

OBERLIN

COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

Office of Conservatory Communications

Critical Acclaim for the Oberlin Conservatory of Music

U.S. News and World Report Guide to American Colleges 2008

Perhaps no other school exemplifies the liberal arts like Oberlin College. It's a bastion of liberal thought, of course, and home to one of the country's best music conservatories. ... Its reputation as one of the best undergraduate music schools in the country benefits even nonmusical students: The campus hosts some 300 concerts each year, including numerous student recitals.

The New York Times (Steve Smith) September 2, 2007

A recent conversation with members [of the International Contemporary Ensemble] gave an impression of the group as, in equal parts, hungry indie band, efficient corporation and missionary initiative. That mix of characteristics actually predated the group, which was founded in 2001 by former students from the Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio, a hotbed of contemporary-classical players.

The New York Times (Vivien Schweitzer) February 22, 2007

In recent years Oberlin has produced some of the top names in contemporary music, including the innovative ensembles International Contemporary Ensemble and Eighth Blackbird and soloists like the violinist Jennifer Koh, who champions new repertory. Oberlin students are encouraged to experiment by Timothy Weiss, director of the conservatory's respected Contemporary Music Ensemble. ... Given the number of young musicians applying annually to conservatories around the country, warnings about the purported demise of classical music seem to be exaggerated. Oberlin's rural experimental haven has resulted in successful music careers in a cutthroat marketplace.

The New Yorker January 29, 2007

Oberlin has trained some of America's best orchestral musicians for decades ...

MUSICALAMERICA.COM January 29, 2007

It is always an exhilarating and heartening experience to hear a first-rate student orchestra under a sympathetic and experienced conductor give a concert of music that has been burnished by generations of professional ensembles—and come close to match them for musicality while topping them for sheer youthful élan. This was definitely the case Jan. 26 when the Oberlin Conservatory Symphony Orchestra, under Robert Spano, played ... Carnegie Hall The ovation they received at the end of the difficult program was thoroughly deserved ... for these young men and women had shown conclusively that the so-called "death of classical music" is a very long way from being realized—at least at Oberlin. ... Bravo for the level of individual contributions, bravo for the seamless integration of the various groups within the orchestra and bravo for the sonority (without blasting) of the band as a whole. An enormously refreshing evening!

The New York Times (Vivien Schweitzer) January 29, 2007

The Oberlin Conservatory Symphony Orchestra gave a dynamic reading of [Jennifer Higdon's *blue cathedral*] during its concert on Friday night at Carnegie Hall, led by Robert Spano. ... [and] a stellar performance of Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra, which concluded the concert. The contrasting moods of the five movements were probingly explored, and there was no weak link in the band., The fiery, polished strings and excellent woodwinds and brass all confidently enjoyed their chance to shine in Bartok's egalitarian concerto.

The Plain Dealer (Donald Rosenberg) January 26, 2007

Spano and the orchestra treated the work's gorgeous sonic rivulets and oceans to a mesmerizing performance. ... The Oberlin ensemble was first-rate in every instrumental section, whether negotiating tricky metrical changes or savoring the music's extremes of tragedy and wit.

The Washington Post (Daniel Ginsberg) March 2, 2005

The historic Oberlin College Conservatory, an hour's drive outside of Cleveland, showed why the school is such a national treasure with its wonderfully varied concert on Friday evening.

Marilyn Horne, October 2005

There's some really good teaching going on here.

Sir Simon Rattle, December 2004

I was immensely impressed with my time at Oberlin. Not only were the students excellently prepared, but they emanated a joy in discovery and a corporate intelligence that was very moving. In this small intense community, there is obviously something special going on."