



*****News release*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (EVENT ADVISORY)

TO: MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT AND EDUCATION EDITORS

CONTACT:

Patricia K. Johnson, Curtis Institute of Music
215-717-3190 | patricia.johnson@curtis.edu
Laura Barrett, All Hallows Episcopal Church
215-990-1054 | lgb917@msn.com
Karen Wilson, All Hallows Episcopal Church
215-287-2173 | karencustiswilson@gmail.com

**CURTIS INSTITUTE OF MUSIC AND ALL HALLOWS TO PRESENT CONCERTS --
“CURTIS AT ALL HALLOWS” WILL BRING STARS OF THE FUTURE TO
PERFORM ON THE FAMED SKINNER ORGAN**

WYNCOTE (PA)—September 6, 2022—The world-renowned Curtis Institute of Music will partner with All Hallows Episcopal Church, Wyncote to bring the current group of Curtis organ students to All Hallows in a series of concerts during the 2022–2023 season.

Rev. Chris Exley, Rector at All Hallows Episcopal Church in Wyncote, believes that it is time for the storied tradition of music at the church and its connection to the Curtis family to be shared widely with the community.

“The musical heritage of All Hallows began with its founding in 1891 and grew, in no small part, through the largesse of Cyrus H. K. Curtis and his daughter Mary Louise Curtis who provided the support for the earliest music at All Hallows,” says Exley.

Cyrus Curtis, the prominent Gilded Age publishing magnate (*The Saturday Evening Post*), and his daughter, Mary Louise, were known for their love of classical and liturgical organ music.

The Curtis family donated the Skinner organ to All Hallows (they had another in their home) creating an environment where congregants and professional musicians joined at worship each Sunday.

In October of 1924 Mary Louise Curtis Bok founded the Curtis Institute of Music and soon enabled the school to become tuition-free, thanks to her generosity. She also provided significant financial support to Settlement Music School in 1917 to develop music education among the children of immigrants in Philadelphia.

“Church isn’t just for Sunday,” says Exley, who contends that musical performance and education in service to the community are part of All Hallows’ historic mission.

For their part, the faculty and students at Curtis welcome the chance to perform on the Skinner organ in the sanctuary of All Hallows whose exceptional acoustics reflect the skill of Frank Furness, the architect who designed the church.

“In keeping with Curtis’s ‘Learn by Doing’ philosophy, the partnership with All Hallows gives the organ students a perfect opportunity to be able to play a more substantial program on an instrument known for its finesse, the E.M. Skinner, opus 769. This modest-sized instrument will inspire the students to think differently in programming, and benefit from learning recital works that are often neglected and overlooked,” says Alan Morrison, Haas Charitable Trust Chair in Organ Studies at the Curtis Institute of Music.

Morrison selected four current students to perform in four concerts during the 2022–2023 season: Emily Dawn Amos (October 1, 2022), Alexander Leonardi (November 19, 2022), Isabella Isza Wu (February 11, 2023), and Oak Martin (April 29, 2023). Details about these talented young artists may be found at **[CurtisAtAllHallows.org](https://www.curtisatallhallows.org)**.

The musical programs will reflect a wide range of styles and historic genres including works by Cesar Franck, whose 200th birthday will be celebrated this year.

All performances will be presented on Saturday evenings at 7:00 PM in the church sanctuary. There will be a “Conversation After the Concert” during which the students will describe how they came to love music and the organ, why they came to study at Curtis and what they plan for the future—questions from the audience will be welcomed. The Conversation After the Concert will be moderated by Kathleen Krull, Branch Director, Settlement Music School, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.

Seats may be reserved online at <https://www.showclix.com/event/curtis-at-all-hallows-1>
Admission is free; donations are encouraged. On-street parking is available.

The **Curtis Institute of Music** educates and trains exceptionally gifted young musicians to engage a local and global community through the highest level of artistry. For nearly a century Curtis has provided each member of its small student body with an unparalleled education alongside musical peers, distinguished by a “learn by doing” philosophy and personalized attention from a faculty that includes a high proportion of actively performing musicians. With admissions based solely on artistic promise, no student is turned away due to financial need. Curtis invests in each admitted student, ensuring no tuition is charged for their studies and they enter the profession free from educational debt. In a typical year, Curtis students hone their craft through more than 200 orchestra, opera, and solo and chamber music offerings in Philadelphia and around the world. Learn more at **Curtis.edu**.

All Hallows Episcopal Church is located in Wyncote, PA (19095) on the corner of Greenwood Avenue and Bent Road (262 Bent Road). Parish phone: 215-885-1641. URL: allhallowswyncote.org.

NOTE TO EDITORS: **Chris Exley and Alan Morrison are available for interviews. An electronic press kit with bios and pictures of the performers and information about the Curtis of Music and All Hallows Wyncote may be found at: curtisatallhallows.org.**

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