

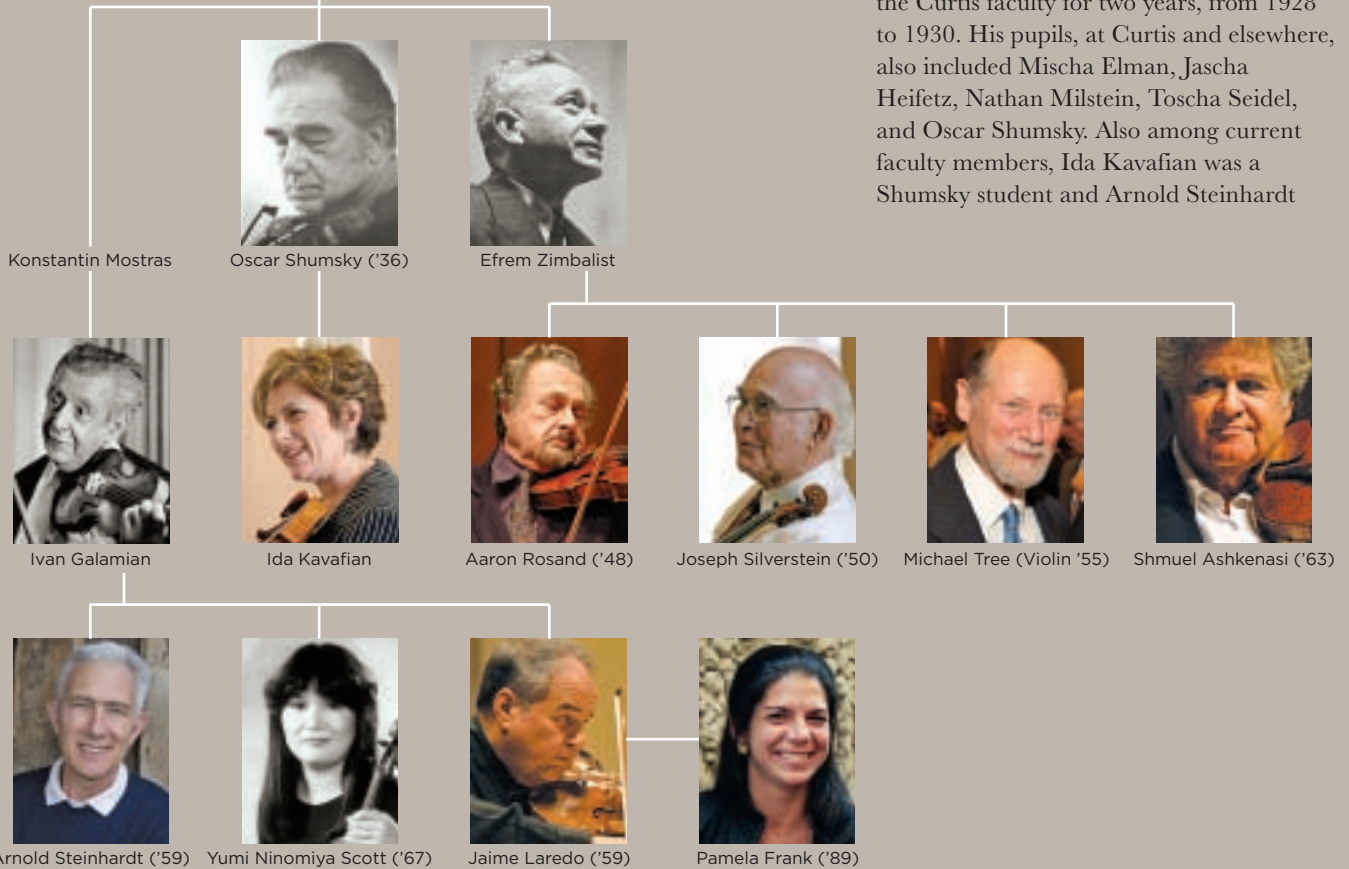
TRACING CURTIS TRADITIONS

CURTIS'S RICH HERITAGE HAS DEEPER ROOTS THAN YOU MAY REALIZE

BY MATTHEW BARKER



Leopold Auer



Here's a game for a lazy afternoon: Pick your favorite Curtis faculty member and count the connections back to 18th- and 19th-century masters. It's fun, easy, and kind of amazing.

