The Sphinx Virtuosi, led by the Catalyst Quartet, is one of the nation’s most dynamic professional chamber orchestras. This ensemble, which “…call[s] up the vision of an iconic mythological feline with its immeasurable power, unwavering command and soulful beauty,” as stated in the Washington Post, will embark on its 7th annual tour, launching at Miami’s New World Center. The tour also boasts Sphinx Virtuosi’s 5th performance at Chicago’s Harris Theater, their Pacific Northwest United States debut and 11th performance at the world-renowned Carnegie Hall.

This year’s theme, Americana, celebrates the many sounds of American music. Throughout history, artists have depicted current events and paid tribute to their respective heritage through music. “Americana” attempts to paint the musical and societal landscape that comprises the diverse kaleidoscope that is this country. We invite our listeners to join us for a voyage through an open prairie to the arctic regions of North America, then all the way to America’s South. Audiences will hear the sounds of country fiddling, be serenaded by “romanceros” and celebrate 200 years of the Star Spangled Banner!

The Sphinx Virtuosi will perform a new commission by composer Jessie Montgomery, and works by Sphinx Medal of Excellence recipient Gabriela Frank and Honorary Board Member Mark O’Connor. In addition to featured performances by the Catalyst Quartet, the tour will also feature Sphinx Virtuosi’s first bassist to win the national Sphinx Competition, Xavier Foley.

The national Sphinx Virtuosi tour is made possible with the generous support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Art Works, and Aetna. Please join us during this exciting time!

2014 Sphinx Virtuosi Tour to Celebrate Americana

Photo credit: Glenn Triest

Sphinx Stars: Detroit seeks Metro Detroit’s greatest young musical talent

The third annual Sphinx Stars: Detroit solo competition announces a call for entries to this showcase of Detroit’s young singers, rappers and instrumentalists. Open to all residents of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties who are 18 and under, Sphinx Stars: Detroit will feature live performances broadcast on Detroit Public Television’s Detroit Performs. Aspiring Stars will compete for a top prize of $10,000 and applicants can sign up at SphinxStars.org to audition live or submit an audition video by December 31, 2014.

Congratulations to Our Students, Senior Faculty and Staff for Another Terrific Year of SPA!

The Sphinx Performance Academy recently wrapped up its 11th year of programming! Hosted by Oberlin College and the Northwestern University Bienen School of Music, SPA created an opportunity for 64 Black and Latino string players to learn from some of the top Sphinx Competition alumni, including one of Sphinx’s premier ensembles, the Catalyst Quartet.

The students at SPA participated in many enrichment and workshop activities this summer. In addition to our faculty concerts, our students had the opportunity to see and play for guest artist Brian Thornton, cellist of the Cleveland Orchestra, and Jeremy Black, concertmaster for the Grant Park Orchestra. Students also participated in workshops, lead by various faculty members, which included a music business workshop, baroque dance class and an improvisation class.

In addition to the hard work, there’s always fun in the sun! During breaks, we planned other activities for our students that didn’t involve getting their instrument out of their lockers. From a bowling trip, to a fire pit/beach day, to showing off their dance moves during the SPA dance, students had a taste of just about everything at SPA this summer.

Here’s what a parent of one student had to say about her son’s great experience at SPA:

“Isaiah can’t stop talking about his experience at SPA. I asked him what the best part was, and he said, ‘the friendships with the other students.’ As a parent, I would like to say thank you to all the staff for this great opportunity. Isaiah is a better person and musician because of this experience.”

- Kywanda Butler (mother of Isaiah Butler, SPA Oberlin 2014)
Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you well and that you all had a wonderful summer! As we move into the autumn and winter months, Sphinx is gearing up for some of our most exciting annual events: Sphinx Virtuosi tour, including our performance at Carnegie Hall; Sphinx Competition and SphinxCon.

We are eagerly anticipating the kickoff of our Sphinx Virtuosi national tour this fall. Especially exciting is our annual performance at Carnegie Hall on October 29th. The tour will bring this premier ensemble to a city near you, so please check out our performance calendar in this newsletter or at SphinxMusic.org. We would love for you all to experience Sphinx Virtuosi live!

