



Second Annual

Distinguished Lectureship in Music, Diversity and Inclusion

Joseph Conyers

Assistant principal bass, The Philadelphia Orchestra
Executive director, Project 440

4 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019
Old Main Chapel



College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

Joseph Conyers

Speaker, Second Annual Distinguished Lectureship
in Music, Diversity and Inclusion

“Music—A Tool for Good”

Musicians are powerful people with the ability to transform lives and elevate our most marginalized communities. Join Joseph Conyers, assistant principal bassist of the Philadelphia Orchestra, educator, and entrepreneur, in a revelatory conversation that will go well beyond Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms and, instead, focus on music as a tool both for social change and as a conduit for equity in our world.



Biography

Joseph H. Conyers was appointed assistant principal bassist of the Philadelphia Orchestra in 2010. He joined the Philadelphia Orchestra after tenures with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Grand Rapids Symphony (MI) where he served as principal bass, and Santa Fe Opera (NM).

Described by the Grand Rapids Press as “a lyrical musician who plays with authenticity that transcends mere technique,” Conyers has performed with numerous orchestras as soloist including the Alabama, Flagstaff and Richmond Symphonies, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and the Sphinx Symphony, having won second prize at the 2004 Sphinx Competition in Detroit. In 2008, John B. Hedges wrote Conyers a bass concerto, *Prayers of Rain and Wind*, commissioned by the Grand Rapids Symphony.

As a chamber musician, Conyers is an artist of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Other chamber music festivals and collaborations have included the Ilumina Festival (Brazil), Savannah Music Festival (GA), Charlottesville Chamber Music Festival (VA), Kingston Chamber Music Festival (RI) and Lexington Chamber Music Festival (KY), with artists that include James Ehnes, Daniel Hope and members of the Emerson String Quartet.

Conyers received a bachelor’s degree from Curtis Institute of Music—studying with Philadelphia Orchestra principal bassist Harold Robinson and soloist Edgar Meyer—and receiving many awards and honors, including the 2015 Inaugural Young Alumni Award. Other mentors have included David Warshauer, principal bassist of the former Savannah Symphony; Daniel Swaim and Albert Laszlo. In 1999, Conyers was one of the first guests on NPR’s “From

the Top” with host Christopher O’Riley in one of its pilot shows. In 2007, Conyers was named one of “30 Leaders 30 and Under” by Ebony Magazine.

Conyers is committed to education and community engagement through music. He has served as adjunct faculty at Calvin College (MI) and Clark Atlanta University (GA) and is currently at Temple University (PA). Conyers has taught at numerous summer music festivals, including the New York State Summer School for the Arts and the Philadelphia International Music Festival. In addition, Conyers has given master classes across the country including The Colburn School, The New England Conservatory, Yale University, and the National Repertory Orchestra.

For much of 2010, Conyers was featured in a television commercial as a part of a Mutual of Omaha advertisement campaign. Conyers’ “aha moment” was about his inspiration founding the nonprofit Project 440 (project440.org). Project 440 has reached thousands of youths, exposing children and adults to classical music throughout the country. In 2010, Project 440 focused its mission using music as tool to engage, educate and inspire young musicians—providing them with career and life skills to become tomorrow’s civic-minded and entrepreneurial leaders. The Project 440 curriculum includes college and career preparedness, leadership building, entrepreneurship training and, ultimately, service in one’s community through music. Partners have included Carnegie Hall, The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Curtis Institute of Music, the New York State Summer School of the Arts and The Settlement Music School (PA). Project 440’s programs are accessible by all high school music in the School District of Philadelphia including the All City Ensembles.

In 2015, Conyers was appointed music director of Philadelphia’s famed All City Orchestra, an ensemble showcasing the top orchestral talent from students in the Philadelphia school district. Conyers currently serves on the National Advisory Board of the Atlanta Music Project in Atlanta, GA and has served on both the board of directors for ASTA (American String Teachers Association) and the Board of Overseers for The Curtis Institute of Music.

Conyers performs on the "Zimmerman/Gladstone" 1802 Vincenzo Panormo Double Bass, which he has affectionately named “Norma.”

About the College of Music

Since its founding in 1920, the University of Colorado Boulder College of Music has established itself as one of the top university music programs in the United States. With its highly active faculty of professional performers, composers and scholars, the College of Music has committed itself to helping students develop their talents, refine their passions and ultimately succeed in their professional endeavors.

To build upon the College of Music's rich history of distinction and to guide it through its 2020 centennial and beyond, the college's faculty unanimously approved a 10-year strategic plan in February 2016. The integration of the college's core educational programs with wide-ranging professionally oriented experiences that benefit every student in the college stands as the centerpiece of the strategic plan. It's what we're calling *The College of Music Advantage*.

Appreciating that music knows no boundaries defined by race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic standing or other human differences, the College of Music is poised to improve the human condition by engaging with diverse people, experiences, points of view, content and knowledge through music.

The College of Music launched this annual distinguished lectureship in music, diversity and inclusion in 2018. Every member of the college's community is united by the power of music.

College Highlights

Entrepreneurship Center for Music

This program focuses on the professional ventures of the performing arts. Through the ECM, students learn about everything from marketing basics to the application of talent and training. Our unique program in entrepreneurship provides the tools, courses and a certificate in music entrepreneurship for undergraduate music students.

Musicians' Wellness Program

To support long-lasting musicianship, Professor James Brody developed the MWP at CU Boulder. The program offers classes in Alexander Technique and body mapping and helps students prevent injury through somatic education. Students also have the opportunity to work with physicians specially trained in the special needs of musicians.

Performance Opportunities

Most students participate in at least one ensemble every year, amounting to at least six performances annually, though most of our students go beyond that. With over 400 performances a year, the opportunities are endless!

American Music Research Center

Home to over 2,000 scores, recordings, books and periodicals, the American Music Research Center and Howard B. Waltz Music Library contain one of the largest and most important music research collections between Chicago and Los Angeles.