



Composition/ Conducting

1930s

The Spoleto Festival USA in May presented **Gian Carlo Menotti's** (Composition '33) production of the 1939 radio opera *The Old Maid and the Thief*. The work, commissioned by NBC, is among the earliest operas written specifically for radio. This new staging reimagines it as a live radio drama with period elements and onstage musicians.

1950s



José Serebrier (Composition '58) has recently published several new works, including *My Last Elegy*, *Running on the Beach*, *Midnight* for solo violin, and *Carmen Symphony*. In addition, *José Serebrier: Portraits of the Maestro*, a biography by Michael Faure, has been released in Japanese and is now available in six languages.

1970s

David Krane (Composition '74) was featured in the April 2026 issue of *Gramophone* magazine. In the back page "My Music" profile, he discussed his essential recording, Leonard

Bernstein's (Conducting '41) *Chichester Psalms*, and reflected on his connection to Bernstein and Curtis.

In October, **James Adler's** (Piano '73, Composition '76) *Alleluia for Peace* received its Italian premiere at Palazzo Valentini in Rome by soprano Dominika Zamara and the Mozaika Quartet. Adler also received the Artistic Instincts International Award 2025 from the APS Cultural Association.

1980s

The London Philharmonic Orchestra named **Paavo Järvi** (Conducting '88) chief conductor and artistic advisor beginning in the 2028–29 season. He will succeed Edward Gardner and lead the orchestra's centennial celebrations in 2032.

The Buffalo Philharmonic, led by JoAnn Falletta, recorded **Russell Platt's** (Composition '88) *Symphony in Three Movements* for the album *Contemporary Landscapes*. Bridge Records also issued *Mountain Interval*, a collection of Mr. Platt's vocal and chamber works. He was a guest composer at Maverick Concerts last summer.

Paul Brantley (Composition '85) received the 2026 Frances and William Schuman Fellowship in support of a residency at MacDowell. His work *Mystery Sonata* was performed in January 2026 at Chatter ABQ, a venue in Albuquerque, N.M., and has since been published. He also received a

new commission from pianist Beth Levin.

1990s

In March, **Sarah Ioannides** (Conducting '98) made her Phoenix Symphony Orchestra debut in a program that included works by Lili Boulanger, Tchaikovsky, and Prokofiev.

Daniel Ott (Composition '97) was promoted to senior associate dean of Fordham College at Lincoln Center last July. An associate professor of music at Fordham, he is also on the faculty of the Juilliard School.



Alan Gilbert (Conducting '92) has renewed his contract as music director of the Royal Swedish Opera through 2029. In May, during his six-month sabbatical, Mr. Gilbert received Curtis' Lifetime Achievement Award at commencement (see p. 28).

2000s

David Serkin Ludwig (Composition '01) has been awarded a 2026 Guggenheim Fellowship. Mr. Ludwig, who is dean and director of the music division at the Juilliard School, was among 223 new fellows drawn from nearly 5,000 applicants. Mr. Ludwig will receive a stipend "to pursue in-

dependent work at the highest level under “the freest possible conditions,” according to the Guggenheim Foundation.

2010s

In May, **Daniel Temkin** (Composition ’13) released his album *Maksimal* on Orchid Classics. The recording features the Aizuri Quartet (String Quartet ’16) performing his work *Ocean’s Call*, commissioned by Chamber Music by the Bay and artistic director **Jessica Chang** (Viola ’12).

2020s

Elizabeth Younan (Composition ’21) in February was awarded a Charles Ives Scholarship, worth \$7,500, from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Ms. Younan is currently pursuing a doctorate at the Juilliard School.

Robert Kahn (Conducting ’22) has been named assistant conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for the 2026–27 season. In February, he appeared with the Great Falls Symphony as a music director finalist, conducting the Bruch Violin Concerto with **Matthew Hakkarainen** (Violin ’22).



