2017 a Milestone Year for the Sphinx Competition

2017 marks the Sphinx Organization’s 20th anniversary, as well as the 20th anniversary of our flagship program – the Sphinx Competition for young Black and Latino string players. The 20th Annual Sphinx Competition Finals Concert, taking place on February 12, 2017 at the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, will feature the Senior Division finalists accompanied by the all Black and Latino Sphinx Symphony Orchestra with guest conductor Thomas Wilkins.

In this milestone year, the Finals Concert will include two unique performances. The Sphinx Symphony Orchestra and the University of Michigan Men’s Glee Club will premiere a newly composed work titled “The Seven Last Words of the Unarmed” by composer Joel Thompson, a commission made possible in part with the support of Linda and Stuart Nelson. This is a powerful multi-movement work which honors the lives of Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, Oscar Grant, Eric Garner, Kenneth Chamberlain, Amadou Diallo, and John Crawford. U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance Professor Eugene Rogers will direct this performance; additionally, his arrangement of John Legend’s “Glory” will be the closing performance of the concert.

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center are Sphinx’s key artistic partners in the Sphinx Finals Concert.

Make a gift today to support the 20th anniversary fundraising initiative and support the Sphinx Competition Finals Concert, or choose where you would like your gift to be used. Anniversary supporters receive special recognition, event access and opportunities to meet inspiring Sphinx artists.

For more information visit www.sphinxmusic.org/individual-giving or contact Teresa Clark at Teresa@SphinxMusic.org or 313-877-9100 x706.

Sphinx Connect

the epicenter for artists and leaders in diversity
February 9-12, 2017 - Westin Book Cadillac, Detroit MI

We hope you will join us this winter for the largest convening Sphinx has ever presented! Hundreds of musicians of color, educators, leaders, funders, and advocates will gather to participate in over 40 sessions dedicated to diversity.

At SphinxConnect, those in attendance will connect to establish an important network to further diversity in our field. Key elements of the convening will include:

- A curated showcase with a juried prize of $3,000 and an audience award of $500, featuring some of the nation’s top Black and Latino/a musicians
- Mentor/mentee opportunities with leaders and visionaries from our field
- Performances by Sphinx Competition participants, including the 20th annual Sphinx Competition Finals Concert
- Key note addresses offered by luminaries and trailblazers

Don’t miss this opportunity to engage in the global conversation of diversity in the arts. For more information and to register (with the earlybird discount) visit www.SphinxConnect.org.

Join Our Musical Chairs Family Today!

Your Musical Chairs sponsorship will support our 20th annual Sphinx Competition for young Black and Latino strings players, taking place February 8-12, 2017. This support makes it possible for our musicians to perform in the Sphinx Symphony Orchestra, the unique all Black and Latino orchestra that mentors our Semifinalists and performs alongside them.

As a Musical Chairs sponsor, you will directly support a Sphinx Symphony Orchestra member through the naming of a Chair, Principal Chair or Section in the orchestra. You will have the opportunity to meet and connect with your sponsored artist at our Musical Chairs luncheon, and then watch them perform from your Box Seats at our Finals Concert at Orchestra Hall. Especially in this milestone anniversary year, this concert is not to be missed – with special alumni performances and a meaningful commissioned work for full orchestra and choir, tickets will go quickly!

To ensure your box seat tickets and reserve a sponsorship today, please contact Therese Goussy at Therese@SphinxMusic.org or 313-877-9100 x713.
Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are enjoying a peaceful autumn. Sphinx had a summer full of amazing opportunities, and our programming continues to shine as we enter these fall months.

We were fortunate to have another fantastic season of our Sphinx Performance Academy at Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio and Roosevelt University in Illinois, and the first ever summer camp session of Sphinx Overture was a great success. One major highlight of this summer’s programming was our Global Symposium on diversity in classical music, which we held in London in partnership with Chineke! Foundation, London Music Masters, Southbank Centre and Sistema Europe. With nearly 200 registrants from 10 countries, we were absolutely honored and privileged to be a part of further globalizing the important conversation of inclusion in the arts.