Start with the violin. Current faculty members Aaron Rosand, Joseph Silverstein, Michael Tree, and Shmuel Ashkenasi all studied with Efrem Zimbalist, Curtis's director from 1941 to 1968. Go back just one generation and you'll find that Zimbalist was a pupil of famed pedagogue Leopold Auer, the dedicatee of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto. Auer himself served on the Curtis faculty for two years, from 1928 to 1930. His pupils, at Curtis and elsewhere, also included Mischa Elman, Jascha Heifetz, Nathan Milstein, Toscha Seidel, and Oscar Shumsky. Also among current faculty members, Ida Kavafian was a Shumsky student and Arnold Steinhardt

PHOTOS: BETTMAN/CORBIS (BEETHOVEN, CZERNY, LESCHETIZKY, SCHNABEL); JEAN E. BRUBAKER (ROSAND, SOLZHENITSYN); PETE CHECCHIA (ASHKENASI, C. FRANK, KAVAFIAN, MCDONALD, SILVERSTEIN); JOYCE CREAMER/CURTIS ARCHIVES (HORSZOWSKI); DAVID DEBALCO (TREE); DOROTHEA VON HAEFTEN (STEINHARDT); L.C. KELLEY (P. FRANK); PETER SCHAAF (GALAMIAN); STEVE J. SHERMAN (GRAFFMAN, LAREDO); CURTIS ARCHIVES

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Are you a part of this family tree? Let us know where your branch fits in. Post a comment on the Curtis Facebook page at

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studied with Seidel. Steinhardt's teachers also include longtime Curtis teacher Ivan Galamian, leading to another interesting branch of this violin family tree since Galamian's teacher, Konstantin Mostras, was yet another Auer disciple. The Galamian branch includes current faculty Yumi Ninomiya Scott, also a Galamian pupil, and Pamela Frank, who studied with Galamian student Jaime Laredo.

For those keeping count, that's seven of eight violin faculty members and one viola faculty member with an unbroken connection to Leopold Auer, arguably the most famous violin teacher in history.

Impressive—but rivaled by the piano faculty's incredible series of connections. Two current members, Gary Graffman and Seymour Lipkin, studied at Curtis with Isabelle Vengerova and Mieczyslaw Horszowski. Another two, Leon Fleisher and Claude Frank, were students of Artur Schnabel. Vengerova, Horszowski, and Schnabel were all pupils of Theodor Leschetizky, who was a pupil of Carl Czerny, who studied directly with Ludwig van Beethoven.

Meng-Chieh Liu, Robert McDonald, and Ignat Solzhenitsyn joined this legacy through their studies at Curtis as well. Currently five of the six Curtis piano faculty members continue this unbroken link. (When Jonathan Biss joins our faculty next year, the former Leon Fleisher student will add to that number.) This means every piano student at Curtis has only six degrees of separation from Beethoven himself.

We haven't even touched on the woodwind, brass, harp, organ, opera, conducting, or composition faculties, which have superb legacies of their own. So the next time you hear music by Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Liszt, or Schumann, you can tell your fellow listeners that the Curtis Institute of Music is keeping their spirit and ideas alive with an unbroken lineage that goes back centuries. ♦

Matthew Barker is manager of student recitals and outside performances at Curtis.



Ludwig van Beethoven



Carl Czerny



Theodor Leschetizky



Mieczyslaw Horszowski



Isabelle Vengerova



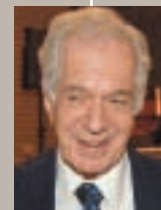
Artur Schnabel



Seymour Lipkin ('47)



Gary Graffman ('46)



Claude Frank



Leon Fleisher



Robert McDonald ('77)



Ignat Solzhenitsyn ('95)



Meng-Chieh Liu ('93)



Jonathan Biss ('01)