

NOTATIONS



Composition/ Conducting

1970s

Tonu Kalam (Conducting '73) has retired from the faculty of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he served as music director and conductor of the UNC Symphony Orchestra for 36 years. He has conducted over 160 performances with the ensemble, including collaborations with chorus, opera, faculty, student soloists, and guest artists.

1980s

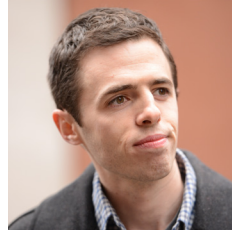
Robert Spano (Conducting '85) has been appointed music director of the Washington National Opera, beginning in 2025. He is currently the music director of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and the Aspen Music Festival and School.

2010s



Chelsea Komschlies (Composition '13) is one of six recipients of the Virginia B. Toulmin Orchestral Commissions Program from the League of American Orchestras. Ms. Komschlies has been paired with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra and four

other consortium orchestras to compose a new orchestral work to be premiered in 2025.



In March **Daniel Temkin** (Composition '13) released his debut album, *COLORS*, on Orchid Classics. It features the composer's music played by a lineup of chamber musicians including **Stanislav Chernyshev** (Clarinet '14) and **Ayane Kozasa** (Viola '12).

Carlos Ágreda (Conducting '18) was named a Dudamel Fellow at the Los Angeles Philharmonic for the 2023–24 season.

2020s

Elise Arancio (Composition '23) has been awarded a Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She is one of 20 established and emerging composers receiving awards totaling \$465,000 this year from the Academy.



Strings

1960s

Marcia Peck (Cello '68) won a Literary Titan Book Award for *Water Music: A Cape Cod Story*, her debut novel about a young girl's experiences

during a summer with her family on Cape Cod.

1970s

Lucy Chapman (Violin '74) received the Marylou Speaker Churchill Award from the New England Conservatory. The award recognizes a teacher and orchestral figure who reflects Churchill's musical and humanistic qualities. Churchill served on NEC's faculty for 28 years and was the principal second violinist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

1980s

Michael Ludwig (Violin '82) released his recording of Samuel Jones's Violin Concerto with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project in October. Also on the album are Jones's flute and trombone concertos, featuring Curtis flute faculty member **Jeffrey Khaner** and **Joseph Alessi** (Trombone '81). *BBC Music Magazine* gave the album a five-star review.

Mitchell Newman (Violin '85) recently retired from the Los Angeles Philharmonic after 34 years of service. He now teaches at the Philadelphia Music Alliance for Youth and the Settlement Music School, conducts the Chamber Players Orchestra at Temple Music Preparatory, and was named concertmaster of the Bangor Symphony Orchestra. He performed a violin concerto by music director Lucas Richman in April.

1990s



In January **Judith Ingolfsson** (Violin '92) and pianist Vladimir Stoupeľ released an album of violin and viola sonatas by the 20th century British composer Rebecca Clarke.

Joey Amini (Cello '97) returned to the concert stage in October after a four-year hiatus. He performed a program of Bach and Cassadó cello suites at Our Lady of Malibu Church as a fundraiser for Our Lady of Malibu School, where his daughter is a student.



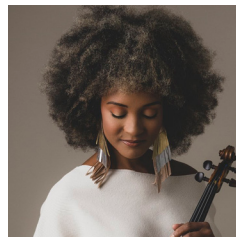
Hilary Hahn (Violin '99) won the Avery Fisher Prize, worth \$100,000. The announcement was made in January by Deborah Borda, chair of the Avery Fisher Artist Program, from the stage of David Geffen Hall following Ms. Hahn's performance of Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1 with the New York Philharmonic.

2000s

Tina Qu (Violin '00) performed Bach's *Brandenburg* Concertos in March with the Traverse Symphony Orchestra. She is currently on the faculty at Interlochen Arts Academy.

Solomiya Ivakhiv (Violin '07) in February released her album *Ukrainian Masters: Sonatas for Violin and Piano* featuring works by Kosenko, Skoryk, and Bortkiewicz on the Naxos label. She recorded it with the pianist Steven Beck.

Angela Park (Cello '07) joined the faculty of the Carnegie Mellon University School of Music in September. She and her family recently relocated from Berlin.



Melissa White (Violin '07) is the Hartford Symphony Orchestra's Joyce C. Willis Artist in Residence for the 2023–24 season. She has performed as a soloist with the orchestra in two masterworks concerts and in a solo recital at the Hartt School.

Josef Špaček (Violin '09) made his debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in March performing Martinů's once-lost Violin Concerto No. 1. On the podium was his Czech countryman, Jakub Hruša.

