has a state-of-the-art sound system and stage rigging, LED lighting and seats 50 in an intimate theater setting. A grand piano, drum set, guitars and amps stay in the room, at the ready for songwriters to test their work.

Music Industry Students Brimming with Creativity

Undergrad student creates “the WordPress of event planning.”

Alvin Liang has quite a few music industry insiders expecting big things from him. Not for his artistry, mind you, but for his killer apps. Last October, Liang wowed the judges at the 11th annual USC Stevens Student Innovator Showcase, landing his team the $10,000 grand prize for “Best Business Concept.” His idea: a scalable, self-serve event planning platform called EventAll.
Leading Music Industry Alumni
You can find Music Industry alumni in leadership positions across entertainment fields. Julia Betley ‘06 was recently promoted to vice president of licensing and soundtracks at RCA Records, and Ben Adelson ’09, a senior vice president at Republic Records, made Billboard magazine’s list of “40 under 40: Music’s Top Young Power Players Revealed.”

Two Years Out, Two Nominations
When Duncan Thum got the call, his jaw went slack. An Emmy nomination for Outstanding Music Composition for a Series. Less than two years out of school, in his rookie year as an independent Hollywood composer, he’d made the Television Academy’s top-six list. The following year, Thum was nominated again for an episode of Chef’s Table.

Pop Music Forum Brings Pros to Talk About Work (and Play)
Top singers and instrumentalists from all genres, music producers, songwriters and other industry stars regularly speak to students at the Pop Music Forum, held exclusively for USC Thornton students. A recent guest was John Mayer, who gave a songwriting masterclass complete with whiteboard illustrations.

Jazz in Amsterdam
The language barrier wasn’t such a barrier at all. Jazz standards are performed the world over. As part of USC Thornton’s international programs, 10 students from the Jazz Studies program traveled to Amsterdam over Spring Break to meet, study and perform with students from the Conservatorium van Amsterdam.

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

Drummer Brandon Combs and vocalist Nolan Frank in a recording session at Capitol Records’ Studio A.
A FRESH LOOK AT MUSIC EDUCATION

It’s a fact. Music education programs haven’t changed very much in 150 years. USC Thornton is changing that with a new master’s degree for students who want to earn teaching certification in California and other states, where traditional band, orchestra and choir are being joined by guitar, songwriting and technology classes. Keeping a close eye on our alumni and education trends, we are training multi-talented teachers to meet the realities of today’s school music programs.

Read more at music.usc.edu/viewbook

Alumnus Jim Wang leads an orchestra rehearsal at Lincoln Middle School in Santa Monica.
Transforming the Landscape of Teacher Education

A new Master’s degree debuted in 2018.

“Today’s music teachers need to feel comfortable teaching a wind ensemble, overseeing a rock band, leading a songwriting class using acoustic and digital technology and organizing concerts of student-created music,” says vice dean Peter Webster. This is the vision for the new Master’s degree in K-12 Contemporary Teaching Practice.

Success Without a Podium

An ensemble without a conductor, but with plenty of gigs.

Benjamin Mitchell launched the Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra with help from USC Thornton’s Arts Leadership program. An innovative and conductorless ensemble that’s breathing new life into classical music in Los Angeles, Kaleidoscope features some of the best players in the city who collaborate through a democratic process to prepare and perform a wide range of orchestral pieces.

“It’s really important for us as students to get involved in our community, particularly with programs that go into schools and develop lasting relationships with the kids.”

- Rose Campion, USC’s 2018 valedictorian, was a double major in music and history. Campion accepted the Ertegun Scholarship to pursue a MPhil in musicology at Oxford University.

50% of current doctoral students presented papers at scholarly conferences during the past year.
For a Better Brain, Learn Music

Faculty member Beatriz Ilari has been conducting a study in partnership with the LA Phil and Heart of Los Angeles to show that musical training can alter brain structures for the better. The study results underscore the importance of community music programs that can offset some of the negative effects of low socio-economic status.

Arts Entrepreneurship: Where Art Meets STARTup

Kenneth Foster began the Arts Leadership program at USC to teach students to apply their creative skills to grow from artist to arts entrepreneur. What makes artists and leaders stand out from the crowd is their ability to envision possibilities and make them happen—traits closely related to those of successful entrepreneurs.

Why Should Musicians Mentor?

The USC Thornton Community Engagement Program pairs local public schools with students from all divisions and degree programs, who then mentor and teach the students. A three-part video series came out last year, showing many of the student mentors in action.

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

Stepping in to Bring Music to Students

USC Thornton alumna Catherine Cooper launched a music education program for underserved students in Central California. “It’s the most fulfilling work I do,” says Cooper, “I love teaching in a school, but there’s something special and unique about being able to give children and families the gift of music.”

Alumnus Vince Womack, at right, rehearsing on stage with his students at the James Foshay Learning Center in South Los Angeles.
Double Majors

Jason Lewis ’19 is pursuing a BA in Music with a second major in Computational Neuroscience. He is part of the medical engineering design club that 3-D printed an ophthalmoscope that attaches to an iPhone. It took 33 hours to print, and Lewis wrote the app to operate it.

The Trojan Family is Forever

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

Artistic Collaborations

The 2018 spring musical, West Side Story, which coincided with the 100th anniversary of composer Leonard Bernstein’s birth, was a collaborative production between three USC arts schools — the USC School of Dramatic Arts, USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance and the USC Thornton School of Music. Students’ combined talents made it an epic triple threat of a production.

