



CURTIS  
INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

# NOTATIONS



## Strings

### 1960s

**Robert Martin** (Cello '62) this season established a chamber music residency program at Camphill Village Kimberton Hills, a retirement community where he lives near Philadelphia. The program will feature residencies by three young ensembles.

The String Quartet No. 3 by **Lloyd Smith** (Cello '65), who is formerly known as Russell H. C. Smith, received its premiere in October by the Wister Quartet at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia.

**David Kadarau** (Cello '68) has retired as principal cellist of the San Francisco Opera, a position he held for 47 years.

**Zina Schiff** (Violin '69) is featured on *Summerland*, a new Naxos recording of William Grant Still's music with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, conducted by her daughter, Avlana Eisenberg.

### 1990s

**Joey Amini** (Cello '97) has begun a new career as a realtor at Pinnacle Estate Properties in Malibu, Calif., following a 20-year career in music.

**Hilary Hahn** (Violin '99) has been named *Musical America's* Artist of the Year for 2023. In October Deutsche Grammophon released *Eclipse*, featuring Ms. Hahn's

performances of Dvořák and Ginastera's violin concertos with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, conducted by Andrés Orozco-Estrada.

### 2000s

**Daniel Chong** (Violin '00) was recently named professor of the practice at Harvard University. Mr. Chong is a member of the Parker Quartet, which this year marks its 20th anniversary with the Beethoven Project, featuring performances of Beethoven's complete quartets, along with commissioned works and outreach performances.

In August **Melissa Reardon** (Viola '00) joined the Borromeo String Quartet, succeeding Mai Motobuchi.



Time for Three, featuring **Nick Kendall** (Violin '01) and **Ranaan Meyer** (Double Bass '03), in November received two Grammy nominations for the album *Letters for the Future*, with The Philadelphia Orchestra and conductor Xian Zhang for Deutsche Grammophon. Featuring world premiere recordings of Jennifer Higdon's *Concerto 4-3* and Kevin Puts's *Contact*, the album has been nominated for Best Classical Instrumental Solo and, for Puts's piece, Best Contemporary Classical Composition.



**Jennifer Koh** (Violin '02) made her debut in October with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, joining music director Andris Nelsons in Bernstein's *Serenade* (after Plato's *Symposium*).

**Earl Lee** (Cello '05) began his first season as music director of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra in September.

The Pacifica Quartet, with violist **Mark Holloway** (Viola '05), in November released an album of works by James Lee III, Ben Shirley, Valerie Coleman, and Curtis faculty member Richard Danielpour.

**Tien-Hsin Cindy Wu** (Violin '08) in September was named artistic director of Chamber Music Monterey Bay in Carmel, Calif.

### 2010s

**Ray Chen** (Violin '10) in September acquired the "Dolphin" Stradivarius, a violin from 1714 that once belonged to Jascha Heifetz. It is on loan to Mr. Chen from Japan's Nippon Music Foundation.

**Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt** (Viola '11) in August left the Dover Quartet, Curtis's Penelope P. Watkins Ensemble in Residence, to pursue other musical interests. Violist Hezekiah Leung has joined the ensemble

for a year-long appointment which started in September. Mr. Leung is a founding member of the Rolston String Quartet.

**Junping Qian** (Viola '13) won third prize in the Princess Astrid Conducting Competition, held in August in Trondheim, Norway.

In May **Lifan Zhu** (Violin '14) won the principal second violin position in the Staatsoper Berlin.

In June Orchid Classics released **John-Henry Crawford's** (Cello '14) *Corazón: The Music of Latin America*, featuring works by Villa-Lobos, Ponce, Piazzolla, and other composers.

**Michael Casimir** (Viola '18) was appointed principal viola of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in September. He was previously a member of the St. Louis Symphony's viola section.

#### 2020s

**Anna Im** (Violin '20) has released *Amabile*, an album of works for violin and piano by Johannes Brahms, Edvard Grieg, and Clara Schumann, among other composers. Recorded with pianist Ilya Rashkovskiy, the album formed part of the prize package of the Michael Hill International Violin Competition, which Ms. Im won in 2019.

**Sydney Lee** (Cello '20) is the inaugural recipient of the Meadowmount School of Music's Gurrena Fellowship. The fellowship is valued at \$50,000

and includes continued training with Meadowmount faculty in the summer of 2023.