2010s

Ayane Kozasa (Viola '12 and String Quartet '16) will join the Kronos Quartet this summer. A former member of the Aizuri Quartet, she succeeds Hank Dutt, a longtime member who is retiring along with violinist John Sherba.



John-Henry Crawford (Cello '14) made his Carnegie Hall debut in October alongside pianist Victor Santiago Asun-

ción as the recipient of the inaugural American Recital Debut Award, which was created to promote an emerging classical artist.

2020s

Anna Im (Violin '20) won first prize at the Stuttgart International Violin Competition in February.

A Star For Lang Lang



Lang Lang (Piano '02) was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on April 10, making him the first Asian pianist to receive a star on the celebrated sidewalk.

The City of Los Angeles and the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce presented the star, located at 7044 Hollywood Boulevard, in recognition of Mr. Lang's contributions to the world of classical music.

He becomes one of a handful of Curtis alumni or former faculty to receive a Hollywood star. Others include **Leonard Bernstein** (Composition '41), pianist and former Curtis director **Rudolf Serkin**, and former faculty members **William Primrose** and **Leopold Stokowski**, all inducted in 1960.

At the dedication event, Mr. Lang played two pieces: Manuel De Falla's *Ritual Fire Dance* and the Chinese folk song *Jasmine*.



Matthew Hakkarainen (Violin '22) won second prize, audience prize, and special prize for the best interpretation of the contemporary piece at the Mirecourt International Violin Competition in November. He won third prize at the Stuttgart International Violin Competition in February.



Winds/Brass

1990s

Jack Sutte (Trumpet '95) and his group the Factory Seconds Brass Trio with Jesse McCormick, horn, and **Richard Stout** (Trombone '87) released their Christmas album, *Regifted*, in December. These holiday favorites were arranged especially for the trio by Mr. Sutte.

Mimi Stillman (Flute '99) recorded Zhou Tian's (Composition '05) Flute Concerto for an album with "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra. The work was composed for Ms. Stillman.

2000s

Victoria Luperi (Clarinet '02) has joined the faculty of the Carnegie Mellon University School of Music as an artist lecturer. This summer she will

be on the faculty at the Buffet Crampon Summer Clarinet Academy and will perform at the Grand Teton Music Festival. Over the last couple of seasons, she has helped to organize three benefit concerts in Pittsburgh, raising \$60,000 for humanitarian aid in Ukraine.

2010s

In November **Tianyi Shen** (Clarinet '19) and **Tianxu An** (Piano '22) released an album on NCPA Classics featuring works for clarinet and piano by Poulenc, Weber, Widor, Saint-Saëns, and Schumann.



Percussion



In August **Denis Petrunin** (Timpani and Percussion '06) was named a percussion instructor at Augusta University. He has overseen the school's percussion department since fall of 2023.



Piano/ Accompanying

1960s

Lambert Orkis (Piano '65)

joined violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter for a nine-concert recital tour this spring which included performances in South Korea, Taiwan, and China.

1970s

Beth Levin (Piano '71) released her album *Phantasmata* on Aldilá Records in February. The album features Liszt's Sonata in B Minor and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

1980s

Following her July 2023 album, *far sight sun light* (Albany Records), **Ketty Nez** (Piano '83) recently appeared as a collaborative pianist with members of the Playground Ensemble of Colorado, performed with Ensemble BiND of Boston, and collaborated with cellist Lawrence Stomberg and pianist Victor Cayres.

1990s

Amy Gates (Accompanying '91) is presiding over the second season of Chamber Music at the Drake, a chamber music series that she founded in Amherst, Mass.

2000s

Jonathan Biss (Piano '01) completed a commissioning project that pairs Schubert sonatas with premieres of new works by Tyson Gholston Davis, Tyshawn Sorey, and Alvin Singleton. The project culminated in three-concert cycles at San Francisco Performances in January and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston in February.

Yuja Wang (Piano '08) won a GRAMMY for Best Classical

Instrumental Solo in February for *The American Project*. It features **Teddy Abrams** (Conducting '08) conducting the Louisville Orchestra in his own Piano Concerto as well as Tilson Thomas's *You Come Here Often?*, with both pieces dedicated to Ms. Wang.



Harp

Abigail Kent (Harp '17) was one of three concerto competition winners at the New World Symphony. As part of her winnings, she performed the Ginastera Harp Concerto in April at New World Center in Miami Beach, Fla.



Voice/Opera

2000s



Elizabeth DeShong (Voice '02) made her La Scala debut in February singing the role of Bradamante in a concert version of Handel's *Alcina* with Les Musiciens du Louvre, conducted by Marc Minkowski. The debut coincided with her appearance on a new recording of the opera, released

Young Alumni Fund Awards \$75,000 in New Grants

Curtis announced in March some \$75,000 in grants to recent graduates through the third annual **Daniel W. Dietrich II Young Alumni Fund**. Twelve alumni received project support grants while another nine received career support funding, to be used towards instruments, lessons, and travel expenses for auditions and competitions.

