

Benefactors Make Ground-Breaking Commitment to Thornton

Thanks to a gift from Buzz and Barbara McCoy, Shelly Berg is the first person to hold the McCoy Endowed Chair in Jazz Studies Honoring Steven Sample. Mr. Berg formally received the honor in



a ceremony following a performance with the Dave Brubeck Quartet in April.

The chair brings many of Buzz and Barbara McCoy's personal interests together in one endowment. By tying these honorees together in one gift, Buzz McCoy, a long

term jazz enthusiast, says the gift became an expression of a unique experience with USC and the Thornton School.

Mr. McCoy first met Mr. Berg through a shared love of jazz, and their acquaintance grew into a friendship. "This chair is a reflection of Shelly's artistic ability and his positive human qualities," Mr. McCoy says.

Mr. McCoy also began talking to USC president Sample, who would play jazz drums with Mr. Berg in impromptu performances every now and then. As he learned more about Mr. Sample and USC, Mr. McCoy began to appreciate the effects of his tenure as president. "Steve is one of the greatest presidents in the history of USC," Mr. McCoy says. "He has done a lot for the university, to say the least."

These personal connections, and the artistic quality they encourage, were made apparent at the Dave Brubeck concert. The collaboration between this jazz master and the next generation of musicians reflected the spirit of collaboration in the McCoy's gift, with everyone making a contribution to produce something special.