The Sphinx Organization in partnership with the DTE Energy Foundation will welcome 18 of the nation’s top young Black and Latinx string musicians to Detroit for the 22nd Annual Sphinx Competition from January 30 - February 2, 2019. There are two divisions of the competition based on age, and each culminates in a special concert at the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center.

- The Junior Division Honors Concert is free to the public and will take place on Friday, Feb. 1 at 12pm. The Junior Division finalists will perform with the inaugural Sphinx Honors Orchestra, comprised of emerging young professionals.

- The Senior Division Finals Concert will be held on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 7:30pm. The finalists will compete for the $50,000 Robert Frederick Smith Prize and solo appearances with major orchestras; each finalist will perform with the Sphinx Symphony Orchestra, led by guest conductor Michael Morgan. The concert will also feature a performance by EXIGENCE, a vocal ensemble led by Eugene Rogers.

The Finals Concert will be streamed live via the Sphinx website and recorded for national broadcast on PBS Stations, including Detroit Public Television. For more information on tickets to the Finals or Honors Concerts, please visit: SphinxMusic.org/sphinx-competition-concerts

---

Semi-Finalists Announced in 22nd Annual Sphinx Competition

Presented by

DTE Energy Foundation

Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center: Key artistic partner and exclusive home of the 2019 Sphinx Competition

Purchase your Finals Concert tickets today!

Don’t miss our first Saturday evening concert, complete with a dance reception after the performance!

Visit DSO.org or email Tickets@SphinxMusic.org for group ticket sales.

---

JUNIOR DIVISION

Claire Arias-Kim, violin
William Fremd High School
Teacher: Almita Vamos

Sophia Ayer, violin
McCallum High School
Teacher: Dr. Pasha Sabouri

Isaac Camara, cello
North Central High School
Teacher: Susan Mises

Vincent Garcia-Hettinger, cello
Homeschool
Teacher: Kenneth Freudigman

Sofia Matthews, violin
Berkeley High School
Teacher: Heghine Boloyan

Maxwell Remmer, cello
Teacher: David Geber

Mikel Rollet, viola
Ohio Virtual Academy
Teacher: Jeffrey Irvine

Sophia Ines Valentí, viola
Connections Academy at Ripon
Teacher: Dimitri Murath

Nygel Witherspoon, cello
Minnesota Connections Academy
Teacher: Tanya Remenikova

SENIOR DIVISION

Paul Aguilar, violin
Cleveland Institute of Music
Teachers: Jaime Laredo & Jan Mark Sloman

Laura Andrade, cello
Teacher: Natasha Brofsky

Luis Eduardo Cuervas, violin
Teacher: Eduard Schmieder

Sterling Elliott, cello
The Juilliard School
Teacher: Joel Krosnick

Caleb Georges, viola
University of Michigan
Teacher: Caroline Coade

Allison Lovers, violin
Roosevelt University,
Chicago College of Performing Arts
Teacher: Almita Vamos

Gabriel Martins, cello
USC Thornton School of Music
Teacher: Ralph Kirshbaum

Aisha Syed, violin
Teacher: Natasha Boyarsky

Hannah White, violin
Colburn Conservatory
Teacher: Robert Lipsett

Adé Williams, violin
Curtis Institute of Music
Teacher: Ida Kavafian
Dear Friends,

The end of each year invites us to reflect on our challenges, joys, obstacles, blessings and ultimately, growth. What lessons can we take from the last 12 months? What inspired us, or spurred us to action? What steps did we take to bring about positive change in ourselves, for our communities, our field, or our world?

Your active participation as champions of Sphinx's mission – your generous donations, your engagement in our programs, and your advocacy of our work to your friends and networks – has empowered unprecedented opportunities for that positive change. From the historic support of our annual Gala, to sold-out Sphinx Virtuosi Tour performances, to record numbers of applications and registrants in many of our programs, we are in awe of what you, our Sphinx Familia, have accomplished this year!

2019 will bring exciting updates and evolutions: The Sphinx Competition will introduce an additional all-Black and Latinx Sphinx Honors Orchestra, to provide a performance opportunity for more young professionals in the field. Our Sphinx Performance Academy will serve 50% more students nationwide by launching at a third site. The inaugural Sphinx LEAD initiative will help turn vision to reality for arts leaders and entrepreneurs around the country. We continue to take these steps forward with and because of you; we eagerly anticipate another year of transforming lives with your support.

Thank you for all that you do! Wishing each of you a joyous season and a happy New Year.