Multiple grants will support commissioned pieces, including an opera by **Gregory Hall** ('86) starring grantee **Merissa Beddows** (Voice '22), a piece for double bass and electronics by **Andrew Moses** (Composition '20), and a work focused on climate justice and performed by cellist **Zachary Mowitz** ('19, CAF '23). Other grants will support recordings, including the

debut album by the Amp Quintet with percussionist **Ted Babcock** (Timpani and Percussion '15), an album of György Kurtág's music featuring **Will Langlie-Miletich** (Double Bass '19), and a series of instructional videos by **Sung Jin Lee** (Viola '16). Concert-based projects include **Gergana Haralampieva's** (Violin '16) Long Island Chamber Music series, and a chamber ballet version of Stravinsky's *Petrouchka*, spearheaded by ensemble132, whose members include **Maria Ioudenitch** (Violin '18).

Grantees were chosen through a competitive review process, and proposals were evaluated by an anonymous panel of Curtis alumni. To read more about the recipients and how to apply or support, visit Curtis.edu/YAF.

on the Pentatone label and featuring that same ensemble.

2010s

Jonathan McCullough (Opera '17), executive director of the Fourth Wall Ensemble, will oversee its Carnegie Hall debut in June, followed by performances on the Death of Classical series and at New York's Kauffman Center.

Dennis Chmelensky (Voice '19) made his Oper Frankfurt mainstage debut in March as Don Polidoro in Cimarosa's *L'Italiana in Londra* after a December debut at the Tiroler Festspiele in Austria as Marquis de Corcy in *Le Postillon de Lonjumeau* by Adolphe Adam.

2020s

Bass-baritone **Andrew Moore** (Opera '20) made his role debut as Leporello in *Don Giovanni*

at the Zürich Opera House in September.

Students

Conductor **Micah Gleason** was named one of four recipients of a Taki Alsop Conducting Award, a mentorship program that supports women conductors. She recently signed with the management agency Intermusica.

Violist **Dillon Scott** directed a project celebrating the chamber music of Black composers. The two-hour program, involving 14 Curtis students, was performed at Field Concert Hall, at All Hallows Church, and at local Philadelphia high schools as a series of interactive presentations.

Himari Yoshimura signed to the management roster of KD SCHMID in February. The 12-year-old violinist has been studying with Ida Kavafian at Curtis since 2022.

Faculty/Staff

Matt Hagestuen directed the premiere of an unpublished Prelude and Fugue by Shostakovich in collaboration with pianist Seoyon MacDonald from the University of Southern California, Polish composer Krzysztof Meyer, and the Shostakovich Foundation in Moscow. They recorded the audio in Los Angeles and the music video in Philadelphia. The short film is now being considered for several film festivals.

Steven Mackey's *Ratcatcher* was premiered by saxophonist Valentin Kovalev and Curtis faculty member Amy Yang (Piano '06) at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in March. Days earlier, Mr. Mackey was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the honor society of artists, architects, composers, and writers.

Curtis double bass faculty member **Edgar Meyer** won two GRAMMYS in February for his album *As We Speak*, recorded with Béla Fleck (banjo), Zakir Hussain (tabla), and Rakesh Chaurasia (bansuri). The awards were for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album and Best Global Music Performance (for the track *Pashto*).

The album *Blanchard: Champion* won the GRAMMY for Best Opera Recording. It features the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Chorus, led by Curtis mentor conductor **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** alongside **Eric Owens** ('95), director of vocal studies and Curtis Opera Theatre. Produced by David Frost, the album also stars bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green and soprano Latonia Moore.

The album *Passion for Bach and Coltrane* won the GRAMMY for Best Classical Compendium. It features faculty wind quintet the **Imani Winds**, among other artists. Faculty member **Mark Dover** co-produced the album with Silas Brown.

Those We Have Lost



Geoffrey Michaels
(Violin '60)

Geoffrey Michaels, a violinist and pedagogue who was a member of the latter-day Curtis String Quartet, died on February 17 from complications of Parkinson's disease. He was 79 and living in Voorhees, N.J.

Born in 1944 in Perth, Australia, Mr. Michaels became, at age 14, the youngest winner of the Australian Broadcasting Commission's concerto competition, bringing him tours throughout the country. He entered Curtis at age 16, studying violin with then-director Efreim Zimbalist, and violin and viola with Oscar Shumsky. While still a student in the 1960s he was appointed second violinist of the Curtis String Quartet.

