



**CURTIS**  
INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

# **CURTIS PRESENTS**

MUSIC OF  
**RICHARD DANIELPOUR**

**2022-23 SEASON**

**MADE WITH LOVE**

**CURTIS INSTITUTE OF MUSIC**  
**2022-23 SEASON**  
*Made with Love*

**Curtis Presents:**  
***Music of Richard Danielpour***

Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 8:00 p.m.  
Field Concert Hall

**PROGRAM**

***Four Portraits*** (world premiere)

RICHARD DANIELPOUR

Cavatina

(b. 1956)

Waltz

Nocturne

Aria

Amy Yang ('06), piano

***Canti Della Natura***

DANIELPOUR

Estate (Summer)

Autunno (Autumn)

Inverno (Winter)

Primavera (Spring)

Elena Perroni (Opera '18), soprano

Matthew Christakos, cello

Lisa Keller, piano

**INTERMISSION**

**String Quintet ("A Shattered Vessel")**

DANIELPOUR

Things Fall Apart. Agitato, with urgency & foreboding

Harvest of Sorrows. Adagietto (Simply flowing)

The Healing Fields. Con moto (Exuberant, with driving energy)

Homeward. Molto adagio

Ida Kavafian, violin

Danny Yehun Jin, violin

Cara Pogossian ('21), viola

Peter Wiley ('74), cello

Francis Carr ('21), cello

# PROGRAM NOTES

By Richard Danielpour

## *Four Portraits*

*Four Portraits* was commissioned by the Curtis Institute of Music, specifically for this concert, which among other things, celebrates my 25th anniversary with Curtis. The work was composed as a cycle of musical portraits about a woman's life, beginning with childhood (Cavatina), followed by young adulthood (Waltz), mature adulthood (Nocturne) with its myriad of challenges, and beyond (Aria).

This four movement piano cycle was composed as a birthday present for my partner, Claudia Christian, to whom the work is dedicated.

## *Canti Della Natura*

*Canti Della Natura (Songs of Nature)* was composed in the fall of 2019 on a commission from the Curtis Institute of Music with the generous support of Ken Lipper. It is scored for soprano, piano, and obbligato cello. The work was written to honor my dear friend, Nicola Bulgari on his 80th birthday year. The texts are taken from sonnets that were presumably written by Antonio Vivaldi to accompany the performance of his famous Four Seasons concerti grossi. I decided to set the work in the original Italian rather than in an English translation in part, because, although the text is 18th century Italian, modern Italian is a language that I speak as a result of my many visits to Rome, Tuscany, and Northern Italy over the last 40 years.

The invocation of the seasons in this work, serves as a metaphor for the natural cycles of birth, death, and rebirth in nature, and in our very lives. Each of the 12 movements involve soprano voice save one: an intermezzo for cello and piano, which is symbolic of the change of seasons from Winter to Spring. The cycle was first performed in France at the Musique du vert Infiniti festival on July 3, 2021. Curtis on Tour performed the work throughout various cities in Europe in the fall of 2022.

## **String Quintet (“A Shattered Vessel”)**

String Quintet (“A Shattered Vessel”) was co-commissioned by the Curtis Institute of Music with Music from Angel Fire (lead commissioner), Chamber Music Monterey Bay, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival, and Linton Chamber Music.

This String Quintet, scored for two violins, viola, and two cellos was completed on December 31, 2018. The subtitle “A Shattered Vessel,” refers to a great mystery of life, that in order for something of value to live, something else must often die. In this way death can be understood not only as a part of life, but also as a part of nature. The work is also about healing. The first movement subtitled “Things Fall Apart,” depicts a crisis and a struggle. The second movement, “Harvest of Sorrows,” reflects the natural mourning process that occurs after a crisis and a loss. The third movement, “The Healing Fields,” is a dance of renewal and regained strength. The fourth and final movement, “Homeward,” is a hymn of thanks and gratitude for the very gift of life with both its joys and its sorrows. This work is dedicated to Ida Kavafian.

## ABOUT RICHARD DANIELPOUR

Grammy-Award winning composer Richard Danielpour is one of the most gifted and sought-after composers of his generation. His works have been performed by nearly every major American orchestra, and many of the great European orchestras of our time. Dr. Danielpour's music has attracted an international and illustrious array of champions, and, as a devoted mentor and educator, he has also had a significant impact on the younger generation of composers.