Winds/Brass

1980s

Shelley Showers (Horn ’85) retired in June 2025 as assistant principal/utility horn of the

Philadelphia Orchestra. She previously served as acting principal horn of the Cleveland Orchestra, where she became its first female brass player, and held principal positions with the Utah Symphony and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

David Bernard (Clarinet ’84) was named Conductor of the Year and a platinum prize winner in the 2025 Grand Prix of the European Classical Music Awards. His recording of Mahler’s Symphony No. 9 received critical recognition, and his InsideOut concert series was featured in *Symphony* magazine.

2010s



Catherine Van Handel (Bassoon ’15) joined the Cleveland Orchestra in January as assistant principal bassoon. She was principal bassoon of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra from 2017 to 2025. Previously, she was associate principal bassoon with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

2020s

The wind quintet ZaRiah, which includes **Jamison Hillian** (Oboe ’22), won gold in the senior wind division and the \$15,000 grand prize at the 53rd Annual Fischhoff Competition, held in May at the University of Notre Dame.



Piano/Organ

1980s

Two works by **Ketty Nez** (Piano ’83) recently received premieres: *The suite française* got its New York premiere in January by pianist Chengcheng Ma at Merkin Hall; the string quartet *knitting lace* was introduced by the Arneis Quartet in November at Boston University.

1990s

In February, **Leon McCawley** (Piano ’95) released a new album on SOMM Recordings of works by Bach, Liszt, Beethoven, Chopin, and Franck.

2010s

Patrick Kreeger (Organ ’13) has been appointed chair of the music theory department at Juilliard Extension.

2020s

In February, **Aaron Patterson** (Organ ’22) was appointed organist and music associate at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Miss.



Voice/Opera

2000s

Eve Gigliotti (Voice ’00, Opera ’02) recently appeared in two productions with the

Metropolitan Opera, as Queen Enrichetta in *I Puritani* and in Mason Bates’ *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*. She also received a Magic Grant from Princeton University to workshop *No One Is Forgotten*, an opera in which she co-starred, as well as produced and co-commissioned. She has been elected to the artistic board of Beth Morrison Projects.

2010s

Roy Hage (Opera ’16) created the tenor role of Volmar in the world premiere of Sarah Kirkland Snider’s *Hildegard* at LA Opera. He later reprised the role at the 2026 Prototype Festival in New York.

2020s



Morgan-Andrew King (Opera ’24) will join the Paris Opera Lyric Troupe for the 2026–27 season. The bass will appear in Paris Opera productions of *Hamlet*, *Il Trovatore*, *Idomeneo*, and *Don Giovanni*.



Percussion

1990s

In May, **Victor Yerrid** (Timpani and Percussion ’92)

presented his family concert *Leopold and the Magic Flute* with the Pacific Symphony.



Strings

1960s

In December 2025, **Zina Schiff** (Violin '69) released her 18th recording, a collection of solo violin works by David Hush. In February, at the Ron Shulamit Conservatory in Jerusalem, she gave a master class and recital which included the world premiere of *The Turtle on Mitudela Lane* by Cherina Carmel Eisenberg.

1980s

Martin Chalifour (Violin '84), who recently retired as principal concertmaster of the Los Angeles Philharmonic (at 30 years, the longest-serving concertmaster in its history), has begun a year-long performance residency at California's Sierra Madre Playhouse.

1990s

This fall, **Jeffrey Lastrapes** (Cello '96) joins the faculty of the Cleveland Institute of Music as a professor of cello and director of Academy Strings. This summer, he returns to the Interlochen Arts Camp's cello faculty for his 13th season.

2000s



In March, **Bella Hristova** (Violin '08) joined the faculty of the Mannes College of Music. Also this spring, she made her China orchestral debuts, performing with the Shenzhen, Wuxi, and Guangxi Symphony Orchestras.

Conductor **Earl Lee** (Cello '05) made his Minnesota Orchestra debut in March, stepping in on short notice to conduct Beethoven's Sym-

phony No. 9. He conducted that same work when he made his last-minute Boston Symphony Orchestra debut at Tanglewood in 2025. He has served as music director of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra since 2022.

