Congratulations to Our 2019 Sphinx Medals of Excellence Recipients

In Washington, D.C., three musicians will receive Sphinx Medal of Excellence and $50,000 career grant

The three musicians who will receive the Sphinx Medal of Excellence in 2019, along with a $50,000 career grant, are double bassist Joseph H. Conyers, soprano Raquel González and baritone Will Liverman. This group of honorees represent two firsts for the Sphinx Medals of Excellence: the first double bassist and the first male vocalist to receive the award.

Sphinx annually honors three emerging Black or Latinx classical musicians with the Sphinx Medal of Excellence. Through a national nomination process, Sphinx identifies musicians early in their professional career who demonstrate the following qualities: artistic excellence, outstanding work ethic, a spirit of determination and ongoing commitment to leadership. The recipients each receive a $50,000 career grant, bestowed in Washington D.C. at a private luncheon hosted by The Kennedy Center and the Aspen Institute, and celebrated at a black-tie gala. The eighth annual Sphinx Medals of Excellence celebration will take place on March 20, 2019.

For more information about the Medals of Excellence and to read the honoree bios, visit SphinxMusic.org/sphinx-medals-of-excellence

Don’t Miss the Sphinx Virtuosi at Carnegie Hall

Thursday, October 11 at 6pm

Catch the Sphinx Virtuosi on one of the world’s greatest stages! For this performance only, Sphinx’s first vocal ensemble – EXIGENCE, led by Eugene Rogers – will be a featured guest artist, joined by pianist and Sphinx Medal of Excellence recipient Damien Sneed.

Parquet, Dress Circle, and Balcony tickets are available through Carnegie Hall: visit CarnegieHall.org, call CarnegieCharge at 212-247-7800, or visit the Carnegie Hall Box Office at 57th Street and 7th Avenue

Get 25% off tickets with code SPH29960

For group reservations:
Please contact Abigail Venman
Abigail@SphinxMusic.org or 313-877-9100 x715

Box seat tickets and Gala packages are available through Sphinx:

Proceeds from box seat ticket sales and gala packages directly support Sphinx’s music education programs. Reserve gala tickets at greenvelope.com/event/SVCarnegie18, or contact Therese@SphinxMusic.org.

Sphinx Virtuosi Tour 2018

One of the nation’s most dynamic professional chamber orchestras is coming to a city near you!

This year’s tour features an exciting new program entitled Music Without Borders. By illuminating works by composers from communities searching for harmony and separated by time, distance, hardship and conflict, we seek to share our inspiration from the diverse voices that remind us of empathy and our common humanity. The tour will include works by Emmy-nominated Syrian-American composer Kareem Roustom, Dmitri Shostakovich, Gaspar Cassadó, and a newly commissioned work by Grammy Award-winning jazz trumpeter and composer Terence Blanchard.

Sphinx Virtuosi Tour Schedule (subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>New World Center, Performance Hall; 2pm - Miami, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>Cleveland Institute of Music; 8pm - Cleveland, OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; 1:30pm - Boston, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>Hopkins Center for the Arts, Dartmouth College; 7pm - Hanover, NH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>Carnegie Hall, Stern Auditorium; 6pm - New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>Rockefeller University; 12pm - New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/14</td>
<td>The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at University of Maryland; 3pm College Park, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/16-17</td>
<td>Arts &amp; Science Council; Residency - Charlotte, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/18</td>
<td>University of North Carolina School of the Arts; 7:30pm - Winston-Salem, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/20</td>
<td>Detroit Institute of Arts; 2pm - Detroit, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/22</td>
<td>Interlochen Center for the Arts; 7:30pm - Interlochen, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24</td>
<td>Flint Institute of Music; 7:30pm - Flint, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/25</td>
<td>Canterbury School; 7pm - Fort Wayne, IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/28</td>
<td>Ordway Center for the Performing Arts; 3pm - St. Paul, MN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about the tour, including how to purchase tickets, please visit SphinxVirtuosi.org. The national Sphinx Virtuosi tour is made possible with the generous support of JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Robert F. Smith, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts/Art Works and Aetna.
A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

My warmest greetings to you as summer draws to a close! Autumn is a season of change, and as we bid summer adieu, Sphinx is looking to chart new ground, our fall programming and some exciting upcoming projects and developments.

Our annual Sphinx Virtuosi tour is always an eagerly anticipated highlight of the year. This year, we have brought together 18 of the nation’s top Black and Latinx classical artists—including alumni of the Sphinx Competition and Sphinx Performance Academy—to tour the country, visiting 13 cities for performances, residencies, and community outreach. I am so grateful to our lead sponsors, JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Robert F. Smith, for giving life and momentum to this program. There are hardly words to portray the true depth of the tour’s impact, which weaves Sphinx’s mission into the fabric of communities nationwide; imparting the power of diversity in performers, programming, and audiences; and instilling a passion for those ideals in people of all ages and walks of life. Particularly close to my heart is the Sphinx Virtuosi at Carnegie Hall performance and gala—not only does this performance take place on some of the world’s most iconic stages, but it will feature Sphinx’s first violinist Alexandra Gómez, as a special guest artist. The full tour schedule and ticketing information for the Carnegie performance can be found in this newsletter; I ask you to join us if you can for a tour stop near you, and to help us spread the word!

We continuously reflect on ways to grow our programming to better serve our artists and carry out our mission, and in this newsletter you will find a number of evolutions and updates, as well as an entirely new program. We share each of these triumphs with you, our Sphinx family. Please know that you have played an integral role by standing alongside us and strengthening us with your support and advocacy.