His list of commissions include some of the most celebrated artists of our day including Yo-Yo Ma, Jessye Norman, Dawn Upshaw, Susan Graham, Emanuel Ax, Gil Shaham, Frederica von Stade, Thomas Hampson, Isabel Leonard Gary Graffman, Anthony McGill, the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, the Guarneri and Emerson String Quartets, the New York City, Pacific Northwest and Nashville Ballets, and institutions such as the New York Philharmonic, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Maryinsky and Vienna Chamber Orchestras, Orchestre National de France, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, and many more. With Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison, Danielpour created *Margaret Garner*, his first opera, which premiered in 2005 and had a second production with New York City Opera.

Danielpour has received awards from the American Academy and Institute of Arts & Letters, a Guggenheim Award, the Bears Prize from Columbia University, two Rockefeller Foundation Fellowships, and the Berlin Prize from the American Academy in Berlin.

His recent works include *The Passion of Yeshua* (2018), a 100-minute oratorio in Hebrew and English, commissioned by the Oregon Bach Festival, the Buffalo Philharmonic, and the SDG Foundation. The Naxos recording of that work was nominated for three 2020 Grammy Awards, winning Best Choral Performance. *An American Mosaic*, consisting of 15 miniatures paying homage to groups affected by the pandemic, premiered in 2020 with pianist Simone Dinnerstein at the Oregon Bach Festival. Composed for mezzo-soprano Susan Graham and Music from Copland House, *A Standing Witness* (2021) conveys the last 50 years of American history through 14 songs of poetry by Rita Dove.

He is currently completing his second full-length opera, *The Grand Hotel Tartarus* for Opera UCLA, to premiere at the Freud Playhouse in Los Angeles in May 2024.

He served on the composition faculty of Manhattan School of Music from 1993 to 2017. Danielpour recently relocated to Los Angeles to join the faculty of the Herb Alpert School of Music at UCLA. He has been a member of the Curtis Institute of Music faculty since 1997.

## ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

### **Francis Carr ('21), cello**

Born into a family of string players, Francis Carr, from Oxford, England, started playing the cello at age four.

Mr. Carr has given recitals at London's Wigmore Hall, Milton Court in Surrey, the Berlin Konzerthaus, Brussels Bozar, and Amsterdam's Muziekgebouw. He has attended the Greenwood Music Camp, Four Seasons Winter Workshop, and Kneisel Hall Chamber Music School and Festival. Additional festival appearances throughout the United States and Europe have included Loon Lake Live Summer Concert Series, Stichting Kamermuziek Amsterdam, Young Pianists Foundation Piano Concours Amsterdam, Gstaad Menuhin Festival & Academy, and Music from Angel Fire.

Mr. Carr has studied with Melissa Phelps, Thomas Carroll, Darrett Adkins, Carter Brey, Peter Wiley, and his father, the cellist Colin Carr. He has worked closely with Johannes Goritzki, Joel Krosnick, Gary Hoffman, and the Chiara, Emerson, and Juilliard string quartets and has attended the Juilliard and Yehudi Menuhin Schools and the Curtis Institute of Music. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, kayaking, reading, and bird watching.

### **Matthew Christakos, cello**

Matthew Christakos, from Toronto, a student of Gary Hoffman and Peter Wiley, is the Joseph Druian Fellow and entered Curtis in 2019.

Mr. Christakos's recent awards include first prize at the 2019 Canada Council for the Arts Michael Measures Prize, second prize in the 2019 Canadian Music Competition's Stepping Stone, and first prize at the 2017 Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival President's Trophy Competition. CBC Music included him in their 2019 edition of "30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians under 30."

Before coming to Curtis, Mr. Christakos studied in Toronto at the Royal Conservatory of Music's Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists, where he won the concerto competition and performed as soloist with the Academy Chamber Orchestra. In 2019 he toured Canada and Spain as a featured soloist with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. He is an alumnus of the Morningside Music Bridge program in Boston. He began playing cello at age four and previously studied with David Hetherington and Hans Jørgen Jensen.

### **Danny Yehun Jin, violin**

Danny Yehun Jin, from Seoul, entered the Curtis Institute of Music in 2013 and studies violin with Ida Kavafian and Erin Keefe. All students at Curtis receive merit-based, full-tuition scholarships, and Mr. Jin is the Sandra G. and David G. Marshall Fellow.