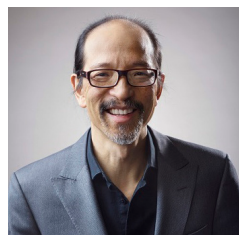
In September **Beatrice Chen** (Viola '22) joined the viola section of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

In May **Ming-Yu Hsu** (Viola '22) became the principal viola of the Kansas City Symphony.



## Winds/Brass

#### 1980s



**Michael Hope** (Bassoon '81) in June completed his 40th season as assistant principal bassoon of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra.

#### 1990s

In June **Chris Clark** (Trombone '95) recorded an album of works for trumpet and piano with **Jack Sutte** (Trumpet '95) serving as producer. In August, Mr. Clark and Mr. Sutte engineered another album of American trumpet sonatas with Mr. Sutte as the soloist, and Craig Ketter as the pianist.

#### 2000s

**Victoria Luperi** (Clarinet '02) served on the clarinet jury panel for the 2022 Carl Nielsen International Competition.

#### 2010s

**George Goad** (Trumpet '13) this fall became the third/utility trumpet in the Kansas City Symphony.

**Catherine van Handel** (Bassoon '15), formerly Catherine Chen, is scheduled to premiere David Serkin Ludwig's bassoon concerto, *Pictures of the Floating World*, with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra on February 3 and 4, 2023. Ms. Van Handel was a recipient of a 2022 Daniel W. Dietrich II Young Alumni Fund grant from Curtis.

**Jahleel Smith** (Bass Trombone '18) has been named bass trombone of the Kansas City Symphony starting in the 2022-23 season. Mr. Smith was an inaugural recipient of Curtis's Young Alumni Fund grants and used the funding to help purchase a new instrument, which he used in his audition for the orchestra.



## Percussion

**Patricia Brennan** (Timpani and Percussion '08), formerly Patricia Franceschy, was named a rising star of the vibraphone in the 70th annual *DownBeat* Critics Poll. Ms. Brennan's second album as a group leader, *More Touch*, was released in November on Pyroclastic Records.



## Composition/ Conducting

#### 1950s

Warner Classics in August reissued a seven-CD box set of Dvořák's complete symphonies performed by **José Serebrier** (Composition '58) and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Serebrier is scheduled to tour the United States with the English Chamber Orchestra in February 2023.

#### 1980s

**James Helgeson** (Composition '86) has been appointed professor of musicology and composition at the Barenboim-Said Akademie in Berlin. Previously, he held positions as a Renaissance scholar at Columbia University, Cambridge University, and other institutions.

**Stuart Malina** (Conducting '89) has been named music director of the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra in Connecticut, starting with its 2022-23 season.

#### 1990s

*Hidden River* by **Eric Sessler** (Composition '93), a commission from the Philadelphia Flute Quartet, was awarded an honorable mention at the Flute New Music Consortium's 2022 composition competition.

#### 2010s

**Rene Orth** (Composition '16) will compose an opera

## Milestones

- **SangHyun Mary Yong** (Viola '10) welcomed her third child, Mason Jaeah Han, on September 28.
- **Tessa Ellis** (Trumpet '17, Community Artist Fellow '18) and her partner Ben Rivello welcomed their second child, Massimo Kai Rivello, in May. He joins big brother Luigi James Rivello, age 3.

for Opera San José after the company received a commissioning grant from OPERA America's Opera Grants for Women Composers program. It is scheduled to premiere in June 2023.

In September **TJ Cole** (Composition '16, ArtistYear '17) was named one of three inaugural members of Creator Corps, a residency program from Louisville Orchestra that includes an active community engagement component. The orchestra will perform the composer's concerto for synthesizer and orchestra next March.



**Conner Gray Covington** (Conducting '17) conducted two operas this fall: Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* at the New England Conservatory, and Tod Machover's *VALIS* as part of MIT's Opera of the Future project.



### Guitar/Harp

**2010s**  
**Jiji Kim** (Guitar '15) will join the faculty at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music in August 2023. She will be a visiting artist and adjunct faculty member until then.

This season **Abigail Kent** (Harp '17) joins the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra as its principal harp.



