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**THE JUILLIARD SCHOOL and CONNECTIONS EDUCATION
CELEBRATE DEBUT OF JUILLIARD eLEARNING**

***Leaders in Performing Arts and Online Learning Now Deliver Arts Education Courses
to K-12 Students and Educators Everywhere***

Juilliard's First Online Courses

New York, NY (March 18, 2013) – Educators from The Juilliard School (www.juilliard.edu), the nation's pre-eminent school for performing arts education, and Connections Education (www.ConnectionsEducation.com), a leading provider of online learning solutions, today celebrated the first student enrollments in Juilliard eLearning, the conservatory's first-ever group of online courses – developed for students in grades K -12. Their joint webcast, from Juilliard's Harris /Woolfson



Orchestral Studio featured demonstrations of the new Juilliard eLearning courses and a live performance by Juilliard Pre-College pianist, Tiffany Poon, who represented the eight young Juilliard musicians who contributed performance footage to the new online curriculum. The program included remarks by Juilliard President Joseph W. Polisi; Connections Education Chief Executive Officer Barbara Dreyer; Joshua Lewis, Board of Directors for Pearson, the parent company of Connections Education, and Dr. Patricia Hoge, Connections Education's Executive Vice President of Curriculum.

[WATCH THE OVERVIEW VIDEO NOW](#)

In 2012, Juilliard and Connections Education established an exclusive agreement to provide musical and cultural arts education for K-12 students through innovative online courses. This collaboration opportunity was identified by Brandgenuity, Juilliard's independent trademark licensing agency. Juilliard eLearning courses, a compelling new option for teaching music courses for K-12 students and teachers everywhere, extend Juilliard-supported learning into homes and schools – or anywhere there is an Internet connection.

All Juilliard eLearning courses are being developed to the same high standards expected of both sponsoring organizations by educators, parents and students. Educators and e-learning experts from Connections Education collaborated with Juilliard specialists to develop the content of the online courses. The first four Juilliard eLearning courses now available – two elementary courses, one middle school course and one high school course – are all aligned to national education standards and have recently begun serving K-12 students enrolled in virtual schools supported by Connections Education. Future courses may include music theory, music history, drama history, or dance history. Synchronous virtual music instruction courses and virtual “master classes” are also under consideration.

Connections Education’s Connections Learning division is offering the courses to educational institutions, and directly to K-12 students and adult, lifelong learners. Juilliard eLearning courses provide schools and school districts an affordable option to keep their K–12 arts program alive, or enhance their current music offerings. Parents gain an affordable new option to give their children a primary introduction to music concepts, or a valuable supplement to their student’s current music lessons, with perspective provided by a world-class institution.

“We are delighted to welcome the first group of K-12 students to Juilliard eLearning,” said Joseph W. Polisi, President of The Juilliard School. “Providing exemplary arts education programs to youth and the community has always been central to our mission at The Juilliard School, and it’s truly rewarding to witness first hand how Juilliard eLearning is enhancing our ability to fulfill this mission.”

Barbara Dreyer, Connections Education chief executive officer observed, “At Connections Education, we believe in the power of ‘anytime, anywhere’ learning, a promise we have fulfilled for K-12 students and educators for more than a decade now. These new courses enhance our core educational offerings – bringing a Juilliard eLearning music education experience to K-12 students and schools anywhere.”

Patrice Alexander, a twelfth grader from Colorado Connections Academy, is pleased with her Juilliard eLearning experience so far. “I was interested in taking this course because I wanted to learn how to read music. For years I would pick up books from the library to try to learn. In just the first unit or so [of Juilliard eLearning] I’ve already learned all the music notes. This course is different from other music courses because it’s not stuffy—it’s fun. You’re able to play the piano, guitar, and various percussions. I’ve been playing around with [the music tool] for two days now and I’ve already written four songs. Music is everywhere and this course has unlocked it for me,” she commented.

