



2025/26
Season

Curtis Sounds Like This



This is Curtis.

Where music is timeless.

Where greatness becomes possible.

Where classical music breaks new ground.

Where you hear talent that will define the future.

Curtis Sounds Like This.

Curtis presents a season filled with exploration and idealism as America celebrates 250 years. Music echoes our past, present, and future reflecting the voices, struggles, and triumphs that have shaped lives, inspired change, and connected generations. Join us in 2025–26 to experience music-making at its highest level—and the energy and excitement of extraordinary young talent.

Sounds Like This

Roberto Díaz (Viola '84)
President and CEO
Nina von Maltzahn President's Chair

APRIL 30 & MAY 2
A Midsummer Night's Dream
OPERA

“The talent was unbelievable!”

—Curtis patron

Curtis Symphony Orchestra

Curtis Symphony Orchestra, comprised of outstanding talent and unmatched enthusiasm for musical collaboration, stands as a cornerstone of the Curtis Institute of Music experience and a vital component of Philadelphia’s vibrant cultural scene. For 100 years, our exceptional students have sharpened their skills and broadened their musical horizons, as they prepare for professional careers with the world’s foremost orchestras and chamber ensembles.

OCT. 11 AT 3 P.M.
**Eschenbach
Leads
Bruckner 3**

JAN. 25 AT 3 P.M.
**Osmo
Conducts
Bartók**

MAR. 26 AT 7 P.M.
**Yannick Leads
Mahler &
Dawson**

“The Best of the Best”

—BBC Music Magazine

Orchestral concerts are supported by the Jack Wolgin Curtis Orchestral Concerts Endowment Fund.

Guest conductor appearances for each Curtis Symphony Orchestra performance are made possible by the Rita E. and Gustave M. Hauser Chair in Conducting Studies.

TICKETS START AT \$24
curtis.edu/tickets



A Voyage Through Symphonic Expression.

OCT. 11, 2025
Saturday at 3:00 p.m.
Marian Anderson Hall
Kimmel Center

Eschenbach Leads Bruckner 3

A Voyage Through Symphonic Expression.

Curtis Symphony Orchestra launches its 2025–26 series with a dynamic program tracing the evolution of orchestral music. The afternoon opens with *The School for Scandal*, Curtis alumnus Samuel Barber’s witty and fast-paced overture inspired by Richard Brinsley Sheridan’s 18th-century comedy. Grammy-winning conductor Christoph Eschenbach leads Krzysztof Penderecki’s Concerto Grosso for Three Cellos, featuring Curtis alumni and faculty Nicholas Canellakis, Yumi Kendall, and Christine Jeonghyoun Lee—a striking work that blends lyrical beauty with bold dissonance and rhythmic intensity. The program culminates in Bruckner’s monumental Symphony No. 3, a sweeping and heroic masterpiece that unfolds in waves of majestic brass chorales, soaring themes, and a staggering sense of scale.

PROGRAM

SAMUEL BARBER ('34) Overture to *The School for Scandal*
KRZYSZTOF PENDERECKI Concerto Grosso for Three Cellos
ANTON BRUCKNER Symphony No. 3 in D minor, WAB 103

ARTISTS

Christoph Eschenbach, conductor
Nicholas Canellakis ('06), cello
Yumi Kendall ('04), cello
Christine Jeonghyoun Lee ('13), cello
Mariana Corichi Gómez, Rita E. Hauser Conducting Fellow
Curtis Symphony Orchestra

JAN. 25, 2026
Sunday at 3:00 p.m.
Marian Anderson Hall
Kimmel Center

Osmo Conducts Bartók

Epic Sounds. Boundless Orchestral Brilliance.

Embark on a musical odyssey with renowned Finnish conductor Osmo Vänskä. The afternoon begins with Missy Mazzoli's *Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)*—a swirling, celestial work inspired by planetary motion and the roiling drone of the medieval stringed instrument, the hurdy-gurdy. Henry Dorn's powerful *Transitions* follows—a deeply personal tone poem reflecting on loss, transformation, and resilience. The program features the world premiere of a new concerto for woodwinds and orchestra by David Serkin Ludwig, performed by Grammy-winning quintet and Curtis faculty Imani Winds. The concert concludes with Béla Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra, a virtuosic showcase that transforms each section of the ensemble into dazzling soloists. Charting a bold musical journey across five movements—this masterwork blends folk-inspired melodies, modernist harmonies, and brilliant orchestration—making it one of the most beloved orchestral pieces of the 20th century.

