

CURTIS
INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

INSPIRE

EXPLORE

IMAGINE

2023-24 SEASON

TIME TO DISCOVER

DISCOVER YOUR LOVE FOR CLASSICAL MUSIC

Curtis presents *Time To Discover*, a season filled with imagination and exploration. Join us for inspirational moments as our students move from the classroom to the stage, sharing their passion through exuberant performances with world-renowned guest artists.

WELCOME TO THE 2023-24 SEASON TIME TO DISCOVER

On behalf of the Curtis Institute of Music, welcome to our 2023-24 season: *Time to Discover!*

Our students are among the world's most talented and promising young musicians, and their enthusiasm and excitement for playing for you is unparalleled. We can't wait for you to discover their talents, passion, and music on our stages here in Philadelphia, on tour, and online around the world.

There is so much exciting music ahead of us this season. You'll experience the vibrancy of our orchestra, delight in rapturous opera productions, explore new music, and savor the intimacy of solo recitals and chamber music ensembles. Our 2023-24 season features a celebration of cherished repertoire favorites—such as Tchaikovsky's sixth symphony, "Pathétique;" Beethoven's Violin Concerto, featuring soloist Pamela Frank; and a concert of opera excerpts, conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin—and showcases stunning new music—including world premieres by James Ra and Steven Mackey, which features groundbreaking guitarist JIJI, and so much more.

I do hope you will join us for these performances and others throughout the season. I am eager to hear all that Curtis's students will accomplish together this year, and I look forward to welcoming you to the extraordinary array of performances that await us.

Roberto Díaz
President and CEO
Nina von Maltzahn President's Chair





OCTOBER 22
SPECTACULAR
STRAUSS



JANUARY 27
BEETHOVEN
AND MORE



MARCH 9
RA, MACKEY,
TCHAIKOVSKY

CURTIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Curtis students join together each year to create one of the world's great orchestras. Led by internationally renowned conductors and featuring sparkling repertoire, the Curtis Symphony Orchestra is an immersive experience with unique resonance. The ensemble presents three subscription performances each year in Verizon Hall on the Kimmel Cultural Campus.

Guest conductor appearances for each Curtis Symphony Orchestra performance are made possible by the Rita E. and Gustave M. Hauser Chair in Conducting Studies. Orchestral concerts are supported by the Jack Wolgin Curtis Orchestral Concerts Endowment Fund. These concerts are also made possible, in part, thanks to the Pennsylvania Tourism Office.

TICKETS STARTING AT \$19. CURTIS.EDU/DISCOVER



⚡ 2023-24 SEASON ⚡

OCTOBER
22

WHEN
SUN / 7 P.M.

WHERE
VERIZON HALL, KIMMEL CENTER

A SYMPHONIC
EXPEDITION AND
SOARING OPERA
MELODIES



SPECTACULAR STRAUSS

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the Curtis Symphony Orchestra and rising stars of the Curtis Opera Theatre kick off the 2023-24 season with a tribute to **Strauss**. A celebration of the German Romantic composer's life and legacy, the program features highlights from some of his most popular operas, and it scales the spectacular heights of his final tone poem, *An Alpine Symphony*. This breathtaking work depicts a perilous mountain-climbing expedition from the composer's childhood, capturing the brilliance of a blazing sunrise over the Alps, the wonder of cascading waterfalls, the pastoral sounds of bleating sheep, and the terrifying violence of a raging thunderstorm.

PROGRAM

RICHARD STRAUSS
Select Opera Excerpts
An Alpine Symphony (Eine Alpensinfonie), Op. 64

ARTISTS

YANNICK NÉZET-SÉGUIN | conductor
MICAH GLEASON | conducting fellow
CURTIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
MEMBERS OF CURTIS OPERA THEATRE

ABOUT YANNICK

Yannick Nézet-Séguin is "a musical powerhouse who conducts with such intensity and finesse that he breathes new life into every note." —*New York Times*

JANUARY
27

WHEN
SAT / 3 P.M.

WHERE
VERIZON HALL, KIMMEL CENTER

CELEBRATING CLASSICAL
MASTERPIECES



CURTIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



BEETHOVEN AND MORE

PROGRAM

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 61
ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING TBA

ARTISTS

MICHAEL STERN | conductor ('86)
PAMELA FRANK | violin ('89)
CURTIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ABOUT PAMELA

Pamela Frank is the Herbert R. and Evelyn Axelrod Chair in Violin Studies. She is a "deeply thoughtful musician" who brings "a searching intellect and a beautifully expressive sound" to her performances. —*New York Times*

Acclaimed conductor **Michael Stern** leads the Curtis Symphony Orchestra in an evening of extraordinary emotional contrasts. The program opens with the quiet whisper of one of classical music's most intimate, impassioned masterpieces, **Beethoven's** transcendent Violin Concerto in D major, featuring internationally renowned violinist **Pamela Frank**. The concert concludes with another classical music masterpiece to be revealed in the coming months.

