

Colburn @ [The Wallis](#)

NEWS RELEASE

**James Conlon Conducts the Works of Walter Arlen  
with Musicians from the Colburn School in *The Poet in Exile***

**Concert is first of five in the *Colburn @ The Wallis* series for 2015-16 Season and part of the school's Ziering-Conlon Initiative.**

**Wed, Oct 28 at 8:30pm**

**(Beverly Hills, CA-Oct 5)** James Conlon, LA Opera's music Director and a champion of 20th century composers whose careers and lives were cut short by the Third Reich, will make his debut at The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts on October 28 at 8:30 pm conducting musicians from the Colburn School in a concert of music by composer Walter Arlen, the Los Angeles based music critic and composer who escaped Vienna as the Nazis entered in Austria in 1938.



"The Third Reich silenced two generations of composers and their music. We are in the process of recovering that heritage," said Mr. Conlon. "However, Walter Arlen survived, and it is our good fortune and great honor to be here with the Colburn School at The Wallis to celebrate our dear friend's music."

"It's a poignant honor for me to be aligned with the many composers who lost their lives in the holocaust," said Mr. Arlen. "Maestro James Conlon commands a special place for his continuing determination to recover their voices. I'm a survivor, and I'm grateful to him for conducting Colburn School students and alumni in this concert of my music at The Wallis."



Mr. Arlen, who will attend the October 28 concert, was born in Vienna in 1920. He and his family were dispossessed by the Nazi takeover of Austria in March 1938. Mr. Arlen escaped to the United States and originally in Chicago, where he worked war-effort jobs and studied with composer Leo Sowerby. In 1947, he began a four-year, three-state position as assistant to composer Roy Harris and his wife, pianist Johanna Harris, working with many notable US composers, conductors, and musicians.

Mr. Arlen joined the Los Angeles Times as a music critic in 1952, where he worked until 1980. In 1969, he founded the music department at Loyola Marymount University, and served as its chairperson and professor while continuing to write reviews until 1980. His compositions began to be performed and recorded in 2008. He currently lives in Los Angeles.

The title of the October 28 concert is derived from *The Poet in Exile*, a piece by Arlen that is based on the writings of Nobel laureate Czeslaw Milos, a Polish émigré who escaped to the United States after World War II and worked at University of California, Berkeley. Also on the program is Arlen's *The Song of Songs* a dramatic poem based on the Biblical story performed by soloists, chorus, and orchestra, and composed in 1955. The evening will also include *Three Dead Sea Scrolls Fragments, Monotypes*, and "Ein Quartett-Satz on the name of Walter Arlen" a piece composed for Walter Arlen by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco

Performers include mezzo soprano Lacey Jo Benter; tenor Roderick Dixon; baritone Christian Immler; the LA Choral Lab, Artistic Director Michael Alfera, and Colburn School students and alumni.

The concert is part of the Colburn School's Ziering-Conlon Initiative, which focuses on the performance, advocacy, and dissemination of music by composers suppressed during the years of the Nazi regime. James Conlon, who serves as Artistic Advisor for the initiative, is the driving force behind Los Angeles Opera's groundbreaking *Recovered Voices* project also supported by Marilyn Ziering.

"Colburn School is pleased to present an evening celebrating the life and works of acclaimed Los Angeles composer Walter Arlen as part of the Ziering-Conlon initiative," said Colburn School President and CEO Sel Kardan. "We are deeply grateful to Marilyn Ziering for her leadership support of this performance, and of the program at the school which bears her name."

The concert is also the first of five concerts in the Colburn @ The Wallis series, which will feature Colburn School Conservatory of Music students, faculty, and special guest artists throughout the concert season. The second concert is on October 30, when Colburn School Artist-in-Residence Jean-Yves Thibaudet performs music by Ravel, Debussy, Poulenc, and Schumann. The Colburn School's partnership with The Wallis is made possible by a generous gift from Linda and Michael Keston.

#### **About James Conlon, conductor**

Since his 1974 debut with the New York Philharmonic, James Conlon has conducted virtually every major American and European symphony orchestra. He is Music Director of LA Opera and the Cincinnati May Festival, and becomes Principal Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra of the RAI Torino in 2016. He was Principal Conductor of the Paris National Opera (1995-2004) and General Music Director of the City of Cologne (1989-2002), where he was Music Director of both the Gürzenich Orchestra and the Cologne Opera. He was Music Director of the Ravinia Festival, the summer home of the Chicago Symphony, from 2005-15, as well as the Rotterdam Philharmonic from 1983-1991. He has conducted more than 270 performances at the Metropolitan Opera since his debut there in 1976.

