Catalyzed by a $12 million gift from the Maltz Family Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, Case Western Reserve University has formed an historic partnership with The Temple – Tifereth Israel to transform the University Circle space into a dynamic performing arts center for academic programs in music, theater and dance.

The leadership funding represents a first step toward attracting additional philanthropic support for the project that will give new life to The Temple complex even as it preserves the sanctuary for use as a place of worship and celebration for High Holy Days and other special events. “This building carries great emotional, historic and spiritual meaning for our congregation,” says Richard A. Block, senior rabbi of The Temple – Tifereth Israel. “The ability to keep it as a place where we can return for worship, and at the same time open it to new uses, is the best of all possible outcomes.”

Built in 1924, The Temple is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. Located at East 105th Street at Silver Park, The Temple contains a library and a museum, as well as a chapel and sanctuary. Once renovated, it will be the home of the Milton and Tamar Maltz Performing Arts Center at The Temple – Tifereth Israel and will feature programs and performances from the music, dance and theater departments. The 100,000 square-foot facility will also feature a music library, instructional space and offices for performing arts faculty.

“The partnership between Case Western Reserve and The Temple can bring dramatic new life to The Temple and at the same time honor the building’s status as an historic religious icon,” says Milton Maltz, president of the foundation. “We are pleased to be part of launching this project.”

Milton and Tamar Maltz (seated), Rabbi Richard A. Block and President Barbara R. Snyder celebrate the announcement of the partnership between The Temple and Case Western Reserve.

A Core University Experience
The performing arts have a proud tradition at Case Western Reserve and continue to be a significant part of the campus experience. In 2009–10, the university enrolled more than 200 students seeking majors or degrees in the performing arts. In any given semester, more than 1,000 undergraduates take courses in music, dance and theater, and more than half of undergraduates participate in extracurricular ensembles, including the CWRU-University Circle Orchestra, IMPROViment and the Mather Dance Collective.

“Milton and Tamar Maltz have given us a remarkable opportunity. This project has the potential to create enormous benefit for our university, for The Temple congregation and for the community at large.”

—President Barbara R. Snyder