



FROM THE
PRESIDENT

A Rich Past, A Bold Future



IN 2024, the Curtis Institute of Music marks 100 years of educating some of the world's most gifted young artists, helping to shape the future of classical music.

As the Curtis community prepares to celebrate this unparalleled and richly textured legacy, we wanted to share with *Overtones* readers 25 impactful moments (p. 12) that have shaped our school since we welcomed our first students in the fall of 1924. And while I'm sure you can guess a few of the moments in this piece, Senior Archivist Barbara Benedett sheds light on other moments that might be lesser known, but no less important, in shaping our school.



In the year ahead, *Overtones* will bring you additional articles and commentary about Curtis's first 100 years—the people, events, and performances that have shaped our school. But we'll also look to the future and explore ways Curtis is leading our students and our art form into a thriving, equitable, and multidimensional future.

Of course, this issue of *Overtones* also explores many other facets of Curtis and our field today. Jeremy Reynolds looks at how AI and synthesizers are affecting the careers of studio musicians in "Encrypted Careers" (p. 16). We have an interview with alumnus and clarinet faculty member Anthony McGill (p. 10) about his far-reaching career as a soloist, activist, and a member of the New York Philharmonic. Composition student Maya Miro Johnson sits down with composition faculty member Steven Mackey and guitar alumna Jiji about *Aluminum Flowers*, Mackey's electric guitar concerto set to receive its world premiere in March with Jiji and the Curtis Symphony Orchestra ("Guitar Heroes," p. 20). And members of the Curtis community share their advice for taking your best headshots in our "Sound Off" column (p. 6).

On behalf of the school and the *Overtones* editorial team, I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the magazine. If you have any feedback, or if this edition sparks thoughts on other impactful moments in Curtis's history, please let us know at overtones@curtis.edu. And remember that you can view this and previous issues of the magazine online at Curtis.edu/Overtones.

Roberto Díaz
PRESIDENT AND CEO