Warmly,

Ala Dworkin, Sphinx President & Artistic Director

Sphinx Launches Sphinx LEAD with Support from Knight Foundation

Sphinx is honored and grateful to receive a $1.5 million grant from The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to support the launch of a new professional development initiative, Sphinx LEAD (Leaders in Excellence, Arts & Diversity).

The grant is part of the Knight Foundation’s new $20 million investment in the arts in Detroit. Empowered by the support of this new initiative, Sphinx LEAD will begin in January 2019 and will serve Black and Latinx arts leaders who are looking to advance their personal and professional growth in order to produce impact in their communities and in the arts field as a whole. For more information, visit www.SphinxLEAD.org

Celebrating a Fifteen-year Partnership with Mercedes-Benz Financial Services

Sphinx’s family of supporters makes everything we do possible. We are honored and proud to be reaching a special milestone with one of our most prolific partners: Mercedes-Benz Financial Services. 2019 will be our 15th year of collaboration with Mercedes-Benz Financial Services, a leader in investing in the vision and future impact of Sphinx with over $500,000 contributed to our pipeline of programs at every level.

Since 2004, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services has directly enabled Sphinx to:
- Provide more than 800 Detroit students with instruments and access to quality, creative youth development and music education
- Support the careers of 55 young, professional, classical musicians of color
- Reach over 150,000 in live and broadcast audiences during our annual broadcast of the Sphinx Competition
- Reach over 45,000 diverse audiences in communities across the country

Within these statistics lie each of the individual lives that this support has transformed and their unique stories. Through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services’ support of Sphinx Overture, the program grew to become an award-winning model for creative youth development, bringing Detroit elementary student Josephyn Hernandez to the White House to accept the 2016 National Arts & Humanities Youth Program Award. As the inaugural supporter of the Sphinx Leadership Fund, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services seeded the foundation for the launch of SphinxConnect, the epicenter for artists and leaders in diversity, which has created networking and career opportunities for hundreds of students, artists, and administrators. Their exclusive sponsorship of the Sphinx Symphony Orchestra has empowered professional opportunities for musicians like Maureen Conlon-Gutierrez, Sphinx Symphony concertmaster, who was recently named concertmaster of Johnstown Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to the direct program support of Mercedes-Benz Financial services, Sphinx has received key strategic support and leadership from Mary Beth Halprin, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services’ Director of Corporate Communications and Sphinx’s Board Vice-Chair. Sphinx would like to thank Mercedes-Benz Financial Services for their invaluable partnership and their investment and commitment to Sphinx’s work and mission of transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts.

Name a Chair in a Sphinx Orchestra!

Sphinx’s Musical Chairs program offers a unique opportunity to deepen your engagement with Sphinx and become a driving force in one of our key initiatives.

For the annual Sphinx Competition for young Black and Latinx string players, Sphinx assembles two all-Black and Latinx orchestras which perform alongside the semifinalists as they compete, and provide mentorship throughout the competition experience.

- Sphinx Symphony Orchestra (SSO) is comprised of top orchestra musicians from around the country and performs with the three Senior Division finalists. SSO will bring together emerging musicians with the goal of providing valuable professional experiences.
- Sphinx Honors Orchestra (SHO) will be launched at the 2019 Sphinx Competition and will perform with the Junior Division finalists. SHO will bring together emerging musicians with the goal of providing valuable professional experiences.

Through Musical Chairs, you can support the Sphinx Competition through the sponsorship of a section or name a chair in these orchestras. Donors can choose an instrument with special personal meaning and name their sponsored chair with their preferred recognition or in honor of a loved one.

$650
- Name a Chair in SHO
- Name a Section in SHO

$1,500
- Name a Chair in SSO
- Name a Section in SSO

$2,500
- Name a Principal Chair in SSO
- Name a Principal Section in SSO

$5,000
- Name a Section in SSO
- Name a Section in SSO

$7,000
- Name a Section in SSO

All musical chairs sponsors receive VIP admission to the Sphinx Competition Finals Concert, a personal thank-you letter from Mary Beth Halprin, Sphinx's Board Vice-Chair, Sphinx would like to thank Mercedes-Benz Financial Services for their invaluable partnership and their investment and commitment to Sphinx's work and mission of transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts.

Words cannot express how life changing and important this event is in the lives of young musicians and the impact that it makes on future generations of string players. This Competition empowers people of all ages to believe that the language of music can truly transcend the barriers of race, color and creed. It allows us to see the beauty of music in its purest form.

