



Cornell University  
College of Engineering

School of Civil and  
Environmental Engineering  
Peter Diamessis  
Associate Professor  
Environmental Fluid Mechanics and  
Hydrology  
105 Hollister Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
Tel: 1-607-255-1719  
Fax: 1-607-255-9004  
e-mail: [pjd38@cornell.edu](mailto:pjd38@cornell.edu)  
website: [www.cee.cornell.edu/pjd38](http://www.cee.cornell.edu/pjd38)

Ithaca, June 5, 2015

Prof. Joseph Burns  
Dean of Faculty  
Day Hall, Cornell University

Dear Joe,

I am sending this note as a brief update on the work of the Cornell Concert Series committee for the 2014-15 academic year. Committee membership has largely been along the line of previous years. The one new addition has been Professor Jumay Chu from the Performing and Media Arts (PMA) department. Professor Roberto Sierra, chairman of the Dept. of Music, has been filling for Steve Pond who has been on sabbatical this year.

During the 2014-15 academic year the Faculty Committee on Music met three times: Sept. 10 and Nov. 17, 2014 and Apr. 9, 2015. Our discussions at the meetings consisted of finalizing the schedule of performances for the Cornell Concert Series in 2015-2016 and exploring possible invitations to artists in 2016-2017. We also discussed various financial matters, concerns of low attendance at concerts (from the non-student side of the audience) and the ongoing re-branding effort of the CCS, part of which involves the development of a new insignia and website. The visual rebranding, and parallel development of a new website for CCS, have moved forward quite efficiently, to a large extent, thanks to greater availability of funds.

The artists invited during the 2014-15 season represented a mix of the classical, jazz and world genres: Upshaw & Kalish, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, So Percussion, Nrityagram, Pierre-Laurent Aimard & Tamara Stefanovich, Ravi Coltrane, the Prague Philharmonic Choir, Tafelmusik and Jordi Savall. Note that Nrityagram performed at the Schwartz Center and So Percussion performed Cornell composer works. Master classes were offered by Upshaw & Kalish, So Percussion, Nrityagram, Aimard & Stefanovich, and Jordi Savall (held open rehearsal). Mr. Savall held an open rehearsal.

Our existing concerns about reduced allocations to CCS have further intensified: a 5% reduction in allocation in 2009 had brought us to \$152K, an additional 10% reduction now brings us to \$136.8K. Whereas artists and production costs have not gone down and are not likely to do so in the future, increased student attendance at concerts (at a reduced ticket price), put us in a disadvantageous position when it comes to supplementing our expenses from ticket revenues. We remain constrained in our ability to plan, since artist contracts need to be finalized well in advance. To this end, we are seeking

collaborations with other groups on campus (PMA department) and beyond (NYSEMA/NYS Baroque). CCS participation in the Bailey Hall Advisory Group will help prioritize venue resources so that they serve university-wide interests. We reiterate, as in our previous report, that Barnes Hall offer a high impact performance space for high-profile artists. However, it limits us to reduced ticket sales, giving rise to additional financial concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.D.', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter Diamessis