



CURTIS
INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

NOTATIONS



Strings

1950s

In October **Frances Steiner** (Cello '56) led the Chamber Orchestra of the South Bay with Los Angeles Philharmonic concertmaster **Martin Chalifour** (Violin '84) as soloist in Bach's Violin Concerto in E Major and Part's *Fratres*. Curtis faculty member Jason Vieaux in November joined the ensemble in Castelnuovo-Tedesco's Guitar Concerto.

Diana Steiner (Violin '57) has taken up harp playing as a senior citizen. Her first book of arrangements for lever harp, *7 Easy Folksongs*, has been published by Fatrock Ink Music Publishers and is available at its website. Ms. Steiner was inspired by her daughter, Los Angeles-based harpist Marcia Dickstein.

1970s

Chin Kim (Violin '79) held online master classes for Louisiana State University in November and for the InterHarmony International Music Festival in July. Also in July, he gave an online performance of the Ysaÿe Violin Sonata No. 6 for Summit Music Festival.

1990s

In October **Benjamin Schmid** (Violin '91) received an Opus Klassik Award for his recording of Mozart's Piano Quartets Nos. 1 and 2 (Onyx) with colleagues Dejan Lazić, Zen Hu, Johannes

Erkes, and Enrico Bronzi.

Hilary Hahn (Violin '99) became the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's artist-in-residence for a two-year term beginning last September.

Tim Fain (Violin '98) performed on the soundtrack for the Joel Cohen film *The Tragedy of Macbeth*. Released in January, the recording features music by Carter Burwell.

Soovin Kim (Violin '99) will join the faculty of the Yale School of Music in July as a visiting professor of violin. He will teach a private studio, coach chamber music, and conduct a master class each semester.

2000s

Tina Chang Qu (Violin '00) joined the Interlochen Arts Academy string faculty last fall.

In October **Benjamin Bowman** (Violin '02) was the featured soloist at Carnegie Hall in *An imaginary concerto* for violin by Bach (with excerpts from the composer's Easter Oratorio, BWV 249, and Sinfonia in D Major, BWV 1045) with the Orchestra of St. Luke's.

Daniel Chong (Violin '00) in October released an album of works by Dvorák and Kurtág with the Parker Quartet and violist Kim Kashkashian.



Jennifer Koh (Violin '02) gave the world premiere of Missy Mazzoli's Violin Concerto (*Procession*), with the National Symphony Orchestra in February. In April, Ms. Koh won a Grammy Award for best classical instrumental solo for "Alone Together," her Cedille Records release containing some 40 works recorded in response to the pandemic and the financial hardship it has placed on the arts community.

In April **Earl Lee** (Cello '05) was named the winner of the 2022 Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award. The award comes with \$30,000 in cash, career guidance, and industry connections. Mr. Lee is currently the assistant conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

In September the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra extended the contract of chief conductor **Karina Canellakis** (Violin '04) through July 2027.

Trio Zimbalist, comprised of **Josef Špaček** (Violin '09), **Timotheos Gavriilidis-Petrin** (Cello '17), and **George Xiaoyuan Fu** (Piano '16), joined Curtis's artist management roster in January.

2010s

Derek Zadinsky (Double Bass '11) was promoted to assistant principal bass of the Cleveland Orchestra in November. Mr.

Zadinsky has been a member of the Cleveland Orchestra since 2012.

John-Henry Crawford (Cello '14) is the 2021–2023 Young Artist in Strings at the National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC), a nonprofit organization based in Greenwood, Ind.

The Aizuri Quartet (Quartet '16) has won the Cleveland Quartet Award, presented by Chamber Music America. The biennial award honors a rising string quartet “whose artistry demonstrates that it is in the process of establishing a major career.”

Laura Park (Violin '16) began studies at Harvard Law School last fall.

In September **En-Chi Cheng** (Viola '17) was one of three soloists along with the New York Classical Players to premiere the Concerto for Three Violas and Strings by **James Ra** (Composition '04).

