

USC Thornton

School of Music

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGENDARY JAZZ AND POPULAR MUSIC DRUMMER NDUGU CHANCLER SHARES 60 YEARS OF LIFE AND MUSIC AS PART OF VISIONS AND VOICES AT USC SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2012 AT 3PM

**Featuring performances by the USC Thornton Jazz Orchestra and ALAJE
(USC Thornton's Afro Latin American Jazz Ensemble)**

(Los Angeles, CA) – Drummer legend and renowned musician **Ndugu Chancler's** career spans across all sectors of the music industry and serves as inspiration to students and fellow musicians on a daily basis. In this very special event, Chancler gives back to the wider public of Los Angeles and USC through sharing his unique story and career trajectory, promising to inspire and demonstrate how one creates a fulfilling musical life. Presented by the USC Thornton School of Music, and USC Visions and Voices: The Arts and Humanities Initiative, Ndugu Chancler celebrates 60 years of life through discussion and a video retrospective alongside performances of Chancler's own music performed by the USC Thornton Jazz Orchestra, ALAJE (USC Thornton's Afro Latin American Jazz Ensemble) and several major Los Angeles-based artists, including jazz greats Ernie Watts and Greg Walker, as well as Thornton faculty Alfonso Johnson and Patrice Rushen.

Citing Miles Davis and Quincy Jones as his greatest inspirations, Chancler shares the diversity of the musical experiences he has had over the last 45 years from jazz to R&B to rock to afro-cuban to his multiple roles in the music industry. He has performed with many of the greats in popular music and jazz including performing on Michael Jackson's hit "Billie Jean." Other artists he has performed and recorded with include Frank Sinatra, Santana, Herbie Hancock, Weather Report and Kenny Rogers.

Though he is a seasoned performer, Chancler's talents and career go beyond that of a rock and jazz drummer; he is also a percussionist, composer, producer, clinician and educator. In Chancler's words, "All of it goes together for me. I simply call myself a

musician and these are all just things I do. When one becomes a musician, one is not just a drummer or a composer. You train to be diverse. You train to arrange, write, play and produce. It was all part of what you did, all part of the basic job description. We were all producers, arrangers and players. That is what everybody did in Miles Davis's band. "

The performances by the USC Thornton Jazz Orchestra will feature all works by Chancler including afro-cuban works written for Santana and George Duke, an assortment of jazz pieces and one of four commercial R&B tunes Chancler has written. Performances will feature several Los Angeles-based artists who have had long-standing relationships with Chancler including Alfonso Johnson and Ernie Watts. Chancler himself will be featured playing not only the drums, but also multiple instruments.

This event takes place on Sunday, September 23, 2012 at 3:00PM at Bovard Auditorium at USC's University Park Campus. Tickets are free though they must be reserved in advance through the Visions and Voices website located at <http://www.usc.edu/visionsandvoices>.

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CALENDAR LISTING:

Ndugu Chancler: 60 Years of Life and Music

Visions and Voices: The USC Arts and Humanities Initiative and USC Thornton School of Music

University Park Campus

Bovard Auditorium

Sunday, September 23, 2012

3:00PM

Tickets are free but Reservation is Required.

Please reserve tickets online at <https://www.usc.edu/visionsandvoices>

Ndugu Chancler is a drummer, percussionist, producer, composer, clinician and educator. As a studio musician, Ndugu has recorded with such greats as Frank Sinatra, Herbie Hancock, Weather Report, John Lee Hooker, Kenny Rogers and Michael Jackson. Working on *Thriller* and *Bad*, Ndugu was the drummer on the hit single "Billie Jean." Ndugu has also played on a number of movie soundtracks including *An Officer and a Gentleman*, *Indecent Proposal*, and *The Color Purple*.

As a songwriter Ndugu co-wrote hits for Santana including "Dance Sister Dance," "Reach For It" for George Duke and "Let It Whip" for the Dazz Band. His production credits include Flora Purim, Bill Summers and Toki, along with his own solo recordings: *Ndugu and the Chocolate Jam Co.* and *Ndugu Chancler*. Ndugu has co-produced recordings for Santana, George Duke, The Crusaders, Joe Sample, Wilton Felder, Tina Turner, Ernie Watts and a group he co-leads with Patrice Rushen. These associations have brought many gold and platinum albums and Grammy Awards.

USC Thornton Jazz Orchestra

Directed by Bob Mintzer, this ensemble concentrates on the hard swinging style of the classic big bands. The flagship of the jazz studies department, the ensemble performs worldwide at jazz festivals, as well as for marquee television and live performing arts events.

ALAJE (Afro Latin American Jazz Ensemble)

Directed by Aaron Serfaty, ALAJE features music that is student-arranged for the 10 to 14 member ensemble. The group is a favorite at LA area festivals and cultural events.

About the USC Thornton School of Music:

The USC Thornton School of Music brings together a stellar faculty chosen from a broad spectrum of the music profession and gifted students from around the globe. Founded in 1884 and today the oldest continually operating cultural institution in Los Angeles, the Thornton School consistently ranks among the nation's top music schools and conservatories.

By blending the rigors of a traditional conservatory-style education with the benefits of a leading research university, USC Thornton offers an impressive range of performance opportunities and a curriculum designed to prepare students for successful careers in the 21st century. The Thornton School presents more than 500 concerts each year and is the only music school with a weekly radio broadcast in a major media market featuring student performances.

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 hub. Every week, our students engage with leading professionals in all aspects of the music, recording, and entertainment industries, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, LA Opera, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Grammy Foundation®, and The Recording Academy®. Our students also are a constant presence in local classrooms, reaching out to the next generation of musicians. For more information please visit www.usc.edu/music or call (213) 740-3233.

About Visions and Voices:

Visions and Voices is a university-wide arts and humanities initiative that is unparalleled in higher education. Established in fall 2006 by President C. L. Max Nikias upon his installation as provost, the initiative was created to engage all USC students, regardless of their major or year in school, in the arts and humanities. With presentations by critically acclaimed artists and distinguished speakers, the series features theatrical productions, music and dance performances, film screenings, lectures and workshops. In addition to

the events held on the University Park and Health Sciences campuses, students are also offered a variety of opportunities to experience Los Angeles's dynamic cultural landscape at events throughout the city.

Highlighting the university's commitment to interdisciplinary approaches, the events are conceived and organized by faculty and schools throughout the university. Each program is designed specifically to challenge students to expand their perspectives and become world-class citizens. Every event includes an interactive or reflective component, providing students with a stimulating experience and an opportunity to explore USC's core values, including freedom of inquiry, respect for diversity, commitment to service, entrepreneurial spirit, informed risk taking, ethical conduct and the search for truth. This approach to the arts and humanities can make every future scientist a better scientist, every future lawyer a better lawyer, every future business professional a better business professional and every future artist a better artist, contributing to a better society as a whole.