Mr. Michaels was a prizewinner at several major competitions including the Queen Elisabeth Competition and the Tchaikovsky Competition, where he played Mr. Zimbalist's *Coq d'Or Fantasy*. He later gave the U.S. premiere of Alfred Schnittke's *Concerto Grosso*, broadcast over Voice of America. A co-founder of the Philadelphia-based Liebesfreud Quartet, he taught violin and chamber music at Princeton, Temple, and Florida State Universities; Swarthmore and Haverford Colleges; and the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.



Elizabeth Yockey Ilku
(Harp '53)

Elizabeth Yockey Ilku, who played with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for 30 years and led a career that spanned jazz, chamber music, and Motown classics, died on August 21, 2023, of natural causes. She was 95 years old.

Ms. Ilku began harp studies in Webster City, Iowa, then went on to study with Carlos Salzedo at Curtis, where she joined the Angelairens, a harp quintet that toured extensively under Columbia Artists Management and appeared on the *Ed Sullivan Show*, among other TV programs. After posts in the New Orleans and Halifax Symphony Orchestras, Ms. Ilku became principal harp of the Detroit Symphony from 1958 to 1988, during which time she moonlighted as a Motown session musician. Her harp can be heard on albums by the Temptations, the Supremes, Marvin Gaye, and Smokey Robinson. She taught harp for many years at the University of Michigan and Detroit-area colleges.

At Curtis Ms. Ilku met her husband, Julius Ilku (Double Bass '54), and the two performed jazz together, including as members of the Swing Easy Quartet in the 1950s. She is survived by her children, Carol and David Ilku.



Vitalij Kuprij
(Piano '00)

Vitalij Kuprij, a keyboardist, composer, and member of the progressive rock band Trans-Siberian Orchestra (TSO), died on February 20 at age 49. Mr. Kuprij was a member of the TSO from 2009–19 and rejoined the group in 2021, recently performing on their November/December 2023 tour. The TSO's shows are a holiday season staple, known for their rock opera theatrics and dazzling light shows.

Born in 1974 in Volodarka, Ukraine, Mr. Kuprij showed early promise on the piano, taking top honors at the All-Union Chopin Competition in the Republic of Kazan and the Geneva Duo Violin and Piano Competition. He began his studies at the Kyiv State Music Lyceum with Nina Najditsch, before studying with Rudolph Buchbinder at the Basel Conservatoire in Switzerland.

In 1995, Mr. Kuprij moved to Philadelphia to study at Curtis with Gary Graffman (Piano '46). Meanwhile, he cultivated interests in both classical and rock music. He formed his first progressive metal band in 1993, Atlantis Rising (later renamed Artension) and played with other prog-rock acts. He also toured as a recitalist throughout the U.S. and abroad. He was recently composing a piano concerto, which he planned to dedicate to the memory of his late father, a trombonist. In addition to his musical talents, Mr. Vitalij was, according to the TSO, "an accomplished chess player, an avid fisherman, and simply a fun-loving soul."



Charles Edmund Callahan Jr.
(Organ '75)

Charles Edmund Callahan Jr., an organist, teacher, and authority on American organ-building, died on December 25, 2023, at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington. He was 72 years old. Mr. Callahan's books, *The American Classic Organ* and *Aeolian-Skinner Remembered*, are standard reference works on 20th-century American organ history. Born in 1951

in Cambridge, Mass., Mr. Callahan studied at Curtis and at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. In 1988, he settled in Orwell, Conn. and taught at Middlebury College, Catholic University, and Baylor University. Among his original works were commissions for Papal visits from the Archdioceses of St. Louis and New York. Mr. Callahan was often consulted on organ design and restoration, and in 2014, he was honored with the Distinguished Artist Award of the American Guild of Organists, which cited "his illustrious career as composer, performer, teacher, and consultant, and his lifelong service to the sacred music profession."



William Yeats
(Voice '60)

William Yeats, a singer and educator in Philadelphia, died on February 18 at age 93. For 35 years he served as vocal director at South Philadelphia High School where he conducted multiple choirs and ensembles and staged over 20 Broadway musicals. He also served as director of the All-Philly High School Opera Workshop where he led productions of Ravel's *L'Enfant et Les Sortilege*, Hindemith's *Hin und Zuruck*, and Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.

Born in Durant, Okla. in 1930, Mr. Yeats served from 1950–52 in the U.S. Army's 45th Infantry Division in Japan and Korea. He earned music education degrees from Oklahoma State and Indiana Universities before receiving his Artist Diploma from Curtis. A regular tenor soloist in the Philadelphia area, Mr. Yeats performed at Congregation Rodeph Shalom for 43 years. He also appeared with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Society of Philadelphia, Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia, Reading Symphony Orchestra, and the University of Pennsylvania and Swarthmore College.

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