Youna Choi (Cello '17) won the Pablo Ziegler Award as part of the Sonos Piano Trio at the inaugural Piazzolla Music Competition in June.

Maria Ioudenitch (Violin '18) in March joined the roster of Opus 3 Artists. This comes after winning first prize in September at the Tibor Varga International Violin Competition in Sion, Switzerland, followed by first prize in October at the Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition Hannover.



Winds/Brass/ Percussion

1970s

A recording of Max Reger's Clarinet Sonata No. 3 by **David Singer** (Clarinet '71) and former Curtis director and faculty member Rudolf Serkin was re-released by Pristine Classical in November.

Charles Salinger (Clarinet '77) received the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra Music Institute Ovation Award in June.

1990s

Katherine Needleman (Oboe '99) gave the U.S. premiere of Ruth Gipps's Oboe Concerto in November. This is believed to have been its first performance since its London premiere in 1942.

2000s

In November **Anthony McGill** (Clarinet '00) along with pianist Gloria Chen released *Here With You*, a recording of works by Johannes Brahms, Carl Maria von Weber, and Jessie Montgomery.

2010s

Scott Devereaux (Tuba '10) took part in the world premiere of Eric Ewazen's Quintet for Strings and Tuba at the Newburyport Chamber Music Festival in August.

Shiqi Zhong (Percussion '17) was a finalist in the solo category of the inaugural Piazzolla Music Competition in June.

In 2021 **Lydia Roth** (Flute '18) joined the Columbus Symphony, in Columbus, Ohio, as second flute and piccolo player.



Voice/Opera

1990s

Juan Diego Flórez (Voice '96) in January was named artistic director of the Rossini Opera Festival, in Pesaro, Italy.

2000s

Karen Slack (Opera '02) is one of three recipients of a 2022 Sphinx Medal of Excellence. The award recognizes extraordinary classical musicians of color and comes with a \$50,000 career grant.

2010s



J'Nai Bridges (Opera '12) was featured on the cover of *Opera News* magazine's February issue. She is also one of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Next 50, a group of 50 cultural leaders who will take part in Kennedy Center

programs, forums, residencies, and events. And in April Ms. Bridges received a Grammy Award as part of the Metropolitan Opera recording of Glass's *Akhmaten*, which was honored for Best Opera Recording.

Roy Hage (Opera '16) in September entered the Stanford Graduate School of Business at Stanford University.

Sean Michael Plumb (Opera '16) made his Metropolitan Opera debut in March, singing the role of Harlekin in Strauss's *Adriadne auf Naxos*.

Emily Pogorelc (Voice '18) was the third prize winner of Operalia 2021, held at Moscow's Bolshoi Theater in October.



Conducting/ Composition

1980s

The Buffalo Philharmonic gave the premiere of *Bandanna Overture* by **Daron Hagen** (Composition '84) in September in Buffalo.

Robert Spano (Conducting '85) became music director designate of the Fort Worth Symphony in April 2021 and will begin a three-year term as music director this August.

Paavo Järvi (Conducting '88) in November was awarded an Order of Merit by Estonia's

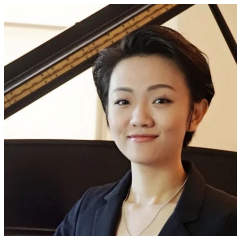
Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The award recognizes his “exceptional contribution to raising Estonia’s profile in the world.”

2000s

Teddy Abrams (Conducting '08) was named *Musical America's* Conductor of the Year for 2022.

2010s

Carlos Ágreda (Conducting '18) made his conducting debut with the Bogotá Philharmonic Orchestra in August and released his debut album of his orchestral works in February.



Dai Wei (Composition '19) received a commission from the American Composers Orchestra to write a work for chamber orchestra with multiple voices. The work, *Invisible Portals*, received its premiere in March at Carnegie Hall with Marin Alsop conducting.

2020s

Two alumni and one current student received 2021 Morton Gould Young Composer Awards from the ASCAP Foundation: Alistair Coleman (Composition), **Chelsea Komschlies** (Composition '18), and **Elizabeth Younan** (Composition '21).