MARCH
9

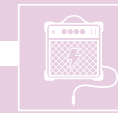
WHEN
SAT / 3 P.M.

WHERE
VERIZON HALL, KIMMEL CENTER

ELECTRIFYING VIRTUOSITY



CURTIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



RA, MACKEY, TCHAIKOVSKY

PROGRAM

JAMES RA ('04)
Work title TBA | premiere
STEVEN MACKEY
Concerto for Electric Guitar | premiere
PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY
Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 74 ("Pathétique")

ARTISTS

ROBERT SPANO | conductor ('85)
JIMI | guitar ('15)
CURTIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ABOUT JIMI

Praised by the *Washington Post* for her "mesmerizing" and "stirring" performances, JIMI is an adventurous guitarist known for her virtuosity and command of diverse repertoire.

Renowned conductor **Robert Spano** leads the Curtis Symphony Orchestra in its final concert of the bold and ambitious 2023-24 season, a remarkable program featuring two exhilarating world premieres and a late-Romantic era classic. The afternoon opens with a newly commissioned work by **James Ra**. Praised by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as "a composer to watch," Ra's compositions have been described as "coursing with adrenaline-pumping energy."

The program continues with GRAMMY Award-winning Curtis composition faculty member **Steven Mackey's** Concerto for Electric Guitar, featuring the jaw-dropping virtuosity of guitarist **JIMI**, followed by **Tchaikovsky's** impassioned, intensely personal Symphony No. 6 ("Pathétique").



NOVEMBER 10 & 12
L'ALLEGRO,
IL PENSEROSO
ED IL MODERATO



MARCH 15 & 17
LES MAMELLES DE
TIRÉSIAS & THE SEVEN
DEADLY SINS



MAY 2-5
THE CUNNING
LITTLE VIXEN

CURTIS OPERA THEATRE

Through imaginative productions, bold concepts, and absorbing theater, the artists of the Curtis Opera Theatre prepare to become stars of the world stage. The combination of key elements of artistry—music, acting, singing, and costumes—allows these student-artists to create a lasting connection with audiences.

The Curtis Opera Theatre is generously supported by the Ernestine Bacon Cairns Trust, the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, and the Wyncote Foundation.

TICKETS STARTING AT \$19. CURTIS.EDU/DISCOVER

⚡ 2023-24 SEASON ⚡

NOVEMBER

10

WHEN
FRI / 7:30 P.M.

12

WHEN
SUN / 2:30 P.M.

WHERE
PHILADELPHIA FILM CENTER

HANDEL'S GLORIOUS
PASTORAL ODE TO DARKNESS
AND LIGHT



L'ALLEGRO, IL PENSEROSO ED IL MODERATO

Inspired by the poetry of 17th-century English writer John Milton, author of the epic *Paradise Lost*, Handel's magnificent pastoral ode, *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* (*The Cheerful Man, the Thoughtful Man, and the Moderate Man*), launches the Curtis Opera Theatre season at the Philadelphia Film Center with a stunning theatrical oratorio. This feast for the senses, featuring a thrilling cast of young opera stars and the renowned Curtis Symphony Orchestra, is a breathtaking collision of darkness and light, innocence and experience, and a celebration of the wonders of nature and the mysteries of life.

L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato is sung in English with English supertitles.

PROGRAM

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL | music
Based on two poems by John Milton, adapted and extended by Charles Jennens | libretto

ARTISTS

CHAS RADER-SHIEBER | stage director
NICHOLAS MCGEGAN | conductor
CURTIS OPERA THEATRE

ABOUT NICHOLAS

Nicholas McGegan—long hailed as “one of the finest baroque conductors of his generation” (*Independent*) and “an expert in 18th-century style” (*New Yorker*)—is recognized for his probing and revelatory explorations of music of all periods.

MARCH

15

WHEN
FRI / 7:30 P.M.

17

WHEN
SUN / 2:30 P.M.