- Mariana Green-Hill
Sphinx Symphony Orchestra member
Do you know Sphinx’s programs?

As members of the Sphinx family, you know that Sphinx transforms lives through the power of diversity in the arts – but are you familiar with all the programs working to fulfill that mission? Sphinx’s four key focus areas – Education & Access, Artist Development, Performing Artists, and Arts Leadership – form a pipeline that develops and supports diversity and inclusion in classical music at every level. Our programs work together to empower students, musicians, arts leaders, and more throughout every stage of their journeys. Take a look below and test your knowledge – you may learn something new!

**EDUCATION & ACCESS**

- **Sphinx Overture**: Violin and youth development program for elementary school students in Detroit and Flint
- **Overture Summer Camp**: Two-week summer music program for Detroit Overture students
- **Sphinx Performance Academy**: Intensive summer program for middle and high school aged Black and Latinx string players

**ARTIST DEVELOPMENT**

- **Sphinx Competition**: National competition for young Black and Latinx classical string players
- **Music Assistance Fund**: Series of scholarship programs like MPower for alumni of Sphinx’s programs
- **National Alliance for Audition Support**: Partnership with New World Symphony and League of American Orchestras providing mentorship, audition preparation, financial support, and audition previews to Black and Latinx musicians

**PERFORMING ARTISTS**

- **Sphinx Virtuosi**: Self-conducted touring chamber ensemble comprised of 18 top Black and Latinx classical soloists
- **Sphinx Symphony Orchestra**: All-Black and Latinx orchestra that performs with and provides mentorship to Sphinx Competition semifinalists
- **Sphinx Soloist Program**: Program providing professional performance opportunities to Sphinx Competition Laureates
- **Sphinx Global Scholars**: Initiative that brings Sphinx artists around the globe to engage in teaching, learning, and performing abroad
- **Catalyst Quartet**: Professional quartet whose members also serve as faculty at Sphinx Performance Academy
- **Harlem Quartet**: Professional quartet dedicated to engaging new audiences with diverse repertoire
- **EXIGENCE Vocal Ensemble**: Professional vocal ensemble highlighting artistry within Black and Latinx communities, led by Founding Director Eugene Rogers

**Sphinx Story**

David Krawczyk enrolled in the inaugural Flint Overture session in 2006 as an elementary student. Through Sphinx scholarships, he was able to take private lessons at the Flint Institute of Music for nearly 10 years and participated in the Flint String Orchestra, Flint Harmonia Orchestra, and the Flint Youth Symphony Orchestra. David is now enrolled at Mott College and has given back to Sphinx Overture as a teaching assistant, inspiring the next generation of beginning musicians.

**Sphinx Story**

David Krawczyk enrolled in the inaugural Flint Overture session in 2006 as an elementary student. Through Sphinx scholarships, he was able to take private lessons at the Flint Institute of Music for nearly 10 years and participated in the Flint String Orchestra, Flint Harmonia Orchestra, and the Flint Youth Symphony Orchestra. David is now enrolled at Mott College and has given back to Sphinx Overture as a teaching assistant, inspiring the next generation of beginning musicians.

**You can transform lives!**

These programs and the extraordinary individuals who benefit from them depend on your generous support. Use the enclosed giving envelope, visit SphinxMusic.org/donate or text GIVE to 734-415-8882 to make a tax-deductible donation.
The epicenter for artists and leaders in diversity, Jan. 31 - Feb. 2 in Detroit, will welcome hundreds of musicians, industry leaders, educators, funders, diversity advocates, and more for a transformative conference filled with sessions, performances, and networking opportunities! Highlights include:

- Over 60 speakers from around the world
- Sphinx Tank: Identifying the next great cultural entrepreneur, an innovative new session showcasing emerging arts & cultural entrepreneurs of color as they “pitch” their projects to a panel of experts
- Plenary speakers Earl Lewis and Jade Simmons
- Sphinx Artist Showcase, presenting performers to managers, presenters, and industry leaders
- Sphinx Orchestral Partners Audition (SOPA), where musicians of color will audition for a panel representing several orchestras
- Opportunities to connect with new projects and organizations at the Expo Hall
- Master classes with Sphinx Competition jury members
- Several networking receptions

**Visit www.SphinxConnect.org now to register!**

**Apply for Sphinx Performance Academy 2019**

We are proud to announce our Sphinx Performance Academy (SPA) 2019 programming, including sessions at the Curtis Institute of Music Summerfest, Cleveland Institute of Music, and a new partnership with the Juilliard School. This new partnership allows us to reach bass students for the first time in SPA history in addition to continuing to serve violin, viola, and cello students.

