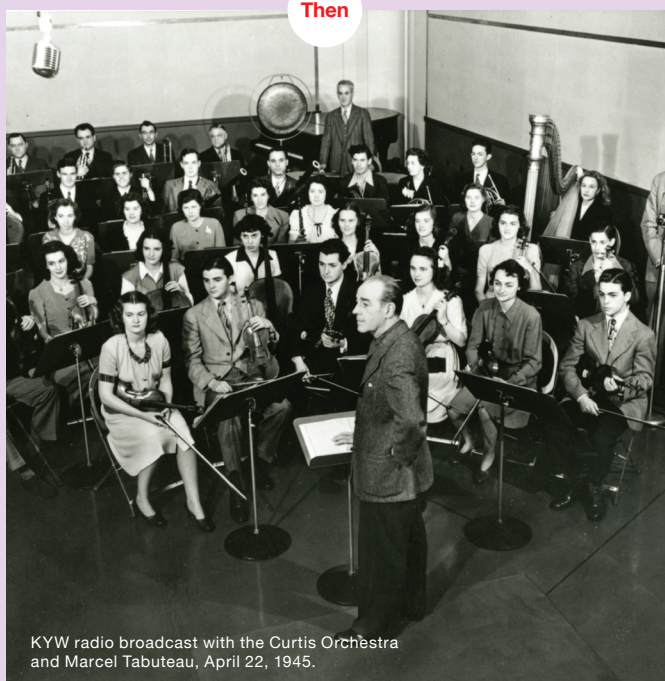


## Then & Now

# Broadcasting at Curtis

The mic checks continue even as the technology has dramatically changed.

Then



KYW radio broadcast with the Curtis Orchestra and Marcel Tabuteau, April 22, 1945.

Curtis took to the airwaves soon after the school's founding in 1924. The very first public concert was broadcast by Philadelphia station WIP on April 25, 1926, from the Penn Athletic Club, featuring an orchestra of 64 students, 12 members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and conductors Leopold Stokowski and Thaddeus Rich.

In 1928–29, several Curtis Orchestra concerts from Field Concert Hall were broadcast nationally by the Columbia and National Broadcasting networks. And in 1930, the Curtis Orchestra substituted twice for the New York Philharmonic on its national radio program.

Broadcasting expanded in 1931 when Fritz Reiner led the Curtis Orchestra on a weekly series over the CBS Radio Network. Other radio programs took place on Philadelphia's KYW during World War II.

After a long hiatus, broadcasting resumed in 1978 with the debut of *Concerts at Curtis*, a Monday night series that ran for six years and included recitals, chamber, and orchestral music concerts on WUHY (now WHYY). From 1988–97, WFLN broadcast *Concerts from Curtis Hall* weekly, although not live, while in 2002–03, WHYY presented *Sunday Showcase*, featuring weekly Curtis performances.

Now



Producing the multimedia piece, *Immersive Scheherazade*, in 2022.

Television and online media have brought Curtis to new, wider audiences. Since 2005, PBS affiliate WHYY-TV has presented *On Stage at Curtis*, which airs Fridays at 8:30 p.m. and features concerts recorded in Field Concert Hall. Curtis' YouTube channel, with nearly 27,000 subscribers, presents notable performances from the current and previous seasons.

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