2010s



Elizabeth Fayette (Violin '11) joined the Cleveland Orchestra as first associate concertmaster in May. Since 2023, Ms. Fayette has been based in

Milestones

Roy Hage (Opera '16) and Mark Tempesta were married on January 2, 2025, in the Great Hall at the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London. Longtime Harry Potter fans, they celebrated at Platform 9¾ and other iconic spots from the films. Mr. Hage continues to travel for his performing career, and Mr. Tempesta is an assistant professor of vocal pedagogy and opera at the University of North Texas.



DARIO ACOSTA (HRISTOVA)

Philadelphia but has also worked in Brazil as concertmaster of the Orquestra Filarmônica de Minas Gerais.

2020s

Andres Sanchez (Cello '20) won first prize in the senior division at the 29th Annual Sphinx Competition, held in Detroit in January. Sanchez received the Robert Frederick Smith Prize, worth \$50,000, along with solo performance opportunities with major orchestras.

Faculty/Staff

Alan Morrison (Organ '91, Accompanying '93) performed a solo recital at the Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris on the Musique Sacrée concert series in March. The program included American composers Anne Wilson, Mary Beth Bennett, Florence Price, Thomas Kerr, and George Baker, followed by the works of Louis Vierne, who was organist there from 1900 to 1937. Other recitals took place this season at Duke University, the University of Michigan, and Spivey Hall in Morrow, Ga., where he is the McGehee Family Organist in Residence.



In February 2026, pianist **John Mortensen** performed and taught at the Erstes Interna-

tional Klavier Improvisations Festival in Bad Ischl, Austria. At the festival he presented a concert featuring improvisation in baroque, classical, and Romantic styles. Mr. Mortensen serves on the musical studies faculty at Curtis.

Musical studies faculty member **Christopher Rogerson** (Composition '10) becomes the new artistic director of the Bravo! Vail Music Festival this summer. He succeeds pianist Anne-Marie McDermott and becomes the first composer to hold the position.

Pianist and composer **Thomas Weaver** released a new album in November on Naxos' American Classics label, featuring violinist Elmira Darvarova performing music from David Amram's *Voyages for Solo Violin*.

Head of conducting **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** was among the 2026 Philly Music Alliance Walk of Fame honorees. A ceremony and gala for the eight inductees took place at the Kimmel Center on May 13. The Philadelphia Music Alliance has highlighted local artists through the annual Walk of Fame ceremony since 1987.

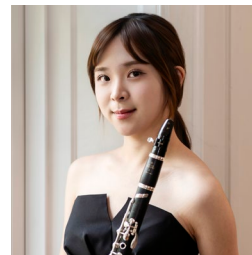
Students

Harp student **Hannah Chen** won the National Federation of Music Clubs' distinguished Barbara M. Irish Harp Award. This annual award of \$5,500 recognizes an exemplary undergraduate harp

student at Curtis. The award was established in 1999 by the club's former president, the late Barbara M. Irish.

At the finals of the Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition (EOIVC) in January, Curtis students took first, second, and third prizes. **HyunJae Lim** (violin) won first prize (\$30,000), best performance of a newly commissioned work, and best performance of an Ysaÿe solo sonata. Violinists **Yiyang Hou** and **Sameer Agrawal** took second and third prizes, valued at \$15,000 and \$10,000, respectively.

Cello students **Romain-Olivier Gray** and **TaeYeon Kim**, and alum **Yoonsoo Yeo** (Cello '23) were three of the 66 cellists selected to participate in the 2026 Queen Elisabeth Competition, which began on May 4 in Brussels.



First-year clarinet student **Hy-ein Oh** won first prize in the classical clarinet category at the 2026 Vandoren Emerging Artist Competition. The competition is open to clarinetists and saxophonists in the U.S. between the ages of 18 and 23. Grand prize winners receive \$1,000 and a trip to Paris where the Vandoren instrument factory is located.



