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 cliche 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...

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](http://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 Diaz, viola (’84)
Marcy Rosen, cello (’77)
Curtis Chamber Ensemble

MASHER 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

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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 Raicheva is director of special projects at Curtis.

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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 Shwartz, 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 Diaz, 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

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