

Au revoir, Monsieur le Doyen

A pictorial salute to Dean Robert Fitzpatrick, upon his retirement



DEAN ROBERT FITZPATRICK
IS RETIRING.

For many in the extended Curtis family, it's hard to imagine The Curtis Institute of Music without him. Mr. Fitzpatrick joined the staff in 1980 as an executive assistant to Director John de Lancie and an in-house conductor. He gradually took on responsibilities that melded academics and administration. He served as dean throughout President/Director Gary Graffman's twenty-year tenure and continued for the first three years of President Roberto Díaz's.

Mr. Fitzpatrick, a Philadelphia native, started his Curtis career as a student from 1966 to 1968, studying clarinet with the late Anthony Gigliotti. Mr. Fitzpatrick received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Temple University.

Outside of Curtis his posts have included:

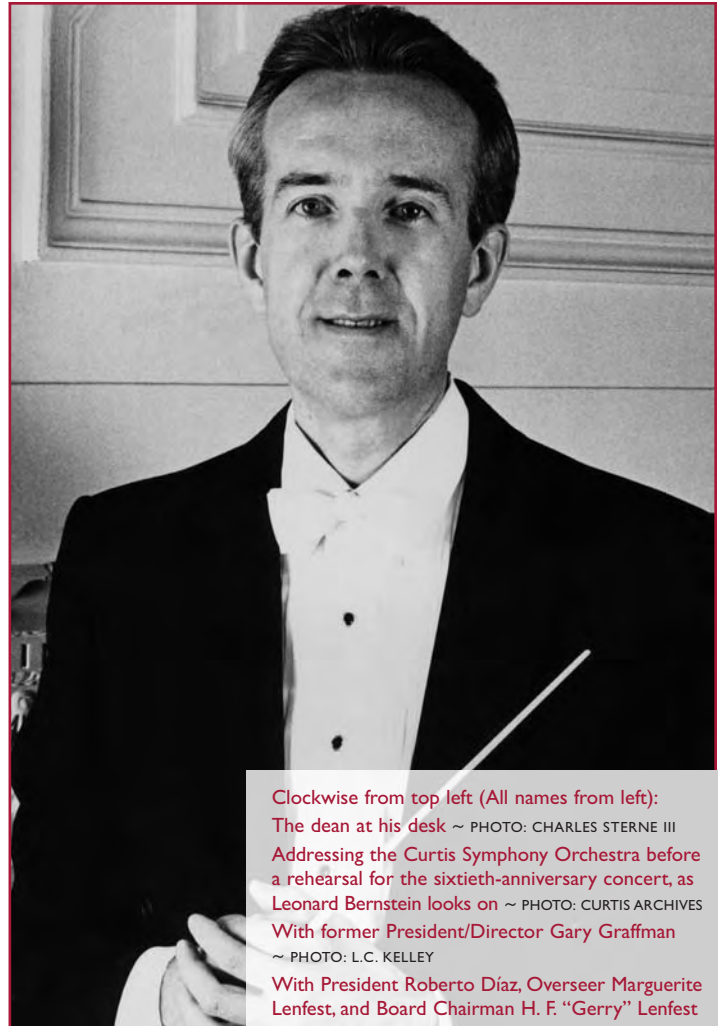
- music director and chairman of fine arts, St. Joseph's Prep in Philadelphia (1969–80)
- principal conductor, Orchestra Society of Philadelphia (1980–82)
- music director, Garden State Philharmonic (1976–82)

He has also been active in the Musical Fund Society, the National Association of Schools of Music, and the Seven Springs Group.

Among his numerous responsibilities and accomplishments at Curtis are the following:

- advising both faculty and students—whether in danger of failing, or on the brink of stardom, or anywhere between—as he kept tabs on all things academic and musical
- watchfully standing near the fringes before a rehearsal or performance, ready to help mechanically lower a piano from the stage or to make a curtain speech announcing the next performances with a touch of humor
- bolstering the academic program and guiding Curtis through processes for accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education





Clockwise from top left (All names from left):
 The dean at his desk ~ PHOTO: CHARLES STERNE III
 Addressing the Curtis Symphony Orchestra before a rehearsal for the sixtieth-anniversary concert, as Leonard Bernstein looks on ~ PHOTO: CURTIS ARCHIVES
 With former President/Director Gary Graffman ~ PHOTO: L.C. KELLEY
 With President Roberto Díaz, Overseer Marguerite Lenfest, and Board Chairman H. F. "Gerry" Lenfest ~ PHOTO: DAVID DEBALKO
 Robert Fitzpatrick, conductor ~ PHOTO: CURTIS ARCHIVES
 At the Hotel Rosalp in Verbier at lunch, 1999 ~ PHOTO: FRED ROSSMAN
 With Donald and Margarita Montanaro at an alumni reception, 2008 ~ PHOTO: JEAN E. BRUBAKER
 Conducting in 1982-83 ~ PHOTO: CURTIS ARCHIVES
 Talking with Hershel Gordon, Diana Steiner, and Tonu Kalam at the first Alumni Affairs Council meeting, 1996 ~ PHOTO: DON TRACY
 Conducting a Curtis Symphony Orchestra rehearsal, October 1981 ~ PHOTO: CURTIS ARCHIVES
 With H. F. "Gerry" Lenfest and Robert Capanna at Commencement 2008 ~ PHOTO: DAVID SWANSON
 In an alumni orchestra rehearsal with faculty member Sarah Hatsuco Hicks during the 2005 alumni reunion ~ PHOTO: PETE CHECCHIA
 Speaking with Christoph Eschenbach during a Curtis Symphony Orchestra rehearsal, 2005 ~ PHOTO: PETE CHECCHIA
 The dean, Beethoven, and Dr. Manny Garcia ~ PHOTO: CURTIS ARCHIVES

- conducting the orchestra in concerts in Philadelphia, at Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center, and in Europe
- hiring faculty, overseeing curricular developments, and integrating the academic and performance education of musicians
- at the drop of a hat, naming the title of the perfect musical piece for a given occasion—along with when and where it was performed by a Curtis ensemble
- leading the development of a reciprocal arrangement with the University of Pennsylvania, through which Curtis students can take any course at Penn not offered at Curtis

- advocating for a major technological overhaul for student use, including refurbishing the computer studio for composition applications
- being the source for answering just about any question related to Curtis or classical music

The dean plans to begin his retirement where he has spent much of his vacation time: in his adopted hometown of Paris.
Au revoir, Monsieur le Doyen.
Merci beaucoup. ☺

A biographical profile of Dean Robert Fitzpatrick appeared in the spring 2006 issue of *Overtones* and is available on the Curtis website (www.curtis.edu, under Publications: Publications Archive).