We also look forward to our 2015 Sphinx Competition and SphinxCon, both taking place in Detroit the weekend of January 30th to February 1st. Our 2015 SphinxCon will have an exciting new theme – “Engage” – and it will feature seven different disciplinary tracks. Each track will consist of a presentation from a leader in the arts community, after which other arts leaders will join the presenter for a fifteen-minute critical discussion of the issue at hand. Audiences should also look forward to having a facilitated discussion with the leaders on stage. The disciplinary tracks will be as follows: Arts and Healing; Dance; Theatre; Philanthropy and Grantmaking; Innovation; Research and Policy; and LGBT(Q).

Please consider sharing these great events with your network of partners, friends and peers, and we hope to see you there!

Take care,

Aaron

I am Sphinx

“This fall season, the Sphinx Virtuosi will premiere my latest work, Banner, for string quartet and orchestra. I am very excited about continuing this collaboration and the opportunity it offers to contribute significantly to the repertoire of American classical music.”

-Jessie Montgomery, Composer and Violinist Sphinx Symphony and Sphinx Virtuosi member
Sphinx News

For the second time this year, a Sphinx artist has been appointed to a principal position in a major orchestra! Sphinx Symphony Orchestra alum Andres Pichardo will be joining the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in the position of Assistant Principal Percussion.

Caleb Washington, the Grand Prize Winner of the inaugural Sphinx Stars: Detroit, was recognized for his hard work and dedication to his piano study with the Bronze Medal Award in the Music: Instrumental/Classical category at the NAACP’s Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics!

Sphinx Medal of Excellence recipient Jade Simmons has launched an inspirational 8-week online course for Artists and Creative Entrepreneurs entitled “School of Emergence.”

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

18th Annual Sphinx Competition
for young Black & Latino string players

Presented by DTE Energy Foundation

Will YOU be the next Sphinx Competition winner?
$50,000 First Place Senior Division Award (Ages 18-26)
$10,000 First Place Junior Division Award (Ages 17 and under)

Jan 28 - Feb 1, 2015 Applications due Nov. 11, 2014
To apply, visit Sphinx.MyReviewRoom.com

Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Max M. Fisher Music Center: Key artistic partner and exclusive home of the 2015 Sphinx Competition

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SphinxCon - Engage! presents to you an opportunity to engage with leaders across all of the performing arts sector. This year, SphinxCon will feature Session Presenters and Leaders, who will be leading discussions with the audience throughout the weekend. The topics will be surrounding these disciplinary tracks:

- Dance
- Theatre
- Arts and Healing
- Philanthropy and Grantmaking
- Research and Policy
- LGBT(Q)
- Innovation

Our current speaker roster includes:
- Jamie Bennet and Maria Rosario Jackson - TOWNHALL DEBATE
- Maysoon Zayid - Arts and Healing
- Cristina Pato - Arts and Healing
- Holly Sidford - Research and Policy
- Sunil Iyengar - Research and Policy
- Francisco Nunez - Innovation

In addition to these discussions, we will also feature our Arthur L. Johnson Memorial Series on Friday evening at 8pm, January 30th, 2015.

Join us this year at The Westin Book Cadillac in Detroit, MI from Friday, January 30 to Sunday, February 1, 2015 for a transformative weekend.

Register now at www.SphinxCon.org

Giza Plateau | $1,500
($1,275 tax-deductible)
Choice Carnegie Hall Box Seat for One Guest
Afterglow Admission for One Guest
Recognition in program book

Pyramid Patron | $2,500
($2,050 tax-deductible)
Preferred Carnegie Hall Box Seating for Two Guests
Afterglow Admission for Two Guests
Recognition in program book

Pharaoh Club | $5,000
($3,600 tax-deductible)
Priority Carnegie Hall Box Seating for Four Guests
Afterglow Admission for Four Guests
Twenty General Admission tickets for the school or community group of your choice
Recognition throughout evening and in program book

Angel Sponsor | $10,000
($7,450 tax-deductible)
Premium Carnegie Hall Box for Eight Guests
Afterglow Admission for Eight Guests
Thirty General Admission tickets for the school or community group of your choice
Recognition on-stage, in program book, and on Sphinx website

RSVP by October 6, 2014
Therese Goussy
313-877-9100 x713
Therese@SphinxMusic.org

General Admission $25
CarnegieCharge (212) 247-7800
www.carnegiehall.org
Box Office at 57th Street and 7th Avenue

