

**M** Manhattan  
School of Music  
**MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Jeff Breithaupt, Vice President

JBREITHAUPT@MSMNYC.EDU | 917-493-4702 | 120 CLAREMONT AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10027-4698 | MSMNYC.EDU

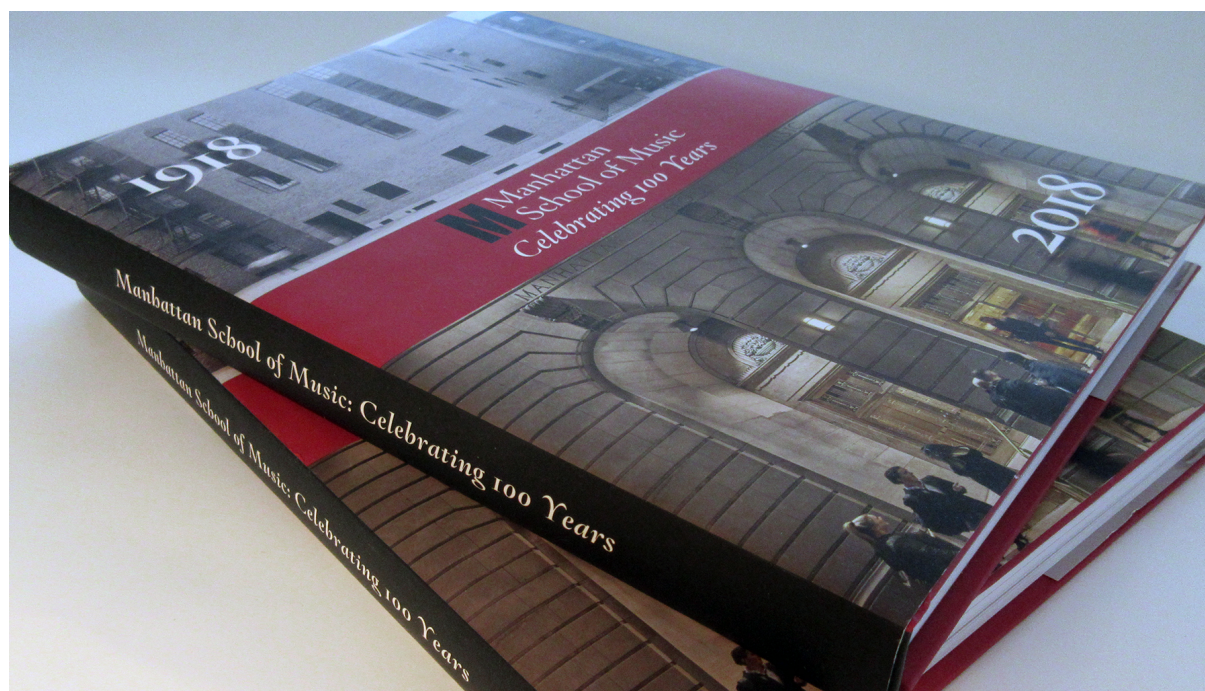
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*For Immediate Release*

**Manhattan School of Music**  
announces  
***Celebrating 100 Years (1918–2018)***

A 304-page book  
chronicling the history of this  
important educational and artistic institution  
includes hundreds of photos and historical documents,  
and is the most comprehensive document  
ever produced about the School

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**March 2020 (NEW YORK, NY)** – Manhattan School of Music (MSM) announces the publication of *Manhattan School of Music: Celebrating 100 Years (1918 – 2018)*, featuring treasures from the MSM Archives — many never before seen by the public — that trace the year-by-year history of the School with more than 650 photos and scanned documents.

In celebration and culmination of Manhattan School of Music’s Centennial, this 304-page, 9x12-inch book chronicles the growth of the institution from a modest community music program in a settlement house to one of the world’s finest conservatories.

In the words of alumnus and 102-year-old conductor/composer Anton Coppola, “This most impressive volume is an altogether brilliant documentation presented in the most attractive format, a dazzling accomplishment of this institution, from its modest beginnings to its present, impressive stature. It represents a colossal accomplishment, admirably achieved. I stand in awe... Tutti bravi!”

In addition to the trove of photographs and visuals, this fascinating chronicle brings MSM’s rich history to light with historical details, reviews, anecdotes, and alumni reflections.

More than 200 statements from alumni sharing personal experiences and giving testimony to the School’s influence are featured throughout the book, including NEA Jazz Master and alumnus Joe Wilder’s statement: “I still count among the many highlights of my career playing principal trumpet with the Manhattan School of Music Symphony under the direction of Jonel Perlea.” Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano and Class of 1987 Susan Graham states: “The School gave me master classes with renowned singers whose experience is invaluable, and opera performances that got reviewed and set me off on a very satisfying career journey. I am forever grateful.”