Yuwon Kim (Conducting '20) was one of six conductors chosen to lead the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra at the League of American Orches-

tras' Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview, March 16–17, in New Orleans. There were more than 150 applicants for the showcase.



Organ/Piano

1980s

Ketty Nez (Piano '83), a Fulbright Scholar at the Liszt Academy in Budapest, taught graduate composers and presented her music at the Bartók Archives and the Liszt Academy last fall. She also taught at the Ljubljana Academy of Music in Slovenia in December, coaching opera projects.

Mark Bani (Organ '85) directed a performance of Fauré's Requiem in November at Old St. Joseph's Church in Philadelphia where he is director of music and organist.

1990s

Pianist **Jenny Q Chai** (Piano '94) in April released *Songs of Love*, an album featuring Schumann's *Kreisleriana* alongside two movements by Bach and Ives. Ms. Chai says the album is a tribute to the late Seymour Lipkin (Piano '47), with whom she studied at Curtis. It is available on the Divine Art Recordings Group label.

2000s

In January **Yuja Wang** (Piano '08) gave the premiere of the Piano Concerto by Teddy

Abrams (Conducting '08), under his direction at the Louisville Orchestra.

2010s

Micah McLaurin (Piano '18) was a semifinalist in July at the PIAM (Premio Internazionale Antonio Mormone), held in Milan, Italy.

In July **Ying Li** (Piano '22) won first prize and the audience prize at PIAM (Premio Internazionale Antonio Mormone). The next month, Ms. Li was a semifinalist at the Cleveland International Piano Competition.

Faculty

David Bilger has been appointed professor of trumpet at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music, beginning this September. A member of the trumpet faculty at Curtis since 1997, he has also served as a lecturer at Northwestern since 2018.



Michelle Cann, Eleanor Sokoloff Chair in Piano Studies (Piano '13, ArtistYear '15), in February released a recording of Price's Piano Quintets Nos. 1 and 2 with the Catalyst Quartet. In January she received the 2022 Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award from Bay Chamber Concerts, and in March,

she was one of three recipients of the Sphinx Medal of Excellence. The latter prize is valued at \$50,000 and awarded by the Sphinx Organization.

The Philadelphia Orchestra in January performed *The Desires* by faculty member **Ke-Chia Chen** (Musical Studies). The piece featured a concerto-like solo role for principal viola **Choong-Jin Chang** (Viola '94).

In March bassoon faculty member **Daniel Matsukawa** (Bassoon '92) was named a member of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs from the Commonwealth of Philadelphia. In this role, he joins a 30-member committee that works to ensure that Pennsylvania state government is accessible and accountable to Asian Pacific American communities.

Violin faculty member **Midori** was one of five artists to receive a Kennedy Center Honor from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2021. During the televised ceremony Midori received tributes from, among others, Curtis alumna **Hilary Hahn** (Violin '99).

Organ faculty member **Alan Morrison** (Organ '91, Accompanying '93) in January released *Florence Price - Virtuoso and Poet*. The album, on the ACA Digital Recording label, includes Price's First Sonata for Organ and the recently published Passacaglia and Fugue.

Director of Vocal Studies **Eric Owens** (Opera '95) appeared as Philippe II in the Metropolitan

Opera's new production of *Don Carlos* this season.

Harvey Sachs's book, *Ten Masterpieces of Music*, was published by Liveright (New York) in October and focuses on "ten extraordinary works of classical music in ten different genres," from Mozart to Stravinsky. Mr. Sachs is currently working on a short, interpretive biography of Schoenberg for the same publisher.



Guitar faculty member **Jason Vieaux** on April 1 released *Bach Volume 2: Works for Violin* on Azica Records. Focusing on solo guitar versions of Bach's music for solo violin, it follows Vieaux's 2009 release dedicated to the composer's music for lute.