#### **About Colburn @ The Wallis**

*The Poet in Exile* is the first of five concerts presented as part of Colburn @ the Wallis, a new partnership between The Wallis and the Colburn School that features students from the Colburn Conservatory of Music alongside celebrated concert artists and Colburn's renowned faculty. The series marks the Colburn School's first formal performing presence on the Westside. Upcoming concerts in the series include Colburn School artist in residence Jean-Yves Thibaudet on October 30; cellist Gary Hoffman on November 7; Music Director and Conductor Yehuda Gilad and Richard Beene, bassoon, on March 6; and the principal brass players of the New York Philharmonic on April 10. The Colburn School's partnership with The Wallis is made possible by a generous gift from Linda and Michael Keston.

### **About the Colburn School**

The Colburn School comprises four academic units united by a single philosophy that all who have a desire to study the performing arts should have the opportunity and access to excellent training. The degree-granting Conservatory of Music, the open enrollment Community School of Performing Arts, the Music Academy for pre-college musicians, and the pre-professional Dance Academy, a program of the Colburn School's Trudl Zipper Dance Institute, provide training to over 2,000 students from the Los Angeles area and across the world. The renowned teachers, performers, and scholars that make up Colburn's dedicated faculty serve as invaluable mentors to guide students' artistic development.

The Community School of Performing Arts acts as an entry point to performing arts education, offering beginning to pre-collegiate training in music, dance, and drama to students of all ages and skill levels. Young musicians from around the world study at the pre-college Music Academy, which features a rigorous curriculum of conservatory preparatory training to high school aged students. The pre-professional Dance Academy prepares a select class of young dancers for careers in ballet. Dance classes at the Community School and the Dance Academy are programs of the Trudl Zipper Dance Institute. Finally, the Conservatory of Music is one of the preeminent training grounds for classical musicians, with undergraduate and advanced degrees in music performance.

A robust community engagement initiative delivers sequential performing arts education to low-income students in the surrounding areas through outreach and scholarship programs. Located in downtown Los Angeles, the Colburn School's campus boasts state-of-the-art performance and rehearsal spaces. Each season, the school presents over 300 concerts and performances, many of which are free and open to the public, at its downtown home and throughout Southern California.

### **About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts**

Since opening its doors in October 2013, The Wallis has produced or presented over 100 dance, theatre, opera, classical music and children's programs to an ever expanding audience. The 2014-15 season saw audiences at The Wallis grow to over 44,000 attendees with another 50,000 anticipated for the 2015-16 Season which officially began September 17 with a sold-out and live-streamed conversation with two-time Academy Award winning actor Denzel Washington. The season continues October 1 with three sold-out performances of the Twyla Tharp 50th Anniversary Tour with a recently added fourth performance currently on sale.

Located in the heart of Beverly Hills, California, the Wallis brings audiences world-class theater, dance and music, performed by many of the world's most talented and sought-after artists. With eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles, and its notability as the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis offers original and revered works from across the U.S. and around the globe. The mission of The Wallis is to be a vital cultural hub that uses unique arts events and education programming to entertain, enlighten and inspire children and adults in our community and across the nation.

Nominated for 26 Ovation Awards, four L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards and the recipient of five architectural awards since opening in 2013, The Wallis is a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot venue that celebrates the classic and the modern and was designed by Zoltan E. Pali, FAIA of Studio Pali Fekete architects. The building features the restored, original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places) that serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and houses the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater, GRoW at The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education (a gift of Gregory Annenberg Weingarten and Family and the Annenberg Foundation) and the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater. Together, these structures embrace the city's history and its

future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. For more information, visit The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts online.

**Ticket Information:**

**What:** *Colburn @ The Wallis*  
*James Conlon Conducts Walter Arlen's The Poet in Exile*

**Where:** Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts  
Bram Goldsmith Theater  
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**When:** October 28 at 8:30pm

**Tickets:** **Prices:** \$35 & \$25  
**Online** – [www.thewallis.org](http://www.thewallis.org)  
**By Phone** – 310-746-4000  
**Box Office** – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services  
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

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