

March 6, 2007

Memorial Concert in Celebration of Eleonore Schoenfeld, renowned cellist and USC Thornton professor since 1959

Dean Robert Cutietta announced today that the USC Thornton School of Music will host a memorial concert to celebrate the life and works of Eleonore Schoenfeld. "Rarely has any one person had such a dynamic effect on an institution, a profession and a city. Eleonore's legacy is one that is shared by all," Cutietta said in a statement.

The concert is being prepared and planned with Alice Schoenfeld, Eleonore's sister and performing partner in the Schoenfeld Duo. The concert will feature performances by former students, faculty colleagues and professional colleagues. In addition, a one hour documentary will be produced on the impact of Ms. Schoenfeld's teaching on the cello profession. Excerpts of the television documentary will be aired during the concert as well.

There will also be an important announcement made at the concert regarding a lasting tribute to the Schoenfeld sisters and their achievements and dedication to the USC Thornton School of Music. Guest artists will be announced as plans are formalized.

The concert will be held on **Sunday, September 9, 2007** in Bovard Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.

A reception will be held immediately following the concert in Town and Gown on the University Park Campus.

For more information, please contact the USC Thornton School of Music at muspub@usc.edu



Alice & Eleonore Schoenfeld

Eleonore Schoenfeld Memorial Concert

Sunday, September 9, 2007
4:00 p.m.
Bovard Auditorium
USC University Park Campus

Admission is free

Contact muspub@usc.edu
for more information

Biography

Eleonore Schoenfeld, renowned cellist and music professor who has been on the faculty of the USC Thornton School of Music since 1959, died on January 1, 2007.

Schoenfeld performed in concerts on four continents as soloist with leading philharmonic and radio orchestras, in recitals and in a violin-cello duo known as the Schoenfeld Duo with her sister Alice who still remains on the USC Thornton faculty.

Born in Maribor, Slovenia, to a Russian mother and Polish father, Schoenfeld began as a ballet dancer with the Berlin State Opera, but switched to cello at age 11 and earned her artist diploma at the famed Hochschule für Musik in Berlin where she studied with Karl Niedermeyer and Adolph Steiner. Eleonore and Alice Schoenfeld performed around Europe as child prodigies and already had a flourishing adult career before moving to Los Angeles in 1952.

Eleonore Schoenfeld made more than 200 recordings of solo and chamber music literature, including works written especially for the Schoenfeld Duo, for top television and radio stations in Europe and the United States. The recordings have all been recorded by the BBC in London.

Since 1979, Schoenfeld had directed the International Gregor Piatigorsky Seminar for Cellists. The seminar is organized at USC every other year in memory of Piatigorsky, with whom Schoenfeld worked closely during his tenure at the university from 1962 until his death in 1976. Schoenfeld was the seminar's artist-in-residence in 1980, 1989 and 2005.

Schoenfeld was the recipient of the prestigious Ramo Music Faculty Award from USC in 1990, the Eva Janzer Memorial Award Grande Dame du Violoncelle from the University of Indiana in 1993 and the National Distinguished Service Award from the American String Teachers' Association in 1996.

Throughout her career, Schoenfeld served as the chairperson or as a juror for national and international competitions. In addition, she was a regular guest artist at national and international festivals including the Centre d'Arts Orford in Canada, the Schleswig-Holstein Festival in Germany, the Summer Festival at Hvar in Croatia and the Music Academy of the West in the U.S.

During her international tours, Schoenfeld conducted master classes and seminars in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, China, Croatia, Korea and Germany, among other countries.

In her role as teacher, she consistently attracted talented students from around the world, many of whom became top prizewinners in prestigious competitions in Switzerland, Hungary, Russia, Germany and the United States. Her students have performed as soloists with the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and Bamberg Symphony Orchestra in Germany with such eminent conductors as Zubin Mehta, Horst Stein, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Gerard Schwarz and Carl St.Clair.

“To follow Eleonore’s career is like a portrait of music making and teaching in the 20th century,” Robert Cutietta, dean of the Thornton School of Music, said in a statement. “She was not only a legendary figure in the Thornton School and Los Angeles, where she helped the classical music scene mature and prosper in the years following World War II, but her reputation spread throughout the world.”