Coliseum Renovation

The LA Memorial Coliseum, the historic venue that has hosted the Summer Olympics twice and is home to the USC Trojans football team, is undergoing a renovation project that will be completed in 2019.
How to Apply

Application Process

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@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
Graduate and undergraduate 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.
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), Master of Science (MS), 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 Guitar (MM, GCRT, DMA)

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

Gainful Employment Disclosures
The United States Department of Education requires that not-for-profit educational institutions disclose certain types of information regarding programs that do not lead to a degree. These federal regulations are designed to provide information about programs leading 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.
USC Thornton Faculty

Classical Performance & Composition

Choral & Sacred Music
Suzi Digby
Cristian Grases
Lynn Helding
Mary Mattei
Jo-Michael Scheibe, chair
Tram Sparks
Nick Strimple
Lisa Sylvester
Ladd Thomas

Classical Guitar
Brian Head, chair
William Kanengiser
Pepe Romero
Scott Tennant

Composition
Composition
Donald Crockett, chair
Sean Friar
Ted Hearne
Morten Lauridsen
Andrew Norman
Frank Ticheli

Theory & Analysis
Bill Biersach
Neal Desby
Sarah Gibson
Brian Head
Veronika Krausas
Robert S. Moore
Christopher Rozé
Mark Weiser

Conducting
Lucinda Carver, vice dean
Cristian Grases
Mary Mattei
Jo-Michael Scheibe, chair
Tram Sparks
Nick Strimple
Lisa Sylvester
Ladd Thomas, principal conductor

Keyboard
Collaborative Arts
Kevin Fitz-Gerald
Alan L. Smith, director

Keyboard Studies
Bernadene Blaha
Lucinda Carver, vice dean
Kevin Fitz-Gerald
Stewart Gordon
Jeffrey Kahane
Sung-Hwa Park
Antoinette Perry
Stephen Pierce
Daniel Pollack
Alan L. Smith, chair

Organ
Cherry Rhodes
Ladd Thomas, chair

Strings
Violin
Lina Bahn
Margaret Batjer
Martin Chalifour
Glenn Dicterow
Bing Wang

Viola
Che-Yen Chen
Karen Dreyfus

Cello
Ralph Kirshbaum, chair
Andrew Shulman

Double Bass
David Allen Moore

Harp
JoAnn Turovsky

Orchestral Repertoire
Ben Hong

Trojan Marching Band
Arthur C. Bartner, principal conductor

Vocal Arts & Opera
Thomas Michael Allen
Ken Cazan
Parmer Fuller, musical theater
Rod Gilfry
Rakefet Hak
Lynn Helding
Elizabeth Hynes
Brent McMunn, music director
Lisa Sylvester, chair

Winds & Percussion
Flute
James Walker

Oboe
Marion Kuszyk
Joel Timm
Allan Vogel

Clarinet
Yehuda Gilad
David Howard
Michele Zukovsky

Bassoon
Judith Farmer
Shawn Mouser

 Saxophone
Jessica Maxfield

Horn
Steven Becknell
Kristy Morrell, chair

Trumpet
Thomas Hooten
Jennifer Marotta

Trombone
Terry S. Cravens

Tuba
Norman Pearson
James Self
Doug Torbqquist

Percussion
James Babor
Joseph Pereira

Contemporary Music

Jazz Studies
Bass
Alphonso Johnson
Edwin Livingston
Darek “Oles” Oleszkiewicz

Jazz Composition
Jason Goldman
Vince Mendoza
Bob Mintzer

Percussion
Peter Erskine
Roy McCurdy
Aaron Serfaty

Piano
David Arroyo
Russell Ferrante
Alan Pasqua

Saxophone
Jason Goldman
Bob Mintzer, chair
Bob Sheppard

Trombone
Andy Martin

Trumpet
Ron McCurdy
Michael Stever
John Thomas
Vocal Jazz
Sara Gazarek
Kathleen Grace

Music Industry
Jeff Brabec
Todd Brabec
Michael Garcia
Mark Goldstein
Trudy Green
Jeremy Gruber
Michael Kaminsky
Kevin Lyman
Richard McIlvery
Garry Schyman
Lawrence Shragge
Chris Young

Studio Guitar
Adam del Monte
Bruce Forman
Timothy Kobza
Frank Potenza
Richard Smith
Nick Stoubis, chair
Steve Trovato

Screen Scoring
Pete Anthony
Chris Brooks
Bruce Broughton
Jon Burlingame
Daniel Carlin, director
Sean Dougall
Laura Karpman
Patrick Kirtst
Richard McIlvery
Eric Schmidt
Trudy Green
Jeremy Gruber
Michael Kaminsky
Kevin Lyman
Richard McIlvery
Garry Schyman
Lawrence Shragge
Chris Young

Musicology
Bruce Alan Brown
Joanna Demers, chair
Adam Knight Gilbert
Rotem Gilbert
Dana Gioia
Leah Morrison
Sean Nye
Tim Page
Nate Sloan
Scott Spencer
Lisa Cooper Vest

Scholarly & Professional Studies
Arts Leadership
Helane Anderson
Snehal Desai
Kenneth Foster, director
Dana Gioia
Jackelyn Lopez

Early Music
Lucinda Carver
Lot Demeyer
Susan Feldman
Jennifer Kampani
Adam Knight Gilbert, director
Rotem Gilbert
Charles Koster
William Skee
Jason Yoshida

Music Teaching & Learning
Robert Cutietta, dean
Susan Helfter, chair
Beatrix Ilari
Judy Lewis
Peter Webster, vice dean

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Printing: Printer Name

Faculty member Pepe Romero conducts a masterclass with classical guitarist Max Brenner