Curtis Around the World

Music-lovers around the globe can listen, explore, and learn through the school’s many offerings.

Curtis Performs
Beginning in the 2015–16 season, Curtis offers free HD live-streamed broadcasts every Friday night to a worldwide audience through Curtis Performs (curtis.edu/CurtisPerforms). Additional video content is added to the site weekly and viewable from any device—desktop, phone, or tablet—extending Curtis’s footprint in the digital space.

Curtis on Tour
Curtis brings live performances to destinations around the world through Curtis on Tour, the school’s global touring initiative. An embodiment of the school’s “learn by doing” philosophy, it offers students real-world, professional touring experience alongside celebrated alumni and faculty. In addition to performances, students frequently offer master classes, in-school demonstrations, and other community engagement activities.

Since the program was established in 2008, students, faculty, and alumni have performed more than 200 concerts in Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

Online Learning
Free online music courses offered through Coursera continue to attract lifelong learners from around the world. Over 90,000 learners from 182 countries have enrolled since the launch of this partnership. Exploring Beethoven’s Piano Sonatas, taught by Jonathan Biss (’01), and World of the String Quartet, taught by Arnold Steinhardt (’59) and Mia Chung, are offered in a new on-demand format that allows learners to join at any time.

In response to the overwhelming popularity of Exploring Beethoven’s Piano Sonatas, Jonathan Biss now offers three new lectures taking a deeper look into specific sonatas, against the context of Beethoven’s life and times as established in the original series. He also plays several examples, in addition to describing the music. The new lectures focus on the sonatas Op. 2, No. 1; Op. 10, No. 2; Op. 57, the “Appassionata”; and Op. 101. Mr. Biss will eventually film lectures to include all of the Beethoven piano sonatas.

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Curtis Summerfest
Musicians young and old explore classical music and “learn by doing” at Curtis Summerfest, the Curtis Institute of Music’s series of summer programs open to the public. Entering its sixth year, Summerfest has already brought students from 19 different countries to Curtis, ranging in age from 12 to 88.

Demonstrating “how powerfully the city benefits from importing talent beyond the usual sources while folding it into the school’s own” (Philadelphia Inquirer), Summerfest faculty includes Philadelphia Orchestra musicians, active soloists and chamber musicians, eminent Curtis faculty members, distinguished alumni, and students who serve as Curtis Artist Teachers.

Curtis Summerfest offers residential and dining facilities for out-of-town participants and courses are designed for students at a variety of skill levels, including Chamber Music and Orchestra for Adults, Jeffrey Khaner Flute Class, Elizabeth Hainen Harp Colony, Young Artist Summer Program, and the new, expanded Young Artist Voice and Collaborative Piano Program.

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