PROGRAM

MISSY MAZZOLI *Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)*
HENRY DORN *Transitions*
DAVID LUDWIG Concerto for Imani Winds & Orchestra
BÉLA BARTÓK Concerto for Orchestra, Sz. 116

ARTISTS

Osmo Vänskä, conductor
Imani Winds, wind quintet
Brandon Patrick George, flute
Toyin Spellman-Díaz, oboe
Kevin Newton, horn
Mark Dover, clarinet
Monica Ellis, bassoon
Curtis Symphony Orchestra

Epic Sounds. Boundless Orchestral Brilliance.





Echoes of Legacy in Symphony and Song.

MAR. 26, 2026
Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Marian Anderson Hall
Kimmel Center

Yannick Leads Mahler & Dawson

Echoes of Legacy in Symphony and Song.

Join Curtis Symphony Orchestra and Grammy-winning conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin for an evening of powerful musical storytelling. The program opens with Richard Wagner's *Rienzi* Overture—a dramatic and rousing early work that reveals Wagner's emerging theatrical voice—led by conducting fellow Yoann Combémoré. Next, rising stars of the Curtis Opera Theatre bring Gustav Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* (*The Youth's Magic Horn*) to life in a set of orchestral songs that transform German folk poetry into richly expressive vignettes of love, loss, and the surreal. The evening culminates in William L. Dawson's *Negro Folk Symphony*, a 1934 triumph that weaves African American spirituals into symphonic form, resonating with emotional depth, cultural pride, and rhythmic power.

PROGRAM

RICHARD WAGNER *Rienzi* Overture
GUSTAV MAHLER Selections from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*
WILLIAM DAWSON *Negro Folk Symphony*

ARTISTS

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor
Yoann Combémoré, Rita E. Hauser Conducting Fellow
Members of Curtis Opera Theatre
Curtis Symphony Orchestra

“The singers, the orchestra,
the costumes, the scenery—
they were all outstanding!”

—Curtis subscriber

Curtis Opera Theatre

The promising young artists of Curtis Opera Theatre collaborate with renowned conductors, directors, and designers to present fresh and passionate performances from across the operatic repertoire. Through visionary productions and extraordinary musicianship, they engage audiences with dynamic interpretations. Curtis’ voice and opera students feature prominently throughout the season, gaining formative performance experience to fuel their careers with top opera companies across the United States and Europe, including La Scala, Covent Garden, the Vienna Staatsoper, Houston Grand Opera, San Francisco Opera, and the Metropolitan Opera.

NOV. 14 & 16
L’Orfeo

FEB. 26 & 28
**La Passión de
Simone**

APR. 30 & MAY 2
**A Midsummer
Night’s Dream**

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

TICKETS START AT \$24
curtis.edu/tickets

NOV. 14 & 16, 2025

Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Philadelphia Film Center

L'Orfeo

**Monteverdi's Groundbreaking Masterpiece
on Fate and Music.**

Curtis Opera Theatre opens its thrilling 2025–26 series with *L'Orfeo*, Monteverdi's groundbreaking masterpiece that reshaped opera. Inspired by the Greek myth, this timeless tale follows Orpheus, a musician whose love for Eurydice drives him to challenge fate itself. Renowned conductor David Stern leads the cast of rising opera stars in acclaimed director and playwright John Matsumoto Giampietro's production. Premiered in 1607, *L'Orfeo* merges Renaissance polyphony with baroque drama; its stunning score brims with passion and beauty, placing raw human emotions at its core. More than 400 years later, this legendary work remains as powerful and moving as ever.

CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI, music
ALESSANDRO STRIGGIO, libretto
Performed in Italian with English supertitles

ARTISTS

David Stern, conductor
John Matsumoto Giampietro, stage director
Curtis Opera Theatre
Members of Curtis Symphony Orchestra



La Passion de Simone

FEB. 26 & 28, 2026

Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday at 2:00 p.m.