### Organ

**1980s**  
In June **Richard Elliott** (Organ '80) was one of several individuals to receive Utah's 2022 Governor's Mansion Artist Award. The award was presented by Utah governor Spencer Cox and first lady Abby Cox at the governor's mansion, where Mr. Elliott also performed for the invited guests.

**2000s**  
**Nathan Laube** (Organ '09) played a solo recital at London's Royal Albert Hall in August as part of the BBC Proms. It featured music by Franck, Wagner, Alkan, and Mr. Laube's own organ transcription of Liszt's Piano Sonata in B minor.

**2010s**  
In February **Bryan Dunnewald** (Organ '18) joined Schoenstein & Co. pipe organ builders as assistant to tonal director Jack Bethards, where his work focuses on voicing, tonal design, and client relations. Mr. Dunnewald came to Schoenstein from Saint Mark's Church in Philadelphia, where he served as assistant organist and choirmaster.



### Piano/ Accompanying

**1980s**  
**Paul Anthony Romero** (Accompanying '86) marked the fifth anniversary of the Heroes Orchestra and Choir, which he founded to perform music from his computer game soundtracks, with two live-broadcast concerts in September in Warsaw, Poland.

**2000s**  
In October **Roman Rabonovich** (Piano '08) performed at Carnegie Hall with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, stepping in on a days' notice in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9 in E-flat Major.

**2020s**  
In May **Zitong Wang** (Piano '22) won first prize at the 33rd Ferrol International Piano Competition, as well as the Nelson Freire Prize for the best performance of a piece by Chopin.



### Voice/Opera

**1990s**  
**Ian DeNolfo** (Opera '93) in July became executive director of the Voice Foundation, a Philadelphia-based organization dedicated to voice research and medicine.

In April **Nikola Mijailović** (Opera '96) sang the role of Scarpia in Puccini's *Tosca* at the National Theatre in Belgrade.



**2000s**  
This past summer **Rhoslyn Jones** (Voice '06) joined the faculty of the Merola Opera Program at the San Francisco Opera. In October she appeared in a company production of Poulenc's *Dialogue of the Carmelites* covering the role of Madame Lidoine. Next summer Ms. Jones will return to the Chautauqua Institute as a member of the opera faculty.

## Those We Have Lost



**Robert Carwithen**  
(Organ '58), an organist who led a

wide-ranging career as a choral conductor, carillonneur, and teacher, died on May 12 at the age of 89. Mr. Carwithen was born in Philadelphia and raised in Florida. After Virgil Fox heard him play in 1954, the legendary organist recommended him to Alexander McCurdy, then head of the organ department at Curtis, who took him on as a student. Mr. Carwithen earned a Bachelor of Music degree at Curtis before receiving a master's in conducting from Westminster Choir College in 1960. From there, his career took multiple directions: He served on the faculty of Westminster for more than 45 years and, from 1966–71, was conductor of its Symphonic Choir. He directed music at several churches in the northeast, notably the First Presbyterian church in Germantown, Pa. Mr. Carwithen is survived by his brother and close friends.



**Bruce Eicher**  
(Organ '58), who for nearly six decades was the

organist and music director of Grace United Methodist Church in Baltimore, died on June 28 at age 90. The cause was congestive heart failure. Mr. Eicher was on faculty at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University and maintained an active solo career. A native of Wayland, Iowa, he studied at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, before

transferring to Curtis in 1952, where he studied under Alexander McCurdy. In 1954, during his studies, he was drafted into the Army, but later returned to Philadelphia and earned a bachelor's degree in 1958. He secured the post at Grace that autumn, and soon began to expand the church's music activities, with choirs for children and adults, a Sunday afternoon concert series, and 15 annual French organ marathons. Mr. Eicher later earned a master's degree at Peabody, having taught music theory there since 1969. He retired from Grace in 2013. He is survived by his husband, two children, and extended family.



**John "Jeff" Freeman** (Trombone '91), who built on a passion

for music and science to work as an audio engineer for Dolby Laboratories, died on September 12. He was 53. A native of Raleigh, N.C., Mr. Freeman earned a Bachelor of Music degree at Curtis, followed by a Bachelor of Science in physics from North Carolina State University in 1996. He worked briefly as a research assistant at NASA, focusing on lasers and electro-optics, before bringing his love of physics and music to multiple roles at Dolby Laboratories. For the past 22 years he held roles ranging from licensing engineer to, most recently, director of applications engineering and testing. He is survived by his wife, his two children, and extended family.



