



Cornell University

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Prof. Charles Van Loan Dean of Faculty, Day Hall, Cornell University

Dear Prof. Van Loan,

We are sending this note as a brief update on the work of the Cornell Concert Series (CCS) Faculty Committee on Music (FCOM) for the 2020-21 academic year. COVID-19 threw the world into unprecedented circumstances, with particularly strong effects on the live music sector. Cornell Concert Series transitioned to an online format, continuing to provide access to the world's great musical traditions and conversations with the artists.

FCOM committee membership, stayed steady this year, continuing to further our goals better reflecting the demographics of Cornell faculty and staff. All committee members have worked with us, and the CCS Publicity and Production Coordinator, Mike Sparhuber, to continue improving and evolving the Concert Series and various virtual related musical activities on campus and beyond. We have been working to diversify the committee, and will make extra efforts at this in the 21-22 year and beyond.

During the 2020-21 academic year, the Faculty Committee on Music met three times. Our discussions at the meetings finalized the schedule of performances and engagement activities for the CCS in 2020-2021 and explored possible invitations to artists in 2021 and beyond. We also discussed various financial matters, as the College reclaimed half of our annual allocation. Careful planning from concert manager Deborah Justice allowed the series to continue virtual world-class programming without a hitch. Still, the committee spent a good proportion of its time focusing on stewardship as we move towards reopening to live performance in 21-22.

The internationally-reputed artists virtually invited during the 2020-21 season represented a mix of the world's greatest musical traditions: Ladysmith Black Mambazo (African vocals), the 2021 GRAMMY-winning Pacifica Quartet (classical), The Dover Quartet (classical), Vijay Iyer (jazz piano and composition), Christian Sands Trio (jazz), Jennifer Koh (violin), Regina Carter (jazz violin), and Jeremy Denk (classical piano).

On a financial front, CCS remains healthy returning to our usual fixed allocation of \$136.8K. While substantive cuts were able to be absorbed for virtual programming, our world-class caliber of live programming relies on the full allocation. Our annual concerns and priorities about maintaining CCS' reputation as a flagship presenting series among our Ivy League and wider network of peer institutions continue as the world emerges from COVID. While we appreciate the economic ramifications of the pandemic, we have numerous contracts now stretched over multiple years. Any major cuts to our allocation would create reductions in our ability to present musical performances that inspire our communities in these challenging times. Our audience is telling us that they can't wait to have performances back and we have programmed a banner live spring 2022 semester that will have audiences flocking back into Bailey Hall!

We thank you for your continuing support in allowing us to sustain a high impact factor series that has been bringing the best music to Ithaca since 1903.



Deborah Justice, PhD.
Manager, Cornell Concert Series



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