With a full century to capture and an abundance of photographs and visual archival materials, the chronological structure of the book clearly communicates the School’s march through time. By building chapters around the School’s Founding and giving each subsequent decade of the School’s history its own chapter, the contents are given a strong, readable framework. Additional chapters — “Today’s School,” “Campus History,” and “Our Centennial” — round out the decade-by-decade approach with a tight focus on recent developments and the history of the campus buildings.

“Today’s School” examines the state of the current institution and the breadth of its programs and influence. Metropolitan Opera countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo (Class of 2008) is quoted in this section: “Manhattan School of Music is a vibrant musical community, providing students valuable access to high-caliber faculty with extensive experience and knowledge in all disciplines.”

*Manhattan School of Music: Celebrating 100 Years (1918–2018)* is not simply a document of Manhattan School of Music’s first century; the history of this important New York City cultural institution reflects in many ways an important aspect of civic history, that of New York’s Spanish Harlem neighborhood (location of the School’s home for the first 50 years), for example, and fascinating elements of New York City’s musical history. The chapter on the architectural history of the School’s current campus is illustrative of how the book reflects New York City’s own cultural history: the School’s chief performance space was designed by the same firm that designed the Empire State Building; prior to MSM’s move from the east side in 1969, the current Morningside Heights home served as Juilliard’s original, pre-Lincoln Center campus.



MSM President John Brownlee, Richard Rodgers, and Leonard Bernstein at the School’s Waldorf-Astoria Gala saluting the American Musical Theater, April 5, 1967

“As one of seven of the United States’ remaining private, independent music conservatories, Manhattan School of Music’s story deserves to be told and its history

preserved,” states MSM Institutional Historian and Director of Archives John K. Blanchard (the book’s project manager and principal author).

The book includes a detailed look at MSM’s 2018–19 Centennial Season, featuring the three main performance events — a day-long opening festival of concerts that culminated in a performance of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony at nearby Riverside Church; the re-opening of the School’s main concert hall and re-imagined grand entrance after an extensive renovation; and a gala concert at Carnegie Hall, featuring more than 300 musicians from the School’s extended artistic community.

The Chair of the School’s Board of Trustees Lorraine Gallard said of the book, “Every great centennial celebration deserves a document befitting the occasion. This is ours.”

The appendices that conclude *Celebrating 100 Years* offer the first-ever presentation of the information included there: a discography; a history of mainstage operas produced; compositions premiered; faculty members since 1918 (including pianist Harold Bauer, mezzo-soprano Betty Allen, pianist Artur Balsam, flutist Ransom Wilson, jazz pianist John Lewis, guitarist Sharon Isbin, violinist/violist Pinchas Zukerman, pianist Constance Keene, and composer John Corigliano); and a composite list of hundreds of past guest artists (such as Yehudi Menuhin, Birgit Nilsson, Pierre Boulez, Yo-Yo Ma, Nadia Boulanger, Wynton Marsalis, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Licia Albanese, Andres Segovia, and Mstislav Rostropovich, to name a few). An Index of Names is thoroughly referenced.

“Although the School has evolved over the years, we remain true to our roots and our history,” says MSM President James Gandre. “I’m glad that we pay particular homage in the book to the School’s founder Janet Daniels Schenck. She knew that an institution like ours is successful because of the efforts of a group of individuals, not just one person. This incredible volume brings those personalities back into focus, even as it celebrates today’s MSM and the current group of individuals who bring such vibrant, musical, theatrical life to its campus.”

A limited edition, the book was printed privately by Cosmos Communications of Brooklyn, New York.

In February 2020, it received a Silver Educational Advertising Award from the Higher

Education Marketing Report's 35th annual competition.

The book, priced at \$100, is available for purchase exclusively through the School's website and at the MSM Campus Store (store hours: Mon–Sat, 9:30am–4:30pm; closed Sunday).

Visit [www.msmnyc.edu/about/history/centennialbook/](http://www.msmnyc.edu/about/history/centennialbook/) for a preview and purchasing details.

In the book's foreword, jazz trumpeter/composer Terence Blanchard writes: "It is my distinct honor to introduce this important book commemorating the first century of one of New York's preeminent institutions and one of the world's leading music conservatories."

For more information, please contact:

Jeff Breithaupt

Vice President of Media and Communications, Manhattan School of Music

917.493.4702 | [jbreithaupt@msmnyc.edu](mailto:jbreithaupt@msmnyc.edu)

### **About *MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS*:**

By the numbers:

- Pages in Book = 304
- Photos/Scanned Documents = 695
- Alumni Anecdotes/Quotes = 214
- Recordings = 40
- Premieres at MSM = 367
- Master Class Artists = 839
- Faculty Since 1918 = 1,168
- Index of Names = 3,883

**Sample Images Available:**



## About MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its more than 960 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 45 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege program continues to offer superior music instruction to 475 young musicians between the ages of 5 and 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

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