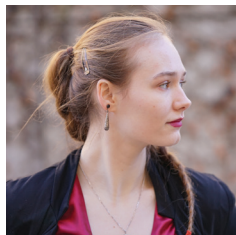
Students

Tianxu An (Piano) was named *Musical America's* New Artist of the Month in August.

In November **Karisa Chiu** (Violin) won first prize at the IsangYun Violin Competition, held in Tongyeong, South Korea.

Avery Gagliano (Piano) gave a recital in November at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. The concert was presented by the National Chopin Foundation

of the United States. That same month she recorded *Reflections*, her debut album on the Steinway & Sons Label. In October she was the only American semifinalist in the 18th International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, Poland.



Maya Miro Johnson (Composition) was the youngest female conducting fellow ever selected to attend the Aspen Music Festival and School's Aspen Conducting Academy, held last summer. She was hired as a cover conductor for the Minnesota Orchestra in January.

In September **Subin Lee** (Harp) won first prize at the Suoni D'Arpa harp competition in Saluzzo, Italy. In November she won the silver prize at the Hong Kong International Harp Competition, which was held online.

Anton Mejias (Piano) won second prize and the audience prize at the Viotti Piano Competition, held in Vercelli, Italy in November.

Two Curtis students won second prize in their respective categories in the Johansen International Competition for Young String Players: **Hannah Tam** (Violin) and **Emad Zolfaghari** (Viola). The event, for string players ages 13-17, is held every three years in Washington, D.C.

Milestones

In June 2021 **Martina (Smith) Adams** (Horn) married trombonist **Hayden Adams** in Abington, Pa.

Those We Have Lost

Alumni



Cecilia Brauer (Piano '40), who played the celeste, piano, and glass harmonica with the Metropolitan Opera, died on October 16 in Teaneck, N.J. She was 97. Ms. Brauer was a noted champion of the glass harmonica, the instrument invented by Benjamin Franklin, which produces an ethereal sound when a player rubs their fingers on glasses of many sizes. At the Met, Ms. Brauer introduced it in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, first in 1992 and again in the 2000s. She also performed the instrument on PBS specials, film scores for *Interview with the Vampire* and *Frida*, and at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. Ms. Brauer studied piano at Curtis under Isabelle Vengerova and maintained close ties to the school ever since. She was an associate member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, where her brother, Raymond Gniewek (1931-2021), was concertmaster.



Cellist **Leslie Parnas** (Cello '51), who was a member of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and a teacher at Boston University, died on February 1 in Venice, Fla., at age 90. The cause was heart failure. Mr. Parnas was born into a musical family in St. Louis on November 11, 1931, and began studies on the piano at age five. Three years later he switched to the cello, and at age 14, he made his solo debut with the St. Louis Symphony. He served as the orchestra's principal cellist from 1954 to 1962. After studies with Gregor Piatigorsky at Curtis, Mr. Parnas won the Pablo Casals Prize at the International Cello Competition in Paris (1957) and took second prize in the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow (1962). Mr. Parnas was a founding member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, for which he frequently recorded. He made numerous international tours, including to the Soviet Union, where he saw the potential for bridge-building during the Cold War.



Christopher Rex (Cello '72), the long-serving principal cellist of the Atlanta Symphony

Orchestra, died March 22 in Atlanta, Ga. Mr. Rex studied at Curtis with Orlando Cole and after graduation, won a cello position in the Philadelphia Orchestra. After seven seasons in Philadelphia, he joined the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in 1979 as its principal cellist. Mr. Rex was an active presence in Georgia, leading the cello department at the McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University and serving as the founding artistic director of two festivals: the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival and the Madison Chamber Music Festival. His brother Charles posted on social media, "It is with great sadness and sense of extreme loss that not only have I lost my dear brother, but the world of music has lost a true artist and devotee to the love of beauty." The brothers were the subject of the 2016 documentary *Concerto for Two Brothers*, which examined the siblings' troubled Florida childhood living under a domineering father.

