



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**USC THORNTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC WELCOMES
LES PAUL'S BIG SOUND EXPERIENCE**

Thursday, January 28 – Friday, January 29
USC University Park Campus

LOS ANGELES (January 21, 2016) – The University of Southern California Thornton School of Music is pleased to host **Les Paul's Big Sound Experience** tour on January 28 and 29, 2016. The tour celebrates the 100th anniversary of legendary inventor and musician Les Paul in a two-day event featuring interactive exhibits, music exploration, and hands-on entertainment.

Situated on USC's Pardee Plaza, the 53-foot, state-of-the-art tour vehicle will take guests behind the scenes into the world of Les Paul. Visitors will be able to mix and share music as they learn about one of the most important innovators of the music industry. The free event is open to Los Angeles music-lovers of all ages.

Chris Sampson, vice dean of USC Thornton's Division of Contemporary Music and director of the school's Popular Music program, will add to the festivities with a series of public lectures touching on Les Paul's extraordinary influence on music technology.

GRAMMY-Award winning Les Paul was a pioneering jazz, country, and blues guitarist whose innovative electric guitar designs paved the way for the now-familiar rock-and-roll guitar sound. Countless contemporary artists, including Jeff Beck, Billie Joe Armstrong, Joan Jett, and Jimi Hendrix have credited Paul with shaping their music. Paul was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988.

Les Paul's Big Sound Experience will be open to the public Thursday and Friday **January 28th** and **29th** from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily. USC's Pardee Plaza is located at the southern end of Trousdale Pkwy, adjacent to Exposition Blvd.

For more information, visit music.usc.edu/lespaul. To learn more about the educational technology behind Les Paul's Big Sound Experience tour, visit lespaultour.com

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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.