Mr. Jin has performed as a soloist with the Seoul Philharmonic, Suwon Philharmonic, and Mokpo-City Philharmonic. He has also been featured on the Korean Broadcasting System television. Mr. Jin has participated in several competitions, including the Menuhin International Violin Competition, where he received fifth prize. He has also participated in the Orchestra of the Korean National School for the Gifted in Arts, as well as the International Great Mountains Music Festival.

Mr. Jin began violin lessons at age two and previously studied with Jinseung Kim. His nonmusical interests include sports such as soccer and basketball. Mr. Jin began his Curtis experience alongside his younger sister, Yeyeong.

### **Ida Kavafian, violin**

Internationally acclaimed as a violist as well as a violinist, the versatile Ida Kavafian is

an artist-member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and former violinist of the Beaux Arts Trio. For 34 years she has been artistic director of Music from Angel Fire in New Mexico, where some 200 Curtis students have participated in the Young Artist Program to date. She was a founder of the Bravo! Colorado festival, serving as its artistic director for ten years; and co-founded the chamber ensembles Opus One, Tashi, and Trio Valtorna. She also performs as a soloist and in recital with her sister, violinist Ani Kavafian.

Ms. Kavafian has premiered numerous works, including concertos by Toru Takemitsu and Michael Daugherty, whose *Fire and Blood* she recorded with the Detroit Symphony. She has toured and recorded with jazz artists Chick Corea and Wynton Marsalis, and with fiddler/composer Mark O'Connor.

Born in Istanbul of Armenian parentage, Ms. Kavafian is a graduate of the Juilliard School, where she studied with Oscar Shumsky. She made her debut through Young Concert Artists with the pianist Peter Serkin, and also received the coveted Avery Fisher Career Grant. She resides with her husband, violist Steven Tenenbom, in Philadelphia and Connecticut, where they breed and train prizewinning Hungarian vizsla show dogs.

Since 1998 Ms. Kavafian has served on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music, where she received the 2013 Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching. She also teaches at the Juilliard School and the Bard College Conservatory of Music.

### **Lisa Keller, piano**

Lisa Keller was educated at Catholic University, receiving a degree in piano performance; and at the Brevard Music Center summer program. She received her master's degree with the same distinction from Duquesne University, where she

studied with Metropolitan Opera coach Warren Jones.

Upon finishing her graduate work, Ms. Keller was invited by Pittsburgh Opera general director Tito Capobianco to join the company as principal répétiteur, as well as coach and accompanist for its young artist program. She later served as pianist and vocal coach for the Hartt School of Music, Connecticut Concert Opera, and West Chester University School of Music.

Ms. Keller has studied with Maurizio Arena and served as vocal coach for the Ezio Pinza Council for American Singers of Opera program in Oderzo, Italy. She has served on the music staffs of Opera Philadelphia, Opera Colorado, New Jersey Opera Theater, Wexford Festival Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and Santa Fe Opera. She was principal pianist for the Philadelphia Orchestra's recent performances of *Salome*; workshops of Jennifer Higdon's *Cold Mountain*; and, with Opera Philadelphia, the world premieres of *Charlie Parker's YARDBIRD* by Daniel Schnyder and *Breaking the Waves* by Missy Mazzoli.

Ms. Keller joined the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in 2004.

### **Elena Perroni ('18), soprano**

Praised for her "velvet soprano voice" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*), Elena Perroni has gained recognition on the international stage. She is a 2018 graduate of the world renowned Curtis Institute of Music and made her professional opera debut with Opera Philadelphia, singing the role of Doris Parker in *Charlie Parker's Yardbird* (Schnyder), at the legendary Apollo Theatre in New York City. She reprised the role at English National Opera, in 2017.

### **Cara Pogossian ('21), viola**

Armenian-American violist Cara Pogossian is a recent graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, where she received her Bachelor of Music degree under the tutelage of

Hsin-Yun Huang and Misha Amory. She served as co-principal viola of the Curtis Symphony Orchestra during the 2019–20 season, which included a U.S. tour in early 2020. Prior to her studies at Curtis, Ms. Pogossian attended the Colburn Music Academy, where she studied with Paul Coletti and Che-Yen (Brian) Chen. As an Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Scholarship recipient, she has performed at several high-profile concerts, including a joint recital with her brother, Edvard, at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. Ms. Pogossian is an alumna of NPR's *From the Top* radio show, and her quartet was the Junior Bronze Medal winner of the 2017 Fiscoff International Chamber Music Competition. An avid chamber musician, she has attended numerous summer festivals, including the Ravinia Steans Music Institute, Taos School of Music, Perlman Music Program, and Yellow Barn Young Artists Program. Committed to musical outreach, Ms. Pogossian has frequently performed at schools, retirement centers, and hospitals in the greater Los Angeles and Philadelphia areas, and is also an organizer of several Music for Food performances, raising funds for local food banks.