Philadelphia Film Center

La Passion de Simone

A Musical Journey in 15 Stations.

Curtis Opera Theatre and Curtis New Music Ensemble present *La Passion de Simone*, a mesmerizing meditation on faith, sacrifice, and resistance by Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho and librettist Amin Maalouf. Subtitled “A Musical Journey in 15 Stations,” this opera-oratorio explores the life and writings of Simone Weil, the radical French philosopher and activist whose pursuit of justice shaped 20th-century thought.

Directed by Marcus Shields and conducted by Marc Lowenstein, this powerful requiem is inspired by the baroque Passion Play and unfolds through a soprano narrator, guiding audiences through Weil’s philosophical and spiritual journey. A stunning fusion of music, poetry, and theater, *La Passion de Simone* offers an unforgettable portrait of a fearless thinker who challenged the limits of thought and action in her quest for truth.

KAIJA SAARIAHO, music

AMIN MAALOUF, libretto

Performed in French with English supertitles

ARTISTS

Marc Lowenstein, conductor

Marcus Shields, stage director

Curtis Opera Theatre

Curtis New Music Ensemble



A Midsummer Night's Dream

APR. 30 & MAY 2, 2026
Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday at 2:00 p.m.
Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

A Midsummer Night's Dream

A Spellbinding Opera of Love and Mischief.

Magic and wonder intertwine in Benjamin Britten's enchanting adaptation of William Shakespeare's romantic comedy. Critically acclaimed director Sarah Ina Meyers and dynamic international conductor Vinay Parameswaran lead a dazzling cast of young opera stars and members of Curtis Symphony Orchestra in this spellbinding production. Prepare to be transported to a twilight world where feuding fairies meddle with mortals, hearts are led astray, and the surreal world of dreams blurs the edges of reality.

In the depths of a dark forest outside Athens, the fairy king Oberon and his queen, Tytania, clash in a battle of wits and wills as a group of impulsive lovers and an unsuspecting band of amateur actors wander into their moonlit realm. Seizing the opportunity to manipulate fate, Oberon entrusts the impish sprite Puck to squeeze the juice of a mystic flower into the eyes of his queen and the quarreling lovers, sparking a night of romantic chaos and surprising transformations.

BENJAMIN BRITTEN, music
PETER PEARS, libretto
Based on the play by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

ARTISTS

Vinay Parameswaran ('13), conductor
Sarah Ina Meyers, stage director
Curtis Opera Theatre
Members of Curtis Symphony Orchestra



“Eclectic mix of music.
Amazing musicians!”

—Curtis subscriber

Curtis New Music Ensemble

Curtis New Music Ensemble features compelling repertoire from the 20th and 21st centuries. With bold collaborations and striking productions, Curtis New Music Ensemble embraces the cutting edge of contemporary classical music through the highest level of artistry.

We the Artists

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Gould Rehearsal Hall

Curtis New Music Ensemble's *We the Artists* explores groundbreaking American composers of the 20th and 21st centuries. Marking the nation's 250th year, the program reflects America's diverse musical tapestry. It features Clarice Assad's *Canções da America*, inspired by South American rhythms and Indigenous traditions; Carlos Simon's *Giants*, honoring five iconic Black Americans; and Valerie Coleman's *Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes*, exploring Black Indigenous heritage. The concert also includes selections from Joan Tower's *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman*. *We the Artists* highlights creativity, resilience, and the voices shaping America's evolving soundscape.

PROGRAM

CLARICE ASSAD *Canções da America*
CARLOS SIMON *Giants*
JOAN TOWER Selections from *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman*
VALERIE COLEMAN *Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes*

Portrait of Jessie Montgomery

APRIL 4, 2026

Saturday at 7:00 p.m.
Gould Rehearsal Hall

Curtis New Music Ensemble celebrates composer-in-residence Jessie Montgomery with a concert featuring works by the Grammy-winning composer, violinist, and educator. Praised as “turbulent, wildly colorful, and exploding with life” (*Washington Post*), Montgomery's music fuses classical with vernacular styles, improvisation, poetry, and social consciousness—offering a profound reflection of 21st-century American sound.

