

## The Oberlin Conservatory of Music

### An Overview

The Oberlin Conservatory of Music, awarded the 2009 National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama, is recognized as one of the foremost professional training institutions in the world. It is the oldest continuously operating conservatory in the United States and is renowned for its success in generating exceptional artists who have attained international stature as performers, composers, teachers, and conductors, among them Denyce Graves, David Zinman, Dorothy Delay, Jennifer Koh, Jeremy Denk, and Robert Spano. Graduates of Oberlin include a multitude of Grammy Award winners and two Pulitzer Prize recipients, including George Walker, the first African American composer to win the award. Oberlin Conservatory alumni can be found in all major orchestras and opera companies in the United States and many others throughout the world. The first music education program in the United States began at Oberlin, and members of its faculty brought the Suzuki training method to America. Graduates have also made broad contributions to advancing the field of music, among them John Long Severance, who built Severance Hall, home of the Cleveland Orchestra, and Huang Tzu, a founder of the Shanghai Conservatory, the first classical music training institution in China. Oberlin College was the first coeducational institution in the United States, and the Conservatory of Music was the first professional music school to admit African Americans. For more information, please visit [www.oberlin.edu](http://www.oberlin.edu).