



FROM THE  
PRESIDENT



## A Milestone for the Curtis Community



AS WE MARK CURTIS' CENTENNIAL, our school is full of celebration, excitement, and anticipation. We joyfully celebrate the people, music, and moments of the last 100 years that make Curtis the most extraordinary music school in the world. We brim with excitement over the near-constant stream of inspiring concerts, debut performances, stellar master classes, and new faculty members as we undertake this year's incredible musical journey on our stages and in our classrooms. And we are filled with anticipation as we look ahead to Curtis' next century and all that we will do together in the years to come. This is an amazing time to be a part of the Curtis community, and I'm so thrilled to share it with you.

This past, present, and future perspective of Curtis permeates our entire centennial celebration—and this issue of *Overtones* is no exception. We trace Curtis' ties to Philadelphia's vibrant arts ecosystem over the last century ("The Philadelphia Story," p. 16) and we talk with Grammy-winning alumnus Teddy Abrams, music director the Louisville Orchestra, about building bridges across musical genres and the importance of community (p. 12). We explore new concept albums from celebrated alumni and faculty (p. 20), and consider the role of improvisation in classical music (p. 9). Opera singer turned content creator Elizabeth Zharoff discusses her popular YouTube channel (p. 24) and Curtis composition faculty member Amy Beth Kirsten shares what inspires her as she prepares to premiere her latest work—*Infernal Angel*—at Curtis in May (p. 7). And of course, we share news and highlights from members of our community ("Notations," p. 22).

On behalf of the *Overtones* editorial team, I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the magazine. We always welcome your feedback and suggestions for future content—reach out to us at [overtones@curtis.edu](mailto:overtones@curtis.edu). And remember that you can read and share issues of *Overtones* online at [curtis.edu/overtones](http://curtis.edu/overtones).

Sincerely,

*Roberto Díaz*

**PRESIDENT AND CEO**

**NINA VON MALTZAHN PRESIDENT'S CHAIR**