A winner of the Sphinx Medal of Excellence, Leonard Bernstein Award, and *Musical America's* 2023 Composer of the Year, Montgomery explores themes from social justice to the Black diasporic experience with remarkable depth.



The program includes *Concerto Grosso*, a bold reimagining of the baroque tradition where the solo violinist embraces “choose your own adventure” spontaneity. It concludes with *Musings for two violins*, inspired by Béla Bartók's 44 Duos for Two Violins and honors composers such as Bach, Hindemith, and Vivaldi. This captivating evening showcases Montgomery's dynamic voice in modern classical music.

PROGRAM

JESSIE MONTGOMERY *Concerto Grosso*
JESSIE MONTGOMERY *Musings for two violins*
ADDITIONAL WORKS TBA



TICKETS START AT \$24
curtis.edu/tickets

Generous support for Curtis New Music Ensemble is provided by the Daniel W. Dietrich II Foundation.

Curtis Recital Series

“Can’t believe the whole
AMAZING experience is free!”

—Curtis recital attendee

The Curtis Recital Series embodies Curtis’ core educational philosophy, emphasizing the learn-by-doing principle. Featuring Student, Faculty, and Studio Recitals, this series illuminates the exceptional passion and artistry of Curtis musicians. Immerse yourself in music-making at its highest level—and the vibrancy of extraordinary young talent. More than 100 free recitals will be presented on most Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings at Curtis’ Field Concert Hall in Rittenhouse Square. Admission is complimentary but requires advance registration. Experience the dynamic energy and profound artistry that define Curtis through these captivating performances.

The Edith L. and Robert Proskoff Memorial Concert Series.

Visit curtis.edu/calendar
for a complete listing of
upcoming performances.

Invest in the Sound of Greatness

At Curtis Institute of Music, the world’s great young musicians develop into exceptional artists, creators, and innovators. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Curtis provides an unparalleled musical education, tuition-free—enabling each student to realize their artistic potential through intensive, individualized study with the most renowned, sought-after faculty.

Our donors are an integral part of the Curtis community and have supported us throughout our successful 100-year legacy. They help to nurture the world’s most celebrated performers and composers—talented students and alumni who lead, and will lead, classical music into a thriving, equitable, multidimensional future.

DONATE TODAY
curtis.edu/support
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“We celebrate the exceptionally gifted graduates, young students, and world-renowned faculty, all of whom continue to bring national and international pride to each of us as supporters of the greater Curtis family.”

—Curtis donor

FALL 2025

OCT. 11

Eschenbach Leads Bruckner 3
ORCHESTRA

NOV. 14 & 16

L'Orfeo
OPERA

NOV. 20

We the Artists
NEW MUSIC

WINTER/SPRING 2026

JAN. 25

Osmo Conducts Bartók
ORCHESTRA

FEB. 26 & 28

La Passion de Simone
OPERA

MAR. 26

Yannick Leads Mahler & Dawson
ORCHESTRA

APR. 4

Portrait of Jessie Montgomery
NEW MUSIC

APRIL 30 & MAY 2

A Midsummer Night's Dream
OPERA

Subscribe and Save

Choose-Your-Own

25% off ticket prices when purchasing two or more events

Season Pass

Attend as many performances as you like for one flat rate of \$149*

Subscription Benefits

Curtis subscribers get the best seats at the best prices, plus so much more. Enjoy ultimate flexibility by becoming a 2025–26 season subscriber.

- Best price—save 25% or more
- Best seats—choose your seat before general tickets are on sale
- Premium concierge service from Curtis Patron Services
- Discounts on additional tickets all season
- Presale opportunities and special invitations
- Exclusive subscriber gift

Tickets	Zone 3	Zone 2	Zone 1
Curtis Symphony Orchestra	\$24	\$39	\$54
Curtis Opera Theatre	\$24	\$44	\$64
Curtis New Music Ensemble	\$24 general admission		

How to Order

curtis.edu/tickets
tickets@curtis.edu
215-893-7902

Prices and programming subject to change.
*Pre-season special, only available through August 2025.



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