VanderCook College of Music Graduate Commencement Ceremonies To Honor Music Industry Brothers

Chicago, IL – Thursday, July 23, 2015

On Saturday, July 24, 2015, VanderCook College of Music will bestow the Doctor of Music Education Honoris Causa Award to John D’Addario, Jr. and James D’Addario at their summer graduate commencement ceremonies to be held in Orchestra Hall, Symphony Center, Chicago, Illinois. The D’Addario Brothers, both leaders in music industry, are receiving this award because of their life’s work in developing and advancing products used to enrich the lives of musicians, students, through professionals.

D’Addario & Company, Inc. is an international leader in the design and manufacture of musical instrument accessories for such brands as: D’Addario, Planet Waves, Evans Drumheads, Promark, Puresound Percussion and D’Addario/Rico Woodwind accessories.

John D. Addario, Jr. served as President of D’Addario & Company, Inc. throughout the 1980’s and 1990’s where he was instrumental in helping the company expand their product line’s manufacture and distribution. He is currently President of the D’Addario Foundation for the Performing Arts.

James D’Addario is the Chairman and CEO of D’Addario & Company, Inc. Mr. D’Addario is focusing his attention on production and process innovation, as well as marketing and branding for all D’Addario brands.

John and James D’Addario represent the eighth generation of D’Addarios to have an impact in the music world. D’Addarios’ ancestors have been actively making music strings since 1680 in Salle, Italy. The family name was first introduced as a “brand” of strings to the global market in 1974.

The D’Addario family tradition continues with nine family members of the next generation actively involved in the company’s management. Headquartered in Farmington, New York, D’Addario & Company, Inc. now operates divisions all over the globe with more than 1,100 employees. D’Addario manufactures 95% of its products in the United States and exports approximately 50% of its output. The graduate commencement ceremonies will be held beginning at 2:00 pm on Saturday, July 25, 2015. During the ceremonies, the Summer Graduate Symphonic Band, Collegiate Choral, Philharmonic Strings and Concert Choir will give performances.
VanderCook will also be awarding the Master of Music Education degree to 66 candidates from around the nation.

“This is a special day for our college, for these sixty-six music educators and two industry leaders” commented VanderCook President, Dr. Charles T. Menghini. Menghini went on to say, “The business of teaching music requires a partnership between education and industry. Members of the music industry community such as James and John D’Addario Jr. make it possible for our graduates to have the finest instruments, accessories and music available for them to use in their classrooms around the world. We are honored that we can thank them in this very special way.”

ABOUT VANDERCOOK COLLEGE OF MUSIC

VanderCook College of Music was founded in Chicago in 1909. The college was one of the first three schools to offer a degree in music education and is the only independent college dedicated solely to music education. It remains at the center of the profession today, attracting over 10,000 music students and teachers from around the world to Chicago’s near south side for degree programs, continuing education, clinics and concerts every year.

VanderCook College co-founded the Midwest Clinic: An International Band & Orchestra Conference in 1946. The Midwest has grown to become the premiere band, orchestra and jazz music education conference in the world attracting over 15,000 music teachers, students, performing artists and music industry leaders from around the world. Held in December each year, the VanderCook College of Music Symphonic Band is the only ensemble invited to perform at the event annually.

For more information, please contact Dr. Charles T. Menghini, President, VanderCook College of Music at cmenghini@vandercook.edu or (312) 788-1129.