

***LIVE FROM LINCOLN CENTER***

**April 3, 2006, 8:00 p.m. on PBS**

**The Juilliard School**

***Celebrating 100 Years***

New York's Juilliard School is one of the most illustrious institutions in the world of the performing arts. This year the School is observing its 100th anniversary. To celebrate the occasion a gala event has been planned for Monday evening, April 3. Participants will include some of Juilliard's most illustrious alumni, including Emanuel Ax, Kevin Kline, Renee Fleming, Wynton Marsalis, Itzhak Perlman and John Williams. We of Live From Lincoln Center are proud that our cameras and microphones will be present to bring all the exciting festivities directly into your homes.

Some history is called for.

Already by the latter third of the 19th century the United States could boast of a number of dedicated schools of music. The Oberlin Conservatory in Oberlin, Ohio was founded in 1865. Two years later came Boston's New England Conservatory of Music and the Cincinnati Conservatory, followed the next year by the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. In the later 1880's a wealthy patron of music, Jeanette Thurber, founded the short-lived National Conservatory of Music in New York and succeeded in the early 1890's in attracting no less a figure than Antonin Dvorak as its Director.

Then in 1905 a new and ambitious music school was founded in New York. Called the Institute of Musical Art, it was the inspiration of Dr. Frank Damrosch, godson of Franz Liszt and the head of music education in the New York City school system. Dr. Damrosch, a member of a legendary musical family, gained the support of financier, James Loeb, and their institute soon found itself bursting at the seams with eager music students. The first year's enrollment numbered 467! Within five years the institute of Musical Art had moved to larger quarters on the Upper West Side of New York.

Enter Augustus D. Juilliard, a wealthy textile distributor and avid music lover. When Juilliard died in April, 1919 at the age of 83, he left a bequest in his will calling for the establishing of what was to be known as the Juilliard Musical Foundation. Further, the amount of the bequest was in the neighborhood of 12.5 million dollars. It was at the time the largest single bequest ever for the advancement of music. It took the trustees of the Foundation five years to determine how they would spend the money of Juilliard's bequest. Finally, in 1924 they created the Juilliard Graduate School whose purpose was to prepare talented musicians for public concerts and to help them secure performance opportunities. A bond quickly developed between the Institute of Musical Art and the Juilliard Graduate School, and negotiations were begun in 1925 to effect

a merger between the two. The merger was effectively completed in 1926 and the combined institutions were named The Juilliard School of Music.

Juilliard's ascendancy to the top position among the world's performing arts schools really began in the immediate post-World War II years. The distinguished composer, William Schuman, became President of Juilliard in July, 1945 and he instituted a number of far-sighted innovations including the founding of the Juilliard String Quartet and the establishing of the Juilliard Dance Division. When the initial planning began for Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Juilliard School of Music was invited to become a constituent as the Center's educational component. The invitation had a proviso: a drama department would have to be added to the Juilliard's curriculum. The deal was signed and sealed in February, 1957. A dozen years later the now comprehensively named Juilliard School was set to occupy a handsome new building as part of the Lincoln Center complex.

Highlights of the April 3rd centennial celebration will include the Scherzo from Brahms's Piano Quintet, played by Emanuel Ax with the Juilliard String Quartet; a Shakespeare "master class" with Kevin Kline coaching students in the Drama Division; a dance sequence with students from the Dance Division; Itzhak Perlman and conductor/composer John Williams in collaboration; a jazz group playing music by Wynton Marsalis and headed by Juilliard's Jazz department head Victor Goines; and the first movement of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto played by a brilliant young student named Peng-Peng Gong.

These, then, are the delights that await us on Monday evening, April 3. As usual I leave you with the suggestion that you check your local PBS station's schedule for the exact time and day of the telecast in your area.

See you then!