Jay Samuels (Bassoon '63), died on December 13 in Hilton Head, S.C. He was 83. Born December 18, 1937, in Albany, N.Y., he studied bassoon at Curtis with Sol Schoenbach. He went on to have a six-decade career in music, often performing as a pianist in jazz and popular styles.

Robert H. Sayre (Cello '48) died on December 15 in Rocklin, Calif. He was 94. Born in Pittsburgh in 1927, Mr. Sayre entered Curtis at age 14 to study with Gregor Piatigorsky. After graduation he performed for three seasons with the Cleveland Orchestra and later held posts with the Cincinnati Symphony,

San Antonio Symphony, and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestras. Most notably, he served as principal cello of the San Francisco Symphony from 1964 to 1976. Mr. Sayre was a longtime cello professor at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and founded and conducted the San Francisco Young Professionals Orchestra. An active recitalist, Mr. Sayre was once called "one of the top half-dozen cellists in the world today" by the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.



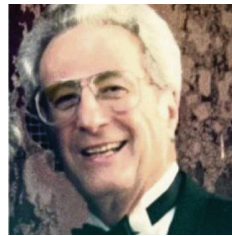
Donald Peck (Flute '51), principal flute of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra from 1958 to 1999, died on April 29 in Chicago. He was 92.

A native of Yakima, Wash., Mr. Peck studied at Curtis with William Kincaid, the celebrated principal flute of the Philadelphia Orchestra. "Kincaid wanted me to make the flute sound like an instrument, instead of tootily-flutily," he told the *Chicago Tribune* in 1985. "I would go to hear the Philadelphia Orchestra every week, and he would be playing, and I'd see what he was talking about."

Beginning in 1952, Mr. Peck worked his way up the orchestral ladder, performing with the National Symphony Orchestra and the U.S. Marine Band, followed by two years as principal flute in the Kansas City Philharmonic. In 1957,

Fritz Reiner appointed him assistant principal flute of the CSO, before promoting him to principal less than a year later. In addition to Reiner, Mr. Peck performed under music directors Jean Martinon, Georg Solti, and Daniel Barenboim. He appeared on more than 300 recordings in Chicago. In 1985, he gave the premiere of Morton Gould's Flute Concerto with the CSO under Georg Solti.

Mr. Peck served on the faculties of DePaul and Roosevelt universities, where he taught flute and woodwind ensemble, and was a frequent guest lecturer and teacher at universities and conservatories around the world. Mr. Peck told his life story in a 2007 memoir, *The Right Place, the Right Time! Tales of Chicago Symphony Days*, published by Indiana University Press.



Opera director **Plato Karayanis** (Voice '56), who served as general director of the Dallas Opera nearly a quarter-century, died on April 29 in Santa Fe, N.M., at age 93.

Born in Pittsburgh, the son of Greek immigrants, Mr. Karayanis studied music at Carnegie Mellon University, followed by voice at Curtis, where he earned an Artist Diploma. His student days at Curtis were pivotal in at least two respects: There, he met mezzo-soprano Dorothy Krebill,

whom he married in 1956. Additionally, Herbert Graf, then the director of Curtis's opera department, encouraged Mr. Karayanis to expand his horizons to include management and stage directing.

Mr. Karayanis later spent six years in Europe studying opera administration and production at the Hamburg State Opera, while also directing and singing baritone roles. After returning to the U.S. in 1964, he held administrative positions with the San Francisco Opera, the Metropolitan Opera National company, and Affiliate Artists, a New York nonprofit organization.

Named general director of the Dallas Opera in 1977, Mr. Karayanis was recognized for his collaborative work ethic. He oversaw an expansion in the company's repertory, the creation of a separate Dallas Opera Orchestra, and the 1994 hiring of Graeme Jenkins as the company's music director and conductor. After retiring from the company in 2000, he held interim directorships with Opera San Antonio and Palm Beach Opera. Mr. Karayanis is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and extended family.

For more obituaries, please visit Curtis.edu/in-memoriam.

We welcome your news and updates for possible inclusion in a future issue. Please email us at overtones@curtis.edu.