Carnegie Mellon School of Music Announces its 2011-2012 100th Anniversary Season

The School’s Centennial Concerts, a live taping of NPR’s From the Top, 12 ensembles, legendary concert pianist Byron Janis and other guest artists stand out within a varied and exciting season of music.

PITTSBURGH—Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Music announces a packed 2011-2012 season that features more than 250 events and includes some of the biggest names in the music world—as well as the big names of tomorrow. A complete listing of scheduled School of Music concerts, ticket information and other details follow these highlights.

"The coming centenary season is a great example of the School of Music's breath and depth. We will feature the talent of our present students alongside some of our most distinguished alumni. Many of our alumni represent performers of great historic import" -says Noel Zahler, head of the School of Music, "For a century now, this School has helped nurture talent into virtuosic performers who have created a standard of excellence throughout the professional world of music. “This year's programs chronicle our history and highlights our role in grooming the next generation of world class musical artists."

Highlights of 2011-2012 Season

The 2011-2012 season launches next week with an ambitious collection of diverse programming, kicking off Sept. 19 at 8 p.m with a lively Percussion Extravaganza, a multi-media showcase featuring the talents of the percussion and collaborative piano students. The audience-friendly, but challenging program will include works by Steve Reich, Andy Akiho, John Cage and George Antheil.

The School of Music’s major ensembles will all showcase a wealth of musical talents throughout the year, including Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic, Ronald Zollman, music director; Wind Ensemble, Denis Colwell, conductor, Repertory Chorus and Concert Choirs, Robert Page, conductor; Jazz
Carnegie Mellon School of Music Presents 2011-12 Season

Orchestra, Eric DeFade, director; Symphony Orchestra, Ronald Zollman, music director; Chamber Orchestra, Ronald Zollman, music director; Jazz Vocal Ensemble, Thomas Douglas, director; Guitar Ensemble, Jim Ferla, director; Contemporary Ensemble, and others. Opera productions will include or Angelica* (Puccini) and Mahagonny Songspiel** (Weill/Brecht) and L’Enfant et les Sortileges by Maurice Ravel.

Legendary concert pianist and National Ambassador to the Arts for the Arthritis Foundation Byron Janis, will present at the School of Music Convocation (1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22), attend a reception and screening of the documentary The Byron Janis Story (reception hosted by Dick and Ginny Simmons, 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22), and teach a Masterclass (3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 23). All three events take place in Kresge Theatre, Carnegie Mellon University College of Fine Arts building, and are free and open to the public.

On February 14, the School of Music welcomes National Public Radio’s From the Top with Host Christopher O’Riley for a live taping of its showcase of the best young musicians in America. Celebrate Valentine’s Day with a show of love for Pittsburgh’s wealth of musical talent as host Christopher O’Riley invites outstanding young artists from CMU’s preparatory school and from around Pittsburgh to perform at Carnegie Music Hall. The show will be broadcast across the country—locally, it is heard regularly on WQED 89.3 FM. From the Top’s 2011-12 National Tour is sponsored by U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management. (8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, Carnegie Music Hall, Oakland.)

This season marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Music, and the School will celebrate by bringing back some of its most prestigious alumni and guests for the Carnegie Mellon School of Music Centennial Celebration Concert & Gala, in Pittsburgh (Saturday, March 31, at the Benedum Center), and New York City (Monday, April 2, Carnegie Hall Stern Auditorium). For these concerts, the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic and Choirs will be joined by distinguished guest artists including, but by no means limited to: Metropolitan Opera Tenor Jeffrey Behrens and Baritone Liam Bonner; Chicago Symphony Orchestra Principal Horn Dale Clevenger; actor, singer, and star of Jersey Boys, Graham Fenton; Seattle Symphony Orchestra Associate Concertmaster Emma Hancock McGrath; New York Philharmonic Principal Horn Philip Myers and Horn Howard Wall; and actress and star of Ragtime and Jekyll & Hyde, Christiane Noll.

View a full listing of events online go to: http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/kheidema/CMU_Music2011-12Listings.pdf