Four Juilliard eLearning music courses are currently available to students and schools and districts:

- **Experiencing Music** -- Students in grades K–2 are introduced to basic components of music in this course including melody and rhythm. Students will shape these components and explore their own voices through performing and composing beats, different rhythms, and melodies. In addition, students will use their critical listening skills to analyze music they see and hear as they participate in interactive experiences developed by Juilliard and Connections Education.
- **Discovering Music** -- Designed for students in grades 3–5, this course teaches students fundamental musicianship skills from a Western-Classical approach. The course challenges students to develop their listening, analysis, performance, composition, and improvisation skills through studying standard repertoire pieces. Students also learn how to read music, are introduced to types of instruments and families of instruments, and introduced to music style periods. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies provided by both Juilliard and Connections Education, the course provides a unique and advanced learning experience for students in these grades.
- **Exploring Music** -- Students in grades 6-8 will develop their appreciation for music as they hone their listening, notation, analysis, performance, and improvisation skills. Students gain an understanding of the different families of the orchestra and use the interactive instruments and tools in the course to apply their skills and compose their own music. Juilliard and Connections Education have created a dynamic, hands-on experience ideal for middle school students.
- **Living Music** -- High school students study rhythm, beats, notation, and music history in this wide-ranging course. The relationships between different sections of the orchestra are explored, and students are exposed to the concepts of improvisation and composition. Students use sophisticated interactive tools, including a virtual instrument and digital sampler created by Juilliard and Connections Education to arrange their own music. High school students come away from this course with a greater appreciation of music and a greater understanding of how the fundamental concepts of music are developed through Western-Classical history.

Each Juilliard eLearning course features dynamic instructional sequences that enhance students' understanding and enjoyment of music for a lifetime. Lessons provide a strong foundation in musical concepts, vocabulary, and notation. Students also learn how to recognize the sound qualities of orchestral instruments and gain a solid introduction to Western classical music, while exploring music from cultures around the world. Courses feature exclusive music, video, animations and other immersive content, learning opportunities from both Juilliard's experts and Connections Education's certified teachers. Among the innovative and dynamic learning tools that bring music to life:

- **Virtual music tools** -- Each course provides students with the chance to put their music instruction into practice by using virtual music tools. Students compose and record their own music, leading to greater appreciation and greater understanding. Virtual instruments available for students include a xylophone, piano, violin, among others.



- **Faculty Video Demonstrations** -- Students access videos featuring firsthand instruction from faculty and alumni from The Juilliard School and others demonstrating technique and discussing music theory. These videos are only available through the Juilliard eLearning courses.
- **Student Performance Videos** -- Developed exclusively for Juilliard eLearning courses, these videos feature student performers explaining techniques, demonstrating instruments, and playing pieces in the repertoire. These videos bring the music study to life for students.



More information about Juilliard eLearning is available at 888-440-2890, or online:

For individual students: <http://www.nationalconnectionsacademy.com/private-school/curriculum/juilliard-online-music.aspx>.

For schools and school districts: <http://www.connectionslearning.com/connections-learning/curriculum/spotlight-courses.aspx>.

About The Juilliard School

The Juilliard School established this country's standard for education in the performing arts, beginning with music in 1905. Its alumni are among the most famous recitalists, orchestral and operatic musicians, as well as arts administrators and teachers. In 1951, its Dance Division was established, with combined training in contemporary and ballet technique. As in music, Juilliard's Dance division boasts of alumni who are among the most accomplished artists in their field, among them Pina Bausch, Martha Clarke, Lar Lubovitch, and Paul Taylor. Juilliard became part of Lincoln Center in 1968, and added a four-year drama program. In 2001, Juilliard broke new ground with the addition of its jazz program; a graduate program in Historical Performance began in fall 2009, the same year that Juilliard inaugurated its partnership with the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. Currently more than 800 young artists from 44 states (plus Washington, D.C.) and 46 foreign countries attend Juilliard.

More information at www.juilliard.edu

About Connections Education

Connections Education is a leading, fully-accredited provider of high-quality, highly accountable virtual education solutions for students in grades K–12. Since 2001, the company's Connections Academy division has delivered individualized learning to students through virtual public schools and a private online academy. In the 2012-2013 school year, 24 Connections Academy virtual public schools operate in 22 states and are expected to serve more than 40,000 students from across the U.S. The Connections Learning division meets the needs of schools,

school districts, and other institutions looking to develop and enhance their online learning programs. Connections Learning delivers a full range of targeted digital learning solutions to the K-12 education community including online courses, a program for homebound students, a digital learning platform, and more. More than 1000 schools, school districts, state departments of education and other educational institutions, serving tens of thousands of students throughout the United States and beyond, are already utilizing Connections Learning products and services. Connections Education is committed to expanding quality education through technology and helping students achieve both academic and personal success. For more information, call 800-382-6010 or visit www.ConnectionsEducation.com. Connections Education is part of the global learning company Pearson (NYSE:PSO).

More information at www.ConnectionsEducation.com

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