This fall, we kick off another unique season of our Sphinx Virtuosi National Tour. This year’s program is *Latin Voyages: Viajes Latinos*, which takes the listener on a journey: a quest from the tantalizing Argentine tango to the nocturnal imagery of Mexico, a grand tribute to the great Piazzolla, with a final invitation to a Catalan dance. We are thrilled to once again launch the tour at the New World Center in Miami, and we look forward to our special performance and gala at Carnegie Hall in New York. Please see the full tour schedule in this newsletter – we would love for you to join us at a performance near you!

We are also looking even further ahead to our 20th annual Sphinx Competition in February 2017. As you will read in this newsletter, this milestone year will have many unique features, including unprecedented performances by alumni and a very meaningful commissioned piece of “The Seven Last Words of the Unarmed” by composer Joel Thompson, in partnership with the University of Michigan’s Men’s Glee Club.

We can’t wait to experience all of these wonderful events with you, our valued Sphinx family! Thank you again for all that you do.

Warmly,

Afa

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**I am SPHINX**

“This fall on October 27, The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra will give the world premiere of my latest orchestral work “Records from a Vanishing City” at Carnegie Hall. This is very personal to me as it depicts my memories of music as a child growing up on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, and I am thrilled my music will once again come to life in this iconic venue!”

-- Jessie Montgomery, Sphinx Alum
BACK TO SCHOOL!

We're excited to launch our 2016-17 Sphinx Overture program starting the week of October 3rd at our 12 elementary schools in Detroit and in Flint, MI. For this incredibly transformative year, we welcome new and returning teachers Leslie DeShazor, Ashley Nelson, Lisa Tarzia, Grace Kim, Vanessa Kestner, Erin Zuchniewicz, Kristina Willey, and Tracy Dunlop.

Overture students receive a free violin, along with 2 group classes a week throughout the school year. They learn the fundamentals of the violin, have performance opportunities, and get exposed to live performances by Sphinx artists and beyond such as Melissa White, violinist for the Harlem Quartet; Black Violin Duo; Sphinx Competition finalists; Blue Man Group; and more!

Through the efforts of our amazing supporters and teachers, we've achieved great things: the Sphinx Overture program was recognized as a finalist for the National Arts and Humanities Youth Programs (NAHYP) Award. The NAHYP awards, run by The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities and its cultural partners, has recognized 50 different programs that reflect the diversity of disciplines and settings of exceptional programs across the United States.

The Sphinx Overture program is made possible with the generous support of our philanthropic partners including: Ford Motor Company Fund, Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation, Ruth Mott Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, and the PNC Foundation.

Sphinx Virtuosi: 2016 National Tour

The Sphinx Virtuosi will embark upon their 9th National Tour this fall. Presenting a program titled Latin Voyages: Viajes Latino, we invite audience members to join us as we celebrate the intricate mosaic of sounds and colors that pay homage to our vastly diverse heritage through music!

As one of the nation’s most dynamic professional chamber orchestras, the ensemble will conduct numerous performances and residencies throughout the country, including appearances in the following cities:

Sept. 22: New World Center (Miami, FL)
Sept. 24 & 26: Harriman-Jewell Series (Kansas City, KS)
Sept. 28: Penn State University, Altoona (Altoona, PA)
Sept. 29: Penn State University (State College, PA)
Sept. 30: Cornell University (Ithaca, NY)
Oct. 2 & 6: Bayview Opera House (San Francisco, CA)
Oct. 5: San Jose State University (San Jose, CA)
Oct. 8: National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC)
Oct. 9: Chamber Music Raleigh (Raleigh, NC)
Oct. 12-14: Arts & Science Council (Charlotte, NC)
Oct. 16: Modlin Center (Richmond, VA)
Oct. 18: Virginia Arts Festival (Norfolk, VA)
Oct. 20: Carnegie Hall (New York City, NY)
Oct. 21: Rockefeller University (New York City, NY)
Oct. 22: University of Delaware (Newark, DE)
Oct. 24: College-Conservatory of Music (Cincinnati, OH)
Oct. 26: Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI)
Oct. 27: Berman Center for the Performing Arts (West Bloomfield, MI)
Oct. 30: Ordway Center for the Performing Arts (St. Paul, MN)

For more information about the tour, and to book this incredible ensemble for 2017, please visit www.SphinxVirtuosi.org.