Ms. Pogossian is lucky enough to have an entire family of musicians, with whom she frequently performs. During the pandemic, the Pogossian/Manouelian Clarinet Quintet collaborated with composers Timo Andres, Ian Krouse, Artashes Kartalyan, and Aida Shirazi, premiering each of their works in a series of online concerts. She is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree at the New England Conservatory with Kim Kashkashian.

### **Peter Wiley ('74), cello**

Peter Wiley, a 1974 graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, has played at leading festivals including the Marlboro Music Festival, for which he also tours and records. As a recitalist he has appeared

at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. A member of the Beaux Arts Trio from 1987 to 1998, Mr. Wiley also succeeded his teacher, David Soyer, as cellist of the Guarneri String Quartet from 2001 to 2009. He is a member of the piano quartet Opus One, with Curtis faculty members Ida Kavafian and Steven Tenenbom and pianist Anne-Marie McDermott.

Mr. Wiley entered Curtis at age thirteen. At twenty he was named principal cello of the Cincinnati Symphony, after one year with the Pittsburgh Symphony. He made his concerto debut at Carnegie Hall in 1986 with the New York String Orchestra conducted by Alexander Schneider.

A past recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant, Mr. Wiley joined the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in 1996. He also teaches at the University of Maryland and Bard College Conservatory of Music.

### **Amy Yang ('06), piano**

Praised by the *Washington Post* as a “jaw-dropping pianist who steals the show... with effortless finesse,” pianist Amy Yang balances an active career as soloist, chamber musician, and pedagogue. Among Ms. Yang's numerous collaborators are Yefim Bronfman, Roberto Díaz, Miriam Fried, Richard Goode, Kim Kashkashian, Ani and Ida Kavafian, Patricia Kopatchinskaya, Anne-Marie McDermott, Tito Muñoz, and Joseph Silverstein; the St. Paul and Mahler chamber orchestras; Third Coast Percussion; A Far Cry; members of the Guarneri String Quartet; and the Dover, Jasper, and Aizuri string quartets. She has appeared as a soloist with the Houston, Tuscaloosa, and Mansfield symphony orchestras; the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, and Orquesta Juvenil Universitaria Eduardo Mata de la UNAM. Ms. Yang has also performed in solo and chamber recitals for the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society—including a

solo recital and collaborations with Jasper String Quartet in piano quintets by Tania León and Joan Tower for their 35th season. She was also featured in a full episode of Emmy® Award-winning producer Jim Cotter's *Articulate*, which aired on PBS in 2021.

At the Curtis Institute of Music, she is the associate dean of piano studies and artistic initiatives. She previously held the roles of program director and piano faculty of Curtis Summerfest's Young Artist Summer Program for nine summers.

Ms. Yang has premiered music by Caroline Shaw, Avner Dorman, Michael Hersch, Ezra Laderman, and Hua Yang. She has appeared in such prestigious venues such as Wigmore Hall and Carnegie

Recital Hall; at the Marlboro, Ravinia, Aldeburgh, Bravo! Vail, Chelsea, Olympic, and Ojai music festivals; Verbier Academy; Cal Performances; Caramoor; IMS Prussia Cove; Music from Angel Fire; and Chamber Music Northwest, among others. Ms. Yang's discography includes a debut solo album (MSR Classics); recordings with violinists Tessa Lark (First Hand Records) and Itamar Zorman (BIS Records) and clarinetist José Franch-Ballester (iTinerant Records); and a live recording of music by Michael Hersch, performed at the Aldeburgh Festival (New Focus Records).

Ms. Yang is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, the Juilliard School, and the Yale School of Music, and joined the Curtis faculty in 2011.

## ABOUT CURTIS PRESENTS

Past and future meet through Curtis Presents, which features a diverse collection of artists—alumni, faculty, students, and contemporary creators—whose musical foundations are rooted in the Curtis community. This series of intimate and innovative recitals offers a unique experience with exceptional artistry and one-of-a-kind programs.

**Learn more and discover upcoming concerts at [Curtis.edu](https://www.curtis.edu).**

Follow us @CurtisInstitute:

