



USC BAND FOLLOWS UP HIT PERFORMANCE ON GRAMMYS WITH OSCARS GUEST SPOT

TMB Performs with Radiohead, Beyoncé Knowles, and Hugh Jackman in the course of two weeks.

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Los Angeles – February 24, 2009 – What a fortnight for “Hollywood’s Band!” On February 8, a 32-piece group of Trojans backed up lead signer Thom Yorke and guitarist Johnny Greenwood of Radiohead for their performance of “15 Step” on the 51st Annual Grammy Awards broadcast from Staples Center. Exactly two weeks later, the TMB Drumline backed up Hugh Jackman, Beyoncé Knowles, and the stars of *Mamma Mia!* and *High School Musical* for a Baz Luhrmann-produced salute to the Hollywood musical at the 81st Annual Academy Awards.

The praise for the TMB’s collaboration with Radiohead was immediate and overwhelming, beginning with a standing ovation after the performance. It was lauded as “stunning” (*Examiner.com*), “rousing” (*Rolling Stone*), “inspiring” (*CRAVEONLINE*), “edgy” (*Staten Island Advance*), and “spellbinding” (*St. Petersburg Times*). Locally, the *Los Angeles Times* declared that the performance should have opened the show and the *Orange County Register* said that it was “Tusk’ for a new age.” Even Paul McCartney was excited to catch Radiohead’s new backup band: “I’m looking forward to seeing them perform with the USC marching band tonight,” he said. After the performance, Thom Yorke visited the band in their dressing room and thanked them for all the hard work, saying wryly “I think that went over well.”

A week later, the TMB’s drummers got to work practicing their part for the Oscars. Acclaimed director Baz Luhrmann came to campus himself to supervise preparations for the TMB’s part in his big 1930’s-style production number. All band members had to be fitted for tuxes and top hats for the show. The 50-strong drumline was the capper to the medley of classic Hollywood musical songs, performing on “Mamma Mia!” and “Top Hat.” *TV Guide* Twittered upon seeing the band backstage at the Kodak Theater, “Is it the Grammys again?” and Steve Martin attempted to join the drumline onstage, according to *USA Today*. As the band exited the stage into the house, they received congratulations and applause from many Hollywood A-Listers.

The two performances were the result of much work for Trojan Marching Band members, encompassing over 65 hours of practice for five minutes combined airtime. It has been quite a year even for “Hollywood’s Band” as the TMB was also featured last May on the Season 7 Finale of *American Idol*. The three shows were viewed by over 87 million viewers combined in the U.S. alone.

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For more information about the USC Trojan Marching Band visit www.uscband.com.