WHERE
PHILADELPHIA FILM CENTER

TRANSFORMATIONS
OF DESIRE: A CAPTIVATING
DOUBLE BILL



LES MAMELLES DE TIRÉSIAS & THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS

PROGRAM

FRANCIS POULENC | music and libretto
KURT WEILL | music
BERTOLT BRECHT | libretto

ARTISTS

EVE SUMMER | stage director
MICHELLE ROFRANO | conductor
CURTIS OPERA THEATRE

ABOUT MICHELLE

Michelle Rofrano is a Sicilian-American conductor with a keen interest in the intersection of art and social activism. "She's a meticulous musician who knows the score inside out." —*Oberon's Grove*

The Curtis Opera Theatre's exciting season continues with a double bill at the Philadelphia Film Center.

Gender norms explode on the French Riviera in *Les Mamelles de Tirésias* (*The Breasts of Tiresias*), **Poulenc's** outrageous piece of absurdist satire. This clever comedy features a delightfully fizzy cocktail of opera, cabaret, and jazz, with a tale as consciously arty, feminist, and political as it is insightfully witty.

A biting critique of industrial capitalism, **Weill's** darkly satirical "ballet chanté," *The Seven Deadly Sins*, draws on the classic pop song and dance numbers of the 1920s and '30s with a timeless commentary on values, virtues, and the "almighty dollar."

Les Mamelles de Tirésias is sung in French with English supertitles.

The Seven Deadly Sins is sung in German with English supertitles.

MAY

2-5

WHEN
THURS & FRI / 7:30 P.M.
SAT & SUN / 3 P.M.

WHERE
PERELMAN THEATER, KIMMEL CENTER

THE FOREST COMES ALIVE
IN JANÁČEK'S
WOODLAND FABLE



THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN



PROGRAM

LEOŠ JANÁČEK | music and libretto

ARTISTS

JOHN GIAMPIETRO | stage director
VINAY PARAMESWARAN | conductor ('13)
CURTIS OPERA THEATRE

ABOUT VINAY

Internationally recognized for his energetic presence, imaginative programming, and compelling musicianship, Vinay Parameswaran is equally at home in symphonic and operatic repertoire.

The Curtis Opera Theatre's 2023-24 season concludes with **Janáček's** masterpiece, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, one of the most powerful operatic works of the 20th century. Led by a plucky heroine, this poetic parable celebrates the cyclical nature of life and death as it spins a comical yet bittersweet tale of Vixen Sharp Ears. Captured by a Forester, the mischievous young fox cub grows up to become a strong, independent vixen, escaping into the wild, where she encounters a forest full of possibilities. Janáček's adaptation of the beloved Czech novella features a lushly orchestrated, folk-infused score bursting with boundless energy and an imaginative array of dazzling colors.

The Cunning Little Vixen is sung in Czech with English supertitles.



NOVEMBER 18
MUSIC OF THE EARTH



MARCH 30
INTERSECTION



APRIL 13
PORTRAIT OF
GEORGE LEWIS

ENSEMBLE 20/21

Ensemble 20/21's repertoire features works from the 20th and 21st centuries. With bold collaborations and striking productions, Ensemble 20/21 embraces the cutting edge of contemporary classical music through the highest level of artistry.

Generous support for Ensemble 20/21 is provided by the Daniel W. Dietrich II Foundation.

TICKETS STARTING AT \$19. [CURTIS.EDU/DISCOVER](https://curtis.edu/discover)



MUSIC OF THE EARTH

"Music of the Earth" showcases compositions inspired by the natural world, with "eco-composer" **John Luther Adams's** captivating solo violin ode to Alaska, *Three High Places*; Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Raven Chacon's** haunting string quartet piece, *The Journey of the Horizontal People*; and composer **Allison Loggins-Hull's** poignant *Homeland*. The concert also features Curtis alumna **Gabriella Smith's** ('13) coral reef-inspired work, *Anthozoa*, Icelandic composer and guitarist **Gulli Bjornsson's** striking pieces for solo electric guitar, *Landslög*, and pioneering electronic music composer **Luciano Berio's** 1964 anthology of eleven songs from eight countries, *Folk Songs*.

⚡ 2023-24 SEASON ⚡

NOVEMBER

18

WHEN
SAT / 7:30 P.M.