**Donald McDonald**  
(Organ '50), an organist, teacher,

church musician, and dedicated mentor to many, died peacefully in Dallas, Tex. on August 5, at the age of 97. Dr. McDonald started his career as a pre-med student at Southern Methodist University before immediately getting drafted to fight in World War II. Upon his return, he auditioned for Alexander McCurdy, who accepted him as an organ student at Curtis. After graduation, he continued his studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where he obtained a master's degree and a doctorate, in 1952 and 1964, respectively. Dr. McDonald served as professor of organ at Westminster Choir College (1952–94) and also taught organ at Union Theological Seminary (1958–66). An active recitalist, Dr. McDonald was the first American to play at the annual Organ Week in Nuremberg, Germany, in 1963. Dr. McDonald served as the organist and minister of music at Christ Church, United Methodist, in New York City for 30 years.



**David Niwa**  
(Violin '87), a former assistant concertmaster

of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and a fixture on the Columbus, Ohio music scene, died on September 1. He was 58 and had been battling a rare form of appendix cancer. Mr. Niwa was the artistic director of Sunday at Central, a long-running concert series that brought chamber music to venues throughout the Columbus region, and he taught

at Ohio Wesleyan University and Denison University. Born in Chicago, Mr. Niwa received a bachelor's degree from Curtis before studying at the Juilliard School. He moved to Columbus in 1995 to join the symphony. He is survived by his wife and many other relatives.



**Jan Mark Sloman** (Violin '72), a longtime violinist of the

Dallas Symphony Orchestra and a revered pedagogue, died on September 27 at age 73. Born in 1949, Mr. Sloman was a university scholar at Princeton University before studying at Curtis with Jaime Laredo, Paul Makanowitzky, and Ivan Galamian. In 1977 he joined the Dallas Symphony as principal associate concertmaster, a post he held until his retirement in 2015. In addition to his position in Dallas, Mr. Sloman also served as guest concertmaster with the Pittsburgh Symphony, and performed with orchestras in Florence, Italy; Lugano and Geneva, Switzerland; and Melbourne, Australia. He leaves an enduring legacy as a teacher, holding posts at Southern Methodist University and the Cleveland Institute of Music, while maintaining a large private studio in Dallas. Mr. Sloman founded the Dallas-based Institute for Strings, an intensive music program with solo and chamber music performance opportunities. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

For more obituaries, please visit [Curtis.edu/in-memoriam](http://Curtis.edu/in-memoriam). We welcome your news and updates for possible inclusion in a future issue. Please email us at [overtones@curtis.edu](mailto:overtones@curtis.edu).

**2010s**

Soprano **Elena Perroni** (Opera '18) in August performed with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra in Britten's *War Requiem*. In April she sang the title role in Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* with West Australian Opera.

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**Faculty/Staff**
**STRINGS**

**Midori** is celebrating the 40th anniversary of her profes-

sional debut (at age 11) with a new recording of the complete Beethoven violin sonatas with pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, released in November.

**Mary Javian** (Double Bass '99) has been appointed artistic and strategic advisor for the new Iris Collective, based in Memphis and previously known as the Iris Orchestra, beginning with its 2022-23 season.

**ORGAN**

**Alan Morrison** (Organ '91,

Accompanying '93) performed in April with Chanticleer at the Kimmel Center, where they premiered Nico Muhly's *Beauty of the Day*. Mr. Morrison was also honored by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists with the 2022 Distinguished Achievement Award. The ceremony was held in June in Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall.

**GUITAR**

This fall **Jason Vieaux** recorded Avner Dorman's *How to Love*, a concerto for guitar

and string orchestra. It follows two recordings released last spring: of Michael Fine's *Concerto di Luna* on the album *Finding Home* (with flutist Alexa Still, conductor Philip Mann, and Ensemble Bravura), and a collaboration with violinist Anne Akiko Meyers on the album *Shining Night*.

**CONDUCTING**

In September **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** was named an Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by France's Ministry of Culture.

## Curtis Opera Student Brings Impersonations to America's Got Talent



**Merissa Beddows** (Voice '22), a first-year master's student in opera, added an unlikely competition credit to her résumé this past summer: a spot in the semi-final round of *America's Got Talent*, where she impressed the talent show's judges with a routine that featured her impersonations of pop stars and cartoon characters.

In her audition for the NBC show, the 23-year-old soprano delivered her impressions of Ariana Grande, Stevie Nicks, Celine Dion, Snow White, and Siri. She went on to compete in one of five qualifying rounds, singing a medley that included Puccini's *O Mio Babbino Caro*, as well as impersonations of Cher and Evanescence.

Ms. Beddows's voice teacher, Julia Faulkner, lauded her distinctive talents. "I knew that she could hear things and reproduce them vocally in our lessons," she said. "It's a very useful skill to have. It just added to my esteem of her because she is just an incredible mimic."

Ms. Faulkner said that she listened to her student's audition before NBC heard it. "We talked about her delivery, the order in which she did things, and the energy of it," she said. "But make no mistake, that's all her brilliance and extraordinary talent."

A native of Yonkers, N.Y., Ms. Beddows has been singing since the age of three. In 2014, she was one of 12 finalists nationwide for the

Great American Songbook High School Vocal Academy and Competition, founded by Michael Feinstein. She regularly posts videos of her impersonations on TikTok, where she has more than 750,000 followers. At Curtis, she has earned a bachelor's degree in voice and now holds the Eula Mae Pharis Fellowship.

"Gone are the days when singers are told to do only one thing," said Ms. Faulkner, "and if you have some sideline or freakish talent, you just do it for parties, and you don't try to make it part of your life. But I encouraged her to do [AGT] and see where it went. It was an opportunity that recognized her talent. We as musicians are crazy if we don't take those opportunities."



**Correction:** In the Notations section of the Spring 2022 issue, a photo was incorrectly identified as Dai Wei (Composition '19). The photo was of Wei Luo (Piano '22) instead. We sincerely regret the error.

**COMPOSITION**

In August **Jonathan Bailey Holland** (Composition '96) joined Carnegie Mellon University as the Jack G. Buncher Chair and as the new head of the School of Music.

**LIBERAL ARTS**

Routledge in August published **Uddipana Goswami's** *Gendering Peace in Violent Peripheries: Marginality, Masculinity, and Feminist Agency*. This book studies operations of gendered power in multi-ethnic, conflict-habituated geopolitical peripheries globally.

**STAFF**

In Summer 2022, **Matt Hages-tuen** celebrated five years of operatic collaborations in Germany as the head of film for the Berlin Opera Academy, working alongside colleagues from opera houses in Berlin, and teaching film and media apprentices.

Students

**Himari Yoshimura** (Violin) will make her NHK Symphony Orchestra subscription debut in March 2023 as a soloist with Keri-Lynn Wilson conducting.

**Emily Dawn Amos** (Organ) was elected this past summer to the National Council of the American Guild of Organists. As the councillor for young organists, she addresses the concerns of members of the guild who are 30 years old and under while encouraging future generations of organists.

In September **Michael Shaham** (Violin) placed second at the tenth annual Fritz Kreisler International Violin Competition in Vienna.



**Donor Highlight**

# Music as High-Impact Investment

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BY TIM DIOVANNI

tion. The conversation eventually turned to Mr. Díaz's viola, an Amati, and the Stradivarius on which he will perform the world premiere of Bright Sheng's viola concerto, *Of Time and Love*, in January. The concerto is co-commissioned by the Allen R. & Judy Brick Freedman Venture Fund for Music.

"For us, that was nirvana," Allen says, "to be able to see this whole

→ **ALLEN AND JUDY Freedman**, who have donated to arts organizations for decades, were in Santa Fe this past summer when an alumnus of the Curtis Institute of Music asked them to bring an early 18th century violin back to Philadelphia for donation to Curtis.

The Freedmans agreed, and, after a few cancelled flights, handed it to Roberto Díaz, a violist, and the president and CEO of Curtis, at their home in Philadelphia. The violin was added to Curtis's collection of instruments available for students to play.

Mr. Díaz then talked with the Freedmans about the value of the instruments to students' educa-