At Opera Mississippi's 2026 John Alexander National Vocal Competition, opera student **Jeysla Rosario Santos** took second place in the opera division for young artists. **Kylie Kreucher** (Opera '25) won first place in the crossover division for young artists. The competition is open to vocalists in the U.S. between the ages of 18 and 45 and takes place in Jackson, Miss. It is designed to recognize exceptional opera and musical theatre vocalists and bring promising artists to Mississippi audiences.



Rita E. Hauser Conducting Fellow **Yiran Zhao** will become one of two new assistant conductors at the Boston Symphony Orchestra starting in the 2026–27 season. A 2025 conducting fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center, she is also a soprano who sings with the early-music group Apollo's Fire. Ms. Zhao will make her BSO debut as assistant conductor during the 2027 Tanglewood season.

NICHOLE MCH PHOTOGRAPHY (OH, ROSARIO SANTOS, ZHAO); RICK NICKERSON (JOHN MORTENSEN)

Congratulations

Saluting the Class of 2026

Curtis' 93rd commencement ceremony was held on May 16 in Field Concert Hall, celebrating 39 new graduates.

→ The ceremony included remarks from President Roberto Díaz and from the featured speakers, Alan Gilbert (Conducting '92) and soprano Amanda Majeski (Opera '09); from student speakers Ben Price and Nikan Ingabire Kanate; and the conferring of all degrees, diplomas, and certificates.

Mr. Gilbert was also recognized with Curtis' Lifetime Achievement Award. In his address to graduates, he reflected on the ups and downs of his own musical training and on the nature of a successful career. "Success is finding the possibility of doing what we love," he said. "Let me underline this: It is not doing what we love. Success is achieving the *luxury* of doing what we love."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
TRACIE VAN AUKEN



Alan Gilbert delivers the commencement address.



Jackson Howard and Ross Macatangay



Xiaoxi Annie Li



Roberto Díaz, Alan Gilbert, Deborah Fretz, and Nick DiBerardino



Student speakers Ben Price and Nikan Ingabire Kanate



Alexander Erlich-Herzog, Anastasia Samsel, and Xiaoxi Annie Li exit with their diplomas.



Ania Lewis with Roberto Díaz and Dr. Jeanne McGinn



Emmalena Huning and Desara Beta



Sumin Kim and Jake Dongyoung Shim



Alan Gilbert



L-R: Sarah Wight Palmer, Nikan Ingabire Kanate, Hongrui Ren, and Emmalena Huning

- Landry Allen**, opera
- Leah Amory**, violin
- Dasara Beta**, trumpet
- Kārlis Bukovskis**, piano
- Yoann Combémoré**, conducting
- Isaac Creager**, composition
- Alexander Erlich-Herzog**, clarinet
- Jacques Forestier**, violin
- Vincent Garcia-Hettinger**, cello
- Joan Herget**, cello
- Jackson Howard**, trombone
- Emmalena Huning**, violin
- Nicholas Ivy**, horn
- Hwaseop Jeong**, clarinet
- Nikan Ingabire Kanate**, opera
- Sumin Kim**, viola
- Ania Lewis**, cello
- Xiaoxi Annie Li**, flute
- Delvan Lin**, piano
- Christian Luevano**, double bass
- Annis Cheuk Lam Ma**, viola
- Ross Macatangay**, opera
- Shikta Mukherjee**, voice
- Laura Navasardian**, cello
- Haerim Oh**, violin
- Sarah Palmer**, organ
- Diego Peña**, bassoon
- Ben Price**, oboe
- Hongrui Ren**, opera
- Radomir Romashkov-Danilov**, guitar
- Amane Sakaguchi**, composition
- Anastasia Samsel**, flute
- Nathan Schludecker**, opera
- Jake Dongyoung Shim**, violin
- Nachuan Tao**, piano
- Dandan Jingfei Wang**, violin
- Dindin Jingyi Wang**, violin
- Lynn Ye**, piano
- Emad Zolfaghari**, viola