

Celebrate

APPASSIONATO!

An exceptional year for an extraordinary school

BY ELIZABETH RACHEVA

There are undeniable moments in the history of a place when people, ideas, and events converge in an exceptional way. Say it how you will: The stars align; we're at a tipping point; all signs point to yes; it just seemed like the right time.

No cliché can capture the spirit of Curtis, but the present moment is clearly full of forward momentum, meriting a year of celebration and an opportunity to bring the school's vibrant story to life on and offstage. What better word to describe this special energy than *Appassionato*, this year's theme?

So what's to celebrate? Let's start with Lenfest Hall. The Curtis campus has just expanded with the opening of this beautiful and welcoming new building with residences, teaching spaces, gathering places, and a superb rehearsal hall for the Curtis Symphony Orchestra (see page 10). And there's more. Curtis continues to add to its exceptional faculty and support

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More Online

Explore Appassionato at

www.curtis.edu/appassionato

APPASSIONATO EVERYWHERE

A stellar honorary committee and group of ambassadors are helping to spread the excitement, spirit, and joy of Curtis throughout the 2011-12 *Appassionato* season. The honorary committee comprises eminent artists—alumni and friends of Curtis—who represent varied musical disciplines. Together they exemplify Curtis's proud heritage and forward-looking presence on today's musical scene. The *Appassionato* ambassadors are an eclectic group of civic leaders, artists, alumni, and Curtis trustees, trustees emeriti, overseers, fans, and friends who are helping to shine a light on Curtis locally, nationally, and internationally. Meet all of the *Appassionato* Honorary Committee and Ambassadors at www.curtis.edu/AppassionatoPeople.

CHIEF AMBASSADORS

John Medveckis • Robert Mundheim • Stephanie Naidoff

HONORARY COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Alan Gilbert
(Conducting '92)

PHOTO: HAYLEY SPARKS



Jennifer Higdon
(Composition '88)

PHOTO: J. D. SCOTT



Eric Owens
(Opera '95)

PHOTO: DARIO ACOSTA



Simon Rattle



Wolfgang Sawallisch

PHOTO: PETE CHECCHIA/
PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA
ASSOCIATION

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this growth with endowed faculty chairs. A new department in classical guitar launches this year. State-of-the-art technology and electronic media will enhance learning both in Lenfest Hall and 1726 Locust Street. International touring will reach new audiences in Europe and Asia. And this remarkable Curtis story is spreading around the globe, thanks to a growing online presence that embraces video and social media.

All this innovation is inspiring, the more so because it's anchored in Curtis's rich heritage. The bold programming of *Appassionato* emphasizes the school's enduring impact on the world of music. Alumni artists headline every Curtis Symphony Orchestra concert and student conductors participate in each concert as well. Student recitals feature selections by Curtis composers past and present. The school has commissioned new works for its contemporary music ensemble, Curtis 20/21, and for the orchestra. The Student Recital Series re-creates historic Curtis performances throughout the year, while preconcert lectures and curricular offerings illuminate the school's place in the broader cultural landscape.

Curtis students shine brighter than ever on stage in this *Appassionato* season, with support from international friends, national presenters, and local partners here at home. The Curtis Symphony Orchestra tours to Europe, opening the Dresden Music Festival in May 2012. This fall, Curtis On Tour takes its first-ever trip to Asia, performing at the Beijing Music Festival and the brand new Seoul Arts Center; and highlights the new guitar

APPASSIONATO HIGHLIGHTS THIS FALL

Details at www.curtis.edu or (215) 893-7902

September

24 CURTIS ON TOUR IN ASIA PREVIEW

St. Mark's Church

Mark Russell Smith, conductor ('87)

Sarah Shafer, soprano ('10)

Jarrett Ott, baritone

Roberto Díaz, viola ('84)

Marcy Rosen, cello ('77)

Curtis Chamber Ensemble

MAHLER Piano Quartet in A minor
Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen
(arr. Schoenberg)
Symphony No. 4 in G major (arr. Simon)

