



Roberto Díaz, President

2007–08 SEASON

“Throughout the world there are many distinguished addresses for music. 1726 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19103 is considered the most distinguished.” —*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

OVERVIEW OF THE CURTIS INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

The Curtis Institute of Music trains exceptionally gifted young musicians for careers as performing artists on the highest professional level. A Curtis education is uniquely tailored to the individual student, with personalized attention from a celebrated faculty and unusually frequent performance opportunities. This distinctive “learn by doing” approach to musical training has produced an impressive number of notable artists, from such legends as Leonard Bernstein and Samuel Barber to current stars Juan Diego Flórez, Hilary Hahn, Jennifer Higdon, and Lang Lang.

All-Scholarship

Curtis provides full-tuition scholarships to all of its 162 students, ensuring that admissions are based solely on artistic promise. It also provides financial aid for those in need of assistance with living expenses.

Students

The student body at Curtis has always been international and multicultural, and today it includes musicians from 30 states and 15 foreign countries. Most students are between the ages of 17 and 22. Students graduate when their teachers decide they are ready, which may take anywhere from two to twelve years. In most cases, it is between three and five years, though younger students often stay longer. Enrollment is purposely kept very limited, with just enough students to complete a full orchestra and a select opera department, plus a small number of keyboard, composition and conducting students. The Curtis Institute of Music lends Steinway grand pianos to students who major in piano, harpsichord, organ, composition, or conducting for the duration of their enrollment.

There is no minimum age to enter Curtis. Even the youngest students receive training from the same teachers at the same intensive levels as do their older colleagues (the only difference being that the youngsters receive additional lessons). There is no “preparatory” department and there are no teaching assistants. Pre-college-aged students pursue their musical studies at Curtis while pursuing studies in an accredited public or private academic program of their own choosing.

Faculty

Curtis’s celebrated faculty, which numbers about ninety, includes instructors in performance, ensemble and repertoire studies, supplementary performance, musical studies, liberal arts, and career studies. Through their own high level of artistry, members of Curtis’s performance faculty connect students to the experience of being a distinguished professional musician today. Through its musical lineage, this remarkable group of teachers links students to the masters of the classical age. In addition to one-on-one instruction with the faculty, Curtis frequently brings in world-renowned artists to work with its students. The visits range from master classes, orchestra rehearsals, coachings, residencies, and lectures, as well as performances with the Curtis Symphony Orchestra and Curtis Opera Theatre.

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Curriculum

Students may pursue a Diploma or Bachelor of Music degree. Opera students may also pursue a Master of Music degree or Professional Studies Certificate. Curtis provides complete and diversified musical training, plus liberal arts courses. In addition to private instruction with distinguished artist-teachers, students participate in diction coaching, chamber music sessions, master classes given by renowned visiting artists, and career seminars. They also have many opportunities to perform, both as soloists and as members of ensembles. The Curtis Institute of Music is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and by the National Association of Schools of Music.

Alumni

Over the years, many Curtis alumni have gone on to make musical history as solo performers, composers, and conductors, and to perform worldwide in major orchestras and opera companies, as well as chamber music groups such as the Guarneri and Miami string quartets and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Given the school's small size, Curtis alumni have had a disproportionate influence on the musical world. Seventeen percent of the principal chairs in America's top twenty-five orchestras and four music directorships in the top fifty are held by Curtis-trained musicians, and more than sixty alumni have performed with the Metropolitan Opera. Curtis graduates also teach and head numerous music schools and departments and have received top honors such as Pulitzer Prizes, Guggenheim Fellowships, Avery Fisher and Leventritt awards, Naumburg and Queen Elisabeth competition prizes, and Metropolitan Opera Finals Awards.

Facilities

Curtis is located on Philadelphia's Rittenhouse Square in four stately mansions that have preserved their 19th-century charm while being adapted to serve the needs of the school. Field Concert Hall is a 240-seat auditorium used for student recitals, alumni and faculty concerts, organ lessons and practice, master classes, orchestra rehearsals, and more. The Curtis Opera Studio is a black-box theater that seats approximately 125, used primarily by the vocal studies department for opera performances, dance and movement classes, rehearsals, and master classes.

Budget and Fund-Raising

Mary Louise Curtis Bok, founder of The Curtis Institute of Music, gave the school a \$12.5 million gift in 1927. The gift, at the time a huge sum, provided financial support for much of the school's history. In the 1980s, Curtis instituted annual fund-raising to help pay a portion of the annual operating expenses. For the 2006–07 school year, the school's budget was \$11 million, of which 23 percent must be covered by annual fund-raising.

Curtis receives annual operating support from the Mary Louise Curtis Bok Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation founded by the Curtis board in 1932 to administer Mrs. Bok's endowment. A joint committee oversees the investments of the Bok Foundation and Curtis endowments.

Curtis completed its five-year *Sound for the Century* Campaign in 2004, raising more than \$35 million in endowment, annual, and capital funds. In 2006 the school completed the Lenfest-Annenberg Challenge and added a total of \$15 million to the endowment. The funds help assure the school's long-established policy of offering full-tuition scholarships to all students, ensuring that artistic merit is the sole consideration for admission.