WHERE
GOULD REHEARSAL HALL



INTERSECTION

"Intersection" features music by composers who explore the terrain between traditional genre boundaries. The program features **Anna Meredith's** astonishing 1980s electronica meets '90s clubland composition *Tuggemo*, the first movement of **Edgar Meyer's** virtuosic *Concert Duo for Violin and Bass*, **Courtney Bryan's** gospel and jazz-flavored *Soli Deo Gloria* for two guitars, and the world premiere of **Dmitri Tymoczko's** *Nerds*. The evening concludes with **Angélica Negrón's** *dóabin*, inspired by the invented language of a pair of twins; acclaimed composer **Tyshawn Sorey's** *For Fred Lerdaht*; and **György Ligeti's** minimalist composition for woodwind quintet, *Six Bagatelles*.

⚡ 2023-24 SEASON ⚡

MARCH

30

WHEN
SAT / 7:30 P.M.

WHERE
GOULD REHEARSAL HALL



PORTRAIT OF GEORGE LEWIS

Ensemble 20/21 celebrates this year's composer in residence with a "Portrait of **George Lewis**," featuring works by the award-winning composer, musicologist, author, computer-installation artist, and trombonist. Since the early 1970s, Mr. Lewis has expanded the frontiers of experimental music with wildly inventive works that bridge traditions of acoustic and electric, American and European, rhythmic and free form. This final concert of the season honors the MacArthur Fellow and pioneering legend who continues to sit at the vanguard of contemporary musical expression.

⚡ 2023-24 SEASON ⚡

APRIL

13

WHEN
SAT / 7:30 P.M.

WHERE
GOULD REHEARSAL HALL



JANUARY 30
NATE'S WORLD



FEBRUARY 27
STRING SEXTETS



APRIL 23
CURTIS COMPOSERS



DATE TBD
NED ROREM CELEBRATION CONCERT

CURTIS PRESENTS

Past and future meet through Curtis Presents, which features a diverse collection of artists—alumni, faculty, students, and contemporary creators—whose musical foundations are rooted in the Curtis community. This series of intimate and innovative recitals offers a unique experience with exceptional artistry and one-of-a-kind programs.

TICKETS STARTING AT \$19. [CURTIS.EDU/DISCOVER](https://www.curtis.edu/discover)



NATE'S WORLD

The 2023-24 Curtis Presents season kicks off with the return of acclaimed alumnus **Nathan Farrington** ('06), principal bassist for LA Opera Orchestra, as he takes listeners on an adventurous musical safari through Nate's World. He is joined by composer, pianist, and clarinetist **Teddy Abrams** (Conducting '08), music director of the Louisville Orchestra and the Britt Festival, and **Gabriel Kovach** ('99), principal horn of the Phoenix Symphony, for an evening of unexpected surprises. This genre-hopping concert features a diversity of styles, with a program written, arranged, and performed according to the trio's current musical passions, from classical to country and everything in between.

⚡ 2023-24 SEASON ⚡

JANUARY
30

WHEN
TUES / 7:30 P.M.

WHERE
FIELD CONCERT HALL



STRING SEXTETS

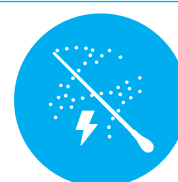
Curtis on Tour presents an evening with acclaimed violinist and Curtis faculty member **Benjamin Beilman** ('12), former Dover Quartet violist **Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt** ('10, '11, '14), award-winning cellist **Oliver Herbert** ('19), and emerging professional artists from Curtis for the memorable evening of chamber music. This phenomenal sextet presents Richard Strauss's richly scored Sextet from his luminous final opera *Capriccio*, Alban Berg's colorful and chromatic transcription of his Piano Sonata in B minor, Johannes Brahms's ethereal String Sextet No. 2 in G major, and a newly commissioned work composed by Curtis alumna **Alyssa Weinberg** ('16).

⚡ 2023-24 SEASON ⚡

FEBRUARY
27

WHEN
TUES / 7:30 P.M.

WHERE
FIELD CONCERT HALL



CURTIS COMPOSERS

The third concert of the Curtis Presents season builds upon the school's longstanding tradition of innovation, inspiration, and artistic excellence as it celebrates eight of its distinguished composition alumni. As Curtis looks to its centennial in 2024, this retrospective program highlights iconic Curtis composers **George Walker** ('45), **Jennifer Higdon** ('88), **Leonard Bernstein** (Conducting '41), **David Serkin Ludwig** ('01), **Samuel Barber** ('34), **Ned Rorem** ('44), **Julius Eastman** ('63), and recently appointed composition faculty member, **Jonathan Bailey Holland** ('96), in an evening of boundary-pushing chamber works and early-career classics that shaped the landscape of contemporary classical music.

⚡ 2023-24 SEASON ⚡

APRIL
23

WHEN
TUES / 7:30 P.M.