October

4 CURTIS ON TOUR

Shanghai Concert Hall

7 CURTIS ON TOUR

Beijing Concert Hall

9 CURTIS ON TOUR

Seoul Arts Center

6-9 CURTIS OPERA THEATRE

Curtis Opera Studio, Curtis Institute of Music

Vinay Parameswaran, conductor

Chas Rader-Shieber, stage director

DAVIES *Miss Donnithorne's Maggot*

HANDEL *Apollo e Dafne*

9 ALUMNI RECITAL SERIES: LIANG WANG ('03) AND BENJAMIN HOCHMAN ('01)

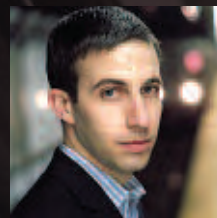
Field Concert Hall

10 STUDENT RECITAL SERIES BEGINS

Field Concert Hall



Jonathan Biss



Benjamin Hochman



Jaime Laredo

PHOTO: J. HENRY FAIR

program in its annual nationwide tour. And Curtis continues and extends its relationships with Philadelphia cultural institutions: the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Opera Company of Philadelphia, and Philadelphia Museum of Art, among many others.

Such a collaboration caps the *Appassionato* year next May, as the Curtis Symphony Orchestra and the Mann Center for the Performing Arts offer a free concert as a gift to the City of Philadelphia the night before the orchestra departs for Europe. With this exciting evening, Curtis aims to galvanize hundreds of new fans here at home as it provides a thrilling end to the season.

But what about the individuals—the Curtis students, alumni, faculty, staff, families, fans, and friends—behind the music? *Appassionato* offers a chance to explore these stories in depth: online, at lectures and gatherings, and through special events all season, including the first alumni reunion in seven years, a black-tie season premiere gala, an elegant “Curtis Songbook” evening in Lenfest Hall, and a joint gala in May with the Mann Center.

There is indeed much to celebrate about this special place and this special moment. Curtis is a unique school with an extraordinary story to tell—of legacy and the future, of people and music making, of community and relationships. Get engaged and learn more at WWW.CURTIS.EDU/APPASSIONATO. And most important, celebrate with Curtis in 2011–12! ◊

Elizabeth Racheva is director of special projects at Curtis.

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More Online

Keep up to date with *Appassionato* performances at www.curtis.edu/performances

23 CURTIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center

Michael Stern, conductor ('86)

Vinay Parameswaran, conductor

Jonathan Biss, piano ('01)

LUDWIG *Fanfare* (Curtis commission)

BARBER *Adagio for Strings*, Op. 11

BEETHOVEN *Concerto No. 4 in G major*, Op. 58

TCHAIKOVSKY *Symphony No. 4 in F minor*, Op. 36

The Jack Wolgin Orchestral Concerts

A BLACK-TIE SYMPHONY SEASON PREMIERE GALA TAKES PLACE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22. LEARN MORE AT WWW.CURTIS.EDU/SPECIALEVENTS.

November

13 CURTIS FAMILY CONCERTS: INTRODUCTION

TO THE BRASS FAMILY

Gould Rehearsal Hall, Lenfest Hall, Curtis Institute of Music

17–20 CURTIS OPERA THEATRE

Prince Music Theater

Benjamin Schwartz, conductor ('01, '04)

John Giampietro, stage director

GOUNOD *Faust*

December

4 CURTIS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center

Presented by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society

David Hayes, conductor ('89)

Anna Davidson, soprano

Roberto Díaz, viola ('84)

SHAPIRO TBA (world premiere)

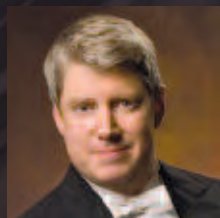
SIERRA *Concerto for Viola*

GOLIJOV *Sidereus* (Philadelphia premiere)

FOSS *Time Cycle*

11 ALUMNI RECITAL SERIES: JAIME LAREDO ('59) AND FRIENDS

Field Concert Hall



Michael Stern



Liang Wang

PHOTO: CHRIS LEE