SPHINX NEWS

Maya Lambright, SPA 2015 and 2016 alum, has received the “Sphinx Chair” for the Music Mountain Festival, featuring the Harlem Quartet as the chamber group in residence.

Sphinx alum Santiago Cañón Valencia won the Carlos Prieto International Cello Competition in Mexico; Christine Lamprea tied for the third prize.

Sphinx Competition Laureate Rainel Joubert won Houston Symphony’s Embedded Musician fellowship after an extensive national search.

Sphinx President and Artistic Director, Afa S. Dworkin, has joined the Board of Directors for El Sistema USA.

Afa S. Dworkin was featured in Strings Magazine with an “On My Music Stand” piece on exploring repertoire by composers of color.

Josh Leak, SPA 2010 – 2015 alum, has received a full scholarship to Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA.

Sphinx Competition semi-finalist Mya Greene will pursue her undergrad studies at USC Thornton School of Music.

This past summer, Sphinx Competition Laureates Sterling Elliott and Nicholas Arredondo participated in The Perlman Music Program, and Laureate Hannah White participated in the Heifetz International Music Institute.

Kevonna Shuford, Sphinx Competition semi-finalist, is entering New England Conservatory as a freshman in fall 2016.

Sphinx Competition semi-finalist Jordan Bak participated at the inaugural Encore Chamber Music camp.

Sphinx Competition alums Caitlyn Adamson, Clayton Penrose-Whitmore, and SPA alum Alexandra Levatter entered their first year at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Samuel Nebyu, Sphinx Competition semi-finalist, won top European Prize at the annual Mozarteum Salzburger Fesspiele in Salzburg, Austria.

Send us your news and updates: QuarterNote@SphinxMusic.org

The Sphinx Organization invites you to a celebration of artistic excellence and diversity on one of the world’s greatest stages. Please join us for The Sphinx Virtuosi at Carnegie Hall

Co-presented by JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.
The Sander and Norma K. Buchman Fund

Thursday, October 20, 2016
Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall
6:00 PM Performance  ♦  Afterglow to Follow
Business or Cocktail attire

Box seat tickets and gala level sponsorships are available for purchase. Sponsors receive access to box seats as well as the exclusive afterglow reception, which includes a strolling dinner and special opportunities to mingle with the artists. Sponsorships support Sphinx’s music education programs in the New York and tristate area.

RSVP
For further information or to make a reservation by phone or online, please contact Therese Goussy
313-877-9100 x713 or Therese@SphinxMusic.org
Something to Ponder:

“If a composer could say what he had to say in words he would not bother trying to say it in music.”

-- Gustav Mahler

Q & A with Nick Reeves

The Quarter Note caught up with 2016 SPA student Nick Reeves, who shared some of what he learned and how he will use those lessons going forward!

Quarter Note: Why did you choose to attend the Sphinx Performance Academy?

Nick Reeves: I chose to come to SPA because I saw the amazing opportunities I would have. I thought about playing music with other kids like me for two weeks, and I imagined the friends I would make. On top of that, I saw the opportunities like getting coached by an elite group of instructors in a chamber group and in private lessons. Everything sounded amazing.

QN: Everyone was given a chamber music piece to learn. What piece did you play with your chamber group?

NR: I played Mendelssohn’s 6th Quartet in F minor.

QN: Tell us about the learning process. How did you manage to learn that piece in just 14 days?

NR: I started out by listening to the piece on my phone, then I sight read the piece with my group. I took the advice I got in rehearsal and practiced that. After that, it was the only piece I practiced and brought to my teacher. My group practiced during rehearsal time and some of our free times. I think the piece really came together in the extra rehearsal we had right before the concert.

QN: What were some of the best information tips you received from your coaches and teachers at SPA?

NR: The best advice I got was probably to hold my cello so I didn’t even need an end pin, or when Karlos [Rodriguez] drew two gold arrows on my wrist with his autograph pen to help me have a straighter bow.

QN: How can you use what you learned at SPA to influence your friends and / or community?

NR: In the future I am going to do what I can to help out beginner cellists, whether it’s at school or outside of school.