SPA is a full-scholarship chamber music and solo performance program designed for Black and Latinx string players, ages 11-17. The SPA curriculum includes an intensive schedule of lessons and coachings in addition to master classes, recitals, career enrichment sessions, and mentorship tailored for each student.

SPA Curtis and SPA Cleveland Institute of Music programs have a chamber music and solo repertoire focus and are for violin, viola and cello players. SPA Juilliard has a solo repertoire focus and is for violin, viola, cello, and bass players.

**Application Deadline:**
February 12, 2019 @ 11:59PM EST
Visit app.getacceptd.com/sphinxmusic to apply today!

SPA at Curtis Summerfest: June 9 – 23, 2019
SPA at Cleveland Institute of Music: July 6 – 20, 2019
SPA at The Juilliard School: July 24 – August 3, 2019

**Register for SphinxConnect 2019: Leaders Rising**

The 2018 Sphinx Virtuosi National Tour featured the program Music Without Borders, showcasing works by composers from around the world, selected to send a message of humanity’s ability to create connections, break down barriers, and find common ground when we unite through the power of music.

This spirit of unification was amplified with the Sphinx Virtuosi residency in Flint, Michigan: a city close to Sphinx’s heart, as elementary students across the city participate in the free violin classes offered through Sphinx’s Overture program. The residency, made possible by the Ruth Mott and Charles Stewart Mott Foundations, offered a transformative opportunity for the Sphinx Virtuosi to connect with Sphinx Overture students. The 18 member ensemble divided into smaller chamber groups to visit several Overture schools in Flint, giving the beginning violin students the unique chance to experience a professional chamber music performance and to engage personally with the musicians – asking questions about the instruments, the pieces performed, and life as a musician.

“As a young Black violinist growing up, I didn't see any representation of myself when I would go to classical music concerts or even at my music school. The looks in the kids’ eyes when young professionals who looked like them came in with string instruments gave new life and spirit to the music,” shared Sphinx Virtuosi second violinist Chauntee Ross. “At one school, there were children from various after-school programs as well as the young people in Sphinx Overture. Not only did we play for the kids but we took the time to let them play for us and even added some harmonies to their Twinkle Twinkle. We were delighted to hear that as a direct result of our residency, 8 more students signed up for Sphinx Overture!”

Overture students were not the only members of the Flint community to welcome the Sphinx Virtuosi with open arms. A quartet of Virtuosi members performed at the Flint Farmer’s Market, and the full ensemble played a free public performance at the Flint Institute of Music to a fully-engaged audience of Flint families and community members.

The 2018 Sphinx Virtuosi tour came to a close at the end of October. The ensemble performed Music Without Borders in 13 cities to many sold out audiences, including stops at New World Center and Carnegie Hall in what the New York Concert Review called “one of the most satisfying evenings of music of the season.”

The 2018 national Sphinx Virtuosi tour was made possible with the generous support of JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Robert F. Smith, with additional support from Aetna, National Endowment for the Arts/Art Works.
Something to Ponder:

“Nothing else in all life is such a maker of joy and cheer as the privilege of doing good.”
- James Russell Miller

SPHINX NEWS

Sphinx Overture adds a new partner for the 2019-20 school year, Cathedral of Faith Ministries in Flint, MI. 60 beginning violin students participate in classes at Cathedral of Faith in addition to over 200 additional students throughout Flint Community Schools and Detroit.

Sphinx Performance Academy announces a new partnership with The Juilliard School and expands its programming to include bass students.

Overture teachers participated in teacher training sessions this fall, exploring themes such as building relationships with youth and creative classroom management strategies. These sessions kicked off our expanded teacher training curriculum for the 2018-19 school year.

Sphinx Competition Laureate Gabriel Cabezas and the YMusic ensemble performed with Paul Simon on Saturday Night Live.

Sphinx Competition Laureate Randall Goosby won 1st Prize at the Young Concert Artists International Auditions.

Sphinx Competition semi-finalist Irina Casasnovas was a grand prize winner at the Illinois ASTA, and was a Division Finalist in the Music Teachers National Association Senior String Competition.

Sphinx alumna and INTAKE Organization founder Angie Durrell was honored by the Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame.

Sphinx Competition semi-finalist Santiago Cañón-Valencia was awarded the 2018 János Starker Award, worth $35,000.

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

You can now donate to Sphinx via text!

Text GIVE to 734-415-8882