

October 30, 2013

The Juilliard School celebrates composer Samuel Adler's 85th Birthday



"[Samuel Adler](#) (left) is one of America's greatest composers, and he is also a master teacher" announced Dr. Joseph Polisi, president of the Juilliard School, to a capacity audience that gathered together Monday evening, October 28, to celebrate Adler's 85th birthday in the school's Paul Recital Hall at Lincoln Center. In his preparatory remarks, Dr. Polisi reviewed the remarkable accomplishments of the man who arrived in the United States in 1939 as a nine-year-old from Mannheim, Germany, and who continues with full vigor to enrich the musical world as composer, conductor, author, and

teacher. (Samuel Adler has also served on the Board of the Milken Archive since its founding in 1990.)

The musical program that followed revealed a wide range of Adler's compositional styles. Performers included faculty and students of the Juilliard School. The young pianist Michael Brown performed the world premiere of Adler's virtuosic new work, *Fantasy*. A string trio performed *Five Snapshots*, based upon images of nature. Gregorian chant provided the inspiration for *Canto* for solo harp. A *Caccia* (hunting piece) for two flutes led listeners on a lively chase. Adler's Quintet of Piano and Strings featured the esteemed concert pianist Jerome Lowenthal.

A highlight of the concert, and the largest and most exotically orchestrated work of the evening, was the *Nuptial Scene*, a composition that is also featured in the Milken Archive. Based upon a medieval text, the *Nuptial Scene* portrays a domestic scene from the pre-1492 Sephardic culture in Spain. A Jewish mother is instructing her daughter in the ways and strategies of marriage. The soloist was mezzo soprano [Re'ut Ben Ze'ev](#), who is also a featured soloist in the Milken Archive.

Joining the composers, colleagues, students and music lovers who gave Adler a standing ovation at the end of the concert were Milken Archive Artistic Director Neil Levin (pictured above right) and Advisor Paul Schwendener (pictured above center). A festive reception at the Juilliard School concluded this memorable evening.