WHERE
FIELD CONCERT HALL



NED ROREM CELEBRATION CONCERT

The Curtis Institute of Music honors the life, legacy, and genius of alumnus, longtime faculty member, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and prolific writer **Ned Rorem** ('44) with a concert at Field Concert Hall. Mr. Rorem received a GRAMMY Award and wrote three symphonies, four piano concerti, ten operas, choral works, ballets, song cycles, and numerous orchestral works in his lifetime. Revered faculty members, rising stars of the Curtis Opera Theatre, and some of the school's gifted musicians pay tribute to one of the greatest American composers of the twentieth century and a cultural luminary who inspired generations of young artists and composers.

*SALES PRIOR TO PERFORMANCE DATE ANNOUNCEMENT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE EXCHANGE AND/OR REFUNDS.

⚡ 2023-24 SEASON ⚡

DATE
TO BE ANNOUNCED

WHEN
7:30 P.M.

WHERE
FIELD CONCERT HALL



CURTIS
RECITALS

CURTIS RECITAL SERIES

The promise of “learn by doing” lies at the heart of the **Curtis Recital Series**. From young student artists experiencing their first professional performance to faculty who’ve played on stages across the globe, this series showcases the amazing passion and artistry of Curtis musicians. Each year over 100 free Student, Studio, and Faculty Recitals are presented on most Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings.

In the spring semester, members of the class of 2024 will share the breadth of their talent through a culminating graduation recital.

Visit Curtis.edu/Calendar for the full schedule.

The Curtis Institute of Music received funding from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Edith L. and Robert Proskoff Memorial Concert Series

SEASON AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER 22	 SPECTACULAR STRAUSS	ORCHESTRA
NOVEMBER 10 & 12	 L'ALLEGRO, IL PENSEROSO ED IL MODERATO	OPERA
NOVEMBER 18	 MUSIC OF THE EARTH	ENSEMBLE 20/21
JANUARY 27	 BEETHOVEN AND MORE	ORCHESTRA
JANUARY 30	 NATE'S WORLD	CURTIS PRESENTS
FEBRUARY 27	 STRING SEXTETS	CURTIS PRESENTS
MARCH 9	 RA, MACKAY, TCHAIKOVSKY	ORCHESTRA
MARCH 15 & 17	 LES MAMELLES DE TIRÉSIAS & THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS	OPERA
MARCH 30	 INTERSECTION	ENSEMBLE 20/21
APRIL 13	 PORTRAIT OF GEORGE LEWIS	ENSEMBLE 20/21
APRIL 23	 CURTIS COMPOSERS	CURTIS PRESENTS
MAY 2-5	 THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN 	OPERA
DATE TBA	 NED ROREM CELEBRATION CONCERT	CURTIS PRESENTS

TICKETING

PER SEAT		ZONE 3	ZONE 2	ZONE 1
	CURTIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA		\$19	\$40
CURTIS OPERA THEATRE		\$19	\$45	\$65
CURTIS ENSEMBLE 20/21	GENERAL ADMISSION			
		\$19		
CURTIS PRESENTS		\$19		

SEATING CHARTS AVAILABLE AT CURTIS.EDU/SEATING. DATES, PROGRAMS, AND PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS

Priority access to seating | Unlimited no-fee exchanges | Discounted additional tickets all season long

Enjoy ultimate flexibility by becoming a 2023-24 season subscriber. **Choose Your Own** or **Season Pass** subscriptions ensure you'll get the best seats at the best prices, before single tickets go on sale to the general public. Learn more at Curtis.edu/Subscribe.

SUBSCRIPTION TYPES

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CURTIS GALA: LEGACY OF VOICE

FEATURING CURTIS OPERA THEATRE'S PRODUCTION OF
THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN

FOLLOWED BY COCKTAILS AND DINNER

Join us at the annual Curtis Gala for a festive celebration of Curtis's legacy of voice. Proceeds from the gala play a vital role in underwriting the unparalleled education of Curtis students. Your participation today can help define the legacy of Curtis for generations to come.

WHEN
MAY 4, 2024

WHERE
KIMMEL CULTURAL CAMPUS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT [GIVING@CURTIS.EDU](mailto:giving@curtis.edu)



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For nearly 100 years, Curtis has offered full-tuition scholarships for all students, ensuring that artistic promise is the only consideration for admission. Your gift to Curtis continues to make this possible. Join with others in supporting tomorrow's leading artists by donating today. Curtis.edu/Support



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LEARN MORE about Philadelphia's world-renowned music conservatory

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