Use the Friends of Sphinx promotional code to receive 40% off the General Admission ticket price! FOS20190

Student/Senior Tickets $15 available at the Box Office only

Group Tickets $4
(646) 429-1987 x714
Margaret@SphinxMusic.org

Sphinx Virtuosi
at Carnegie Hall
Co-presented by
Bloomberg
and The Sander and Norma K. Buchman Fund

Wednesday, October 29, 2014
Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall
6:00 PM Performance ▶ Afterglow to Follow
Business or Cocktail attire

Choice Box Seating for One | $250 ($170 tax-deductible)
Performance Only

Choice Box Seating for One Guest
Afterglow Admission for One Guest
Recognition in program book

Choice Box Seating for Two Guests
Afterglow Admission for Two Guests
Recognition in program book

Choice Box Seating for Four Guests
Afterglow Admission for Four Guests
Twenty General Admission tickets for the school or community group of your choice
Recognition throughout evening and in program book

Premium Carnegie Hall Box for Eight Guests
Afterglow Admission for Eight Guests
Thirty General Admission tickets for the school or community group of your choice
Recognition on-stage, in program book, and on Sphinx website

First-rate The New York Times

Choice Box Seating for One | $250 ($170 tax-deductible)
Performance Only

Choice Box Seating for One Guest
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Recognition in program book

Choice Box Seating for Two Guests
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Violist Jasmine Tunac, a Sphinx Performance Academy at Oberlin student, took the time to answer some questions from The Quarter Note about her musical journey, advice for future SPA students and plans for college!

**Quarter Note:** How did you get started as a musician? Can you share what your journey has been?

**Jasmine Tunac:** When I was six years old, I heard my 8-year-old cousin practicing the “Mississippi Stop-stop” exercise in his living room. I remember being so fascinated by the fact that someone could make sounds come out of a curvy wooden box with metal wires on the top. I started playing the violin through school in 6th grade, but private lessons were too expensive.

As a beginner, I practiced very hard every day. Eventually I became principal violist of my 6th grade orchestra and remained in that position through my senior year of high school. My freshman year, I formed a string quartet with the best players in the orchestra. I started attending string camps, such as the Sphinx Performance Academy, and participating in honors orchestras. In addition to playing music, I also enjoy composing. I have written two string quartets and rearranged songs to be performed by string quartets upon request.

My journey has not been without its challenges. I have never had private lessons and my performance career up to now has been performed on a middle school rental instrument. I will continue to take a proactive approach in my pursuit of playing in a professional string quartet because I know I can reach the goals I have set for myself.

**QN:** How has being involved with Sphinx Performance Academy changed your life?

**JT:** I have been involved with SPA for five years. Sphinx has exposed me to all of the possibilities that I could have as a musician. SPA has given me the confidence to choose to pursue music, which is what I love. Each year SPA pushes me to a new level to be the best musician possible.

**QN:** What are your next steps?

**JT:** My plan is to work extremely hard at Ohio University for two years in order to reach my goal of attending a conservatory for the remainder of my Bachelor’s studies, then pursue a Master’s as well. I would like to pursue my musical career in a string quartet.

**QN:** How did you prepare for your college auditions?

**JT:** Preparing for auditions was difficult and very time consuming. I made a lot of sacrifices and dedicated most of my time to practicing. I even took my viola to our hotel on Christmas vacation and practiced while my family was out. I had to balance my practicing with school work, extracurriculars and college applications. I was extremely fortunate to have kept in contact with a member of the SPA faculty, Jen Arnold. Because my decision to major in performance was so late I had to learn a lot of new music in a very small amount of time. I am very grateful for Jen because she dedicated time and effort to help me reach my goal. I definitely could not have gotten into school without her. Jen coached and supported me every step of my journey.

**QN:** What advice would you give to future SPA students?

**JT:** My advice to future SPA students is to take advantage of every opportunity given while you are there and do everything with one hundred percent effort because the only thing that can limit you is you. The more of yourself you put into practicing, rehearsals, private lessons or workshops, the more knowledge and skill you will gain. SPA students are given personal attention from extremely successful world class musicians, so use every opportunity to learn from them.

Something to Ponder:

“It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength.”

- Maya Angelou