Media Contacts:
Evan Calbi, USC Thornton School of Music, 213-740-3229, calbi@usc.edu
Jeremy Pepper, USC Communications, 213-740-8606, pepper@usc.edu
For media attendance, please contact media representatives.

Fall 2019 Season Highlights

The USC Thornton School of Music announces an eclectic and engaging semester of events.

Another school year is here, and the USC Thornton School of Music has an amazing semester of events planned. This semester’s concerts, masterclasses, and more are a testament to the artistry and versatility of USC Thornton’s incredible student musicians. Most concerts are free and open to all.

“Music is such a meaningful experience that should be part of everyday life, and we want everyone to feel welcome at our events,” said Robert Cutietta, dean of USC Thornton. “Our students and faculty continually put on concerts, and we welcome everyone by making them free or nearly free for as many people as possible.”

Broken down by categories, highlights from the semester ahead include:

**Classical Ensembles**
Carl St.Clair opens the 2019-20 season on Sept. 13 by leading the USC Thornton Symphony in an all-Shostakovich concert, featuring *Festive Overture* and the composer’s Symphony No. 10. Two weeks later on Sept. 27, the USC Thornton Symphony — under the direction of Sharon Lavery — will perform Dvořák’s *New World Symphony*, which was taken to the moon during the Apollo 11 mission.

Other notable performances include the USC Thornton Wind Ensemble celebrating the 25th anniversary edition of *Blue Shades* by Composition faculty member Frank Ticheli on Oct. 11, and the Symphony’s annual *Concerto Night* with celebrated guest conductor Murry Sidlin on Oct. 16.
**Vocal Arts and Opera**
On Nov. 20, 22 and 24, the USC Thornton Opera presents [Benjamin Britten’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Midsummer_Night%27s_Dream). The opera is a fantasy about how myth affects the lives of mortal beings. In a production that is updated to current day, Shakespeare's lovers and fairies roam the dark streets and hidden alleys of the Garment District in Downtown Los Angeles.

**Choral Music**
The [USC Thornton Chamber Singers](https://www.usc.edu/Thornton/Choral/chorus.html) will be joined by renowned British vocal ensemble VOCES8 at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church on Nov. 1. On Nov. 15, the USC University Chorus celebrates autumn in all its glory, from the Reformation and falling leaves to the World Series and Thanksgiving, in a [concert at the St. John’s Episcopal Cathedral](https://www.usc.edu/Thornton/Choral/chorus.html).

**Faculty Recitals**
On Sept. 24, piano duo HOCKET celebrates the [USC Thornton Composition program](https://www.usc.edu/Thornton/Composition/) with a recital featuring work by new faculty member Nina Young and Sean Friar among an eclectic evening of new music.

On Oct. 15, pianist [Antoinette Perry](https://www.usc.edu/Thornton/Composers/antoinette-perry.html) performs a solo recital featuring music by Debussy, Messiaen, Copland, and Schumann.

**Jazz**
The USC Thornton jazz programs will feature talented students in recitals, small groups and large ensembles in 12 jazz nights throughout the semester. Among the many fantastic nights of music, the Oct. 28 event features [guest vocalist Luciana Souza and the USC Thornton Jazz Orchestra](https://www.usc.edu/Thornton/Jazz/orchestra.html). They will present an evening of standards and original compositions under the direction of guest conductor and faculty member Vince Mendoza.

Also of note, [Shanghai Jazz: A Culture Mix](https://www.usc.edu/Thornton/Jazz/orchestra.html) on Nov. 19, celebrates the 1935 collaboration of celebrated Chinese musician Li Jinhui and jazz musician Buck Clayton.

**Popular Music**
On Dec. 7, third-year students in the storied [Popular Music program](https://www.usc.edu/Thornton/Popular/) take the stage for an evening showcase of original material. Stay tuned for the seniors to bring down the house in another Senior Showcase in the spring.

**Polish Music Center**
The Polish Music Center’s Oct. 12 flagship fall concert will present a collaboration with the USC School of Dramatic Arts, [Three Paderewskis](https://www.usc.edu/Thornton/Events/three-paderewskis.html), a new American musical hybrid exploring the life and loves of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, created by writer Oliver Mayer and composer Jenni Brandon.
Early Music
On Dec. 6, the Baroque Sinfonia presents Terpsichore: Michael Praetorius and the Muse of Dance, a concert featuring music from Terpsichore with great dances collected, composed and arranged by Michael Praetorius.

Sounds of the Season
Celebrate the holidays and the end of the semester in style on Dec. 14 with Sounds of the Season, our annual gala concert. It features 250 singers and instrumentalists ringing in the season with carols and songs in support of scholarships for USC Thornton’s most talented students.

The full schedule of all the events can be found on the USC Thornton event calendar, including additions throughout the fall, as well as admission instructions.

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About the USC Thornton School of Music

For more than 125 years, the University of Southern California 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. For more information, go to music.usc.edu.