

From the Chairman and the President

The 2010–11 fiscal year brought many successes at the Curtis Institute of Music.

As always, our students and faculty were happily and fully engaged in teaching, learning, and performing. The results, in more than 130 public performances over the last season, were more exciting and varied than ever before.

We have enjoyed increasing forward momentum since embarking on our Strategic Plan in 2008. As the third year of plan implementation drew to a close in May 2011, we were able to look back on the accomplishment of key initiatives touching every area of the plan's scope: students, faculty, programs, facilities, student services, and infrastructure.

In Fall 2010 we announced Curtis's first new performance major in many years: a program in classical guitar, with a unique focus on collaborative music making, contemporary works, and the level of excellence that has long distinguished Curtis. We attracted two superb artists, David Starobin and Jason Vieaux, to serve as faculty, and are poised to begin the program with the 2011–12 school year. Other notable faculty appointments included Jonathan Biss (Piano '01) and Hsin-Yun Huang (Viola '92), both eminent musicians with a deep commitment to teaching.

Curtis On Tour expanded its reach as we laid plans for our first tours to Asia and South America in the seasons to come. We began a thorough review of the curriculum, the first in recent memory, that ultimately will benefit every educational area at Curtis. And we watched with growing anticipation as our magnificent new facility, Lenfest Hall, rose quickly in the 1600 block of Locust Street. As the fiscal year drew to a close, the project remained fully on schedule and under budget. Meanwhile, we laid plans for the official opening of Lenfest Hall as well as a season-long celebration filled with memorable performances, enhancements to the curriculum, new collaborations, and special events.

In the midst of these momentous developments, we maintained fiscal stability through successful fundraising and careful management of our resources. Revenues exceeded expenses, allowing us to set aside funds in our operating and capital reserves. These will allow us to offset new first-year expenses of operating a campus that has doubled in size, with new services and opportunities for our students; while positioning us to weather uncertainties in the overall economic environment.

This is a transformational time for Curtis. We stand ready to extend and expand our horizons, strengthened by the support of the unique Curtis community. We thank our trustees, overseers, donors, volunteers, students, faculty, and staff for their enduring commitment that has made these advances possible.

STRATEGIC EVOLUTION

The close-knit community of Curtis supporters has helped us surpass our goals during the third year of an ambitious five-year strategic plan. As the external environment continues to evolve we remain mindful of our mission, values, and philosophy—but also flexible enough to adapt to those changes. To read a summary of achievements in Fiscal Year 2011 and goals for the year ahead, visit www.curtis.edu/StrategicPlan.



H. F. "Gerry" Lenfest
Chairman



Roberto Díaz
President