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For Immediate Release

### **55<sup>th</sup> Annual GRAMMY Award Nominees Reflect Caliber of Levitt Program**

*Seven of this year's nominees have performed at Levitt's free concert series across America within the past two years. Winners announced February 10, 2013.*

**December 18, 2012**--- Levitt artists rock. Just ask the GRAMMYs. Seven of this year's nominees have performed on Levitt stages across the country within the past two years---including Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles, Levitt Pavilion Pasadena and the Levitt Shell in Memphis.

This year's nominees are just the latest examples in GRAMMY history reflecting the impressive quality and diverse lineup of the national Levitt program, which presents acclaimed, emerging talent and seasoned, award-winning artists to the public every year through 300+ FREE outdoor concerts nationwide. Previous GRAMMY Award winners who have graced Levitt stages include Booker T. Jones, Brave Combo, Poncho Sanchez and Marcia Ball.

"Levitt's six existing music venues have earned reputations for supporting well-established artists as well as those who are rising stars," said Sharon Yazowski, Executive Director of the national nonprofit, Levitt Pavilions. "We're always thrilled when Levitt artists receive accolades like a GRAMMY nod, knowing that thousands of people experienced their talents on a Levitt stage."

#### **The 55<sup>th</sup> Annual GRAMMY nominees include:**



Top Row (L-R):

- **Ruthie Foster** for Best Blues Album ("Let it Burn"). This marks the second GRAMMY nomination for Foster, who has performed at the **Levitt Shell in Memphis** twice.
- **Luther Dickinson** for Best Folk Album ("Hambone's Meditations"). Luther performed at the **Levitt Shell in Memphis** in Spring 2012.

- **Mariachi Divas de Cindy Shea** for Best Regional Mexican Music Album ("Oye"). This is the third GRAMMY nomination for the all-female, GRAMMY Award-winning Mariachi Divas, who have performed at **Levitt L.A.** and **Levitt Pasadena** multiple times.
- **Gregory Porter** for Best Traditional R&B Performance ("Real Good Hands"). This is Porter's second GRAMMY nomination. Porter performed at the **Levitt Shell in Memphis** in fall of 2012.

Bottom Row (L-R):

Competing in the Latin Rock/Urban or Alternative Album category are three female powerhouses:

- **Ana Tijoux** for "La Bala". This is Ana's second GRAMMY nomination, and earlier this year "La Bala" received a Latin GRAMMY nomination as well. Ana performed at **Levitt L.A.** in the summer of 2011.
- **Carla Morrison** for "Déjenme Llorar". She won two Latin GRAMMYs earlier this fall after being nominated in four categories. Carla performed at the **Levitt Pasadena** in the summer of 2011.
- **Quetzal**, for "Imaginaries". Quetzal has wowed audiences at **Levitt L.A.** and **Levitt Pasadena** six out of the last eight years.

Robert Santelli, a Levitt Pavilions national board member and the Executive Director of the GRAMMY Museum, also received his first GRAMMY nomination for producing "Woody at 100: The Woody Guthrie Centennial Collection."

### **About Levitt Pavilions**

Levitt Pavilions is a national nonprofit organization that exists to strengthen the social fabric of America. We partner with cities to transform neglected public spaces into welcoming destinations where the power of free, live music brings people together and invigorates community life.

Levitt Pavilions is the only national network of outdoor music venues presenting free concert series. The Levitt program is six cities strong---in places as diverse as **Los Angeles** and **Pasadena**, California; **Westport**, Connecticut; **Bethlehem**, Pennsylvania; **Memphis**, Tennessee; and **Arlington**, Texas---collectively serving more than half a million people annually. Each Levitt venue is its own 501(c)(3) Friends of Levitt nonprofit organization, presenting 50 free concerts every year featuring acclaimed, emerging talent to seasoned, award-winning performers.

Due to accelerating interest from cities and engaged citizens, the Levitt program is expanding. By 2020, there will be 20 Levitt music venues nationwide, serving 1.5 million people annually. Developing Levitt locations across the country include Denver and Sioux Falls, S.D., amongst other cities.

To learn more, visit [www.levittpavilions.org](http://www.levittpavilions.org)