Warmly,

Afá

Afa

Sphinx Competition

Sphinx Competition Presser

JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Robert F. Smith

Sphinx Competition Presser

Sphinx Competition

Sphinx Competition Presser

JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Robert F. Smith

Stella & Frederick Loeb Charitable Trust

Administrated by

Save the Date for the 22nd Annual Sphinx Competition Finals Concert!

Join us on Saturday, February 2nd at 7:30pm at the Max M. and Herta Rogel Pavilion for the 22nd Annual Sphinx Competition Finals Concert, featuring three Sphinx Competition Senior Division Finalists, the all-Black and Latinx Sphinx Virtuosi Orchestra, and special guest artist EXIGENCE, led by Eugenie Rogers.

Sphinx Launches Leadership Initiative

Sphinx LEAD (Leaders in Excellence, Arts & Diversity) is a 2-year program, designed to inspire minority arts leaders around the country to challenge themselves, to remember how their unique ideas can affect positive change in the field, to engage others beyond their existing networks, and to collaborate with other like-minded leaders across artistic disciplines and organizations.

Starting January 2019, participants will design a growth plan to determine the competency area, curricular need, and assessment tools to ensure they meet their goals. Leaders will come together several times annually for Leadership Retreats where they will share experiences and discuss the new tools and frameworks learned in order to expand their capacity as leaders. The Host of each Leadership Retreat will expose Leaders to new experiences, introduce innovative leaders throughout the local community, and enhance their expanding network.

Throughout the program, each Leader will also receive personalized coaching and mentoring to help them with short-term task-based situations and long-term relationship building in order to help them achieve their goals. They will apply what they learn from their peers, and in meetings with experts in the field, to maximize their potential and pave new pathways for the next generation of cultural leaders of color. For more information visit SphinxLEAD.org.

Apply NOW for the 22nd Annual Sphinx Competition

Don’t miss your chance to win the Robert Frederick Smith Prize of $50,000, solo performance opportunities with major orchestras, a performance with the Sphinx Symphony Orchestra, and full performance residency opportunities with Sphinx Virtuosi! To learn more and apply, visit app.getaccept.com/sphinxmusic

OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTURITIES FOR ORCHESTRAL MUSICIANS

The National Alliance for Audition Support – launched by Sphinx, League of American Orchestras, and New World Symphony – is a national, field-wide initiative with the long-term goal of increasing diversity in American orchestras. Applications are now open for upcoming audition intensives hosted by New World Symphony offering mock auditions, lessons, auditions, and performance and psychology training. Visit Auditions.org or apply now.

Low Strings Audition Intensive: December 9-12, 2018

Faculty: Joan DerHovsepian, Associate Principal Viola, Houston Symphony; Benjamin Smith, Principal Cellist, Houston Symphony; Dan Earle, former, Principal Bass (retired), Houston Symphony; Dr. Nso Kageyama, Performance Psychology

Wind & Brass Audition Intensive: December 17-20, 2018

Faculty: Demare McGill, Principal Flute, Seattle Symphony; Alex Luang, Principal Cornet, New World Symphony; Jaron Pope, Principal Horn, Kansas City Symphony; Megumi Kanai, Principal Trombone, Milwaukee Symphony; Dr. Nso Kageyama, Performance Psychology

The National Alliance for Audition Support is made possible with the support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Sphinx Orchestral Partners Auditions (SOPA): January 30, 2019

SOPA provides musicians of color with the unique opportunity to play an audition for a panel representing several orchestras seeking to identify musicians for invitation to auditions, pre-advance at auditions and/or placement on substitute player lists. The ultimate goal of this initiative is job placement for minority orchestral musicians.

SOPA is made possible through generous funding support from Bank of America; musicians who participate in the SOPA program are recognized as Bank of America Fellows.
Sphinx Performance Academy Student Spotlight: Q&A with Ruth Bezawit Kelley

Ruth performs Lalo Symphonie espagnole in Mixon Hall at SPA CIM 2008

The Sphinx Performance Academy (SPA) is a full-scholarship intensive solo and chamber music summer program for Black and Latinx students ages 11-17. This summer, the Cleveland Institute of Music and Curtis Institute of Music each hosted a two-week SPA session.

Ruth Bezawit Kelley (Ruthie) is an 11th grade violinist and four-time SPA student from Kernersville, NC. She attends the North Carolina School of the Arts, where she studies with Kevin Lawrence.

This summer, Ruthie was awarded the Commitment Award for her dedication and impressive musical growth while at SPA. We caught up with Ruthie to ask her a few questions about her experience at SPA.

Why do you choose SPA for your summer musical study?

Four years ago, I chose SPA for my summer music study because I had never experienced being around more than two other musicians of color in my entire music education career. I’ve continued to revisit SPA because I find it so refreshing to be surrounded by people who share my love of music as well as the struggles of navigating a world that is dominated by people who don’t look like you.

What is SPA special to you?

Attending SPA is the best choice in my music career I’ve ever made. I met some of my closest friends during this program, made wonderful connections with the amazing faculty and my love for music only grew during my time there.

What are your college/career aspirations, and how has SPA helped you on that path?

I am considering either going into Music Performance, Film Scoring or Film Studies; regardless of which study I choose, Music will always be a significant part of my life and who I am.

SPA helped me become more comfortable in myself as a musician and a young black female in this world and I can honestly say that at the end of each summer session, my passion for music is revived, and I leave with new positive energy towards my musicianship.

Sphinx is proud to continue its partnerships with the Curtis Institute of Music and the Cleveland Institute of Music and announce a new partnership with The Juilliard School for its 2019 summer programming.

Something to Ponder:

“You can’t use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.”

-- Maya Angelou