

EASTMAN

# NOTES

FALL-WINTER 2014

## Opening Up the World of Music

Jamal Rossi takes the stage  
as Eastman's new dean



*Together we will*

# create world-class music, worldwide

On his journey to become a master violinist, Markiyan Melnychenko '12E, '14E (MM) was guided by the idea that achieving the highest level of performance is only 25 percent talent—the rest is hard work.

Markiyan's commitment to his craft can be heard in every stroke of his bow. Thanks to scholarship support, he was able to continue to sharpen that technique and elevate his artistry while a master's student at the Eastman School of Music. A native Australian, Markiyan plans to use what he's learned to elevate the level of music education and performance in his home country.

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**EASTMAN**  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
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The  
**MELIORA**  
CHALLENGE



Breaking back in: Yuki Katayama (BM '11), Kara LaMoure (BM '10), Brittany Harrington (BM '10), and Lauren Yu (BM '11), collectively the Breaking Winds Bassoon Quartet, returned in February to perform *Breaking Out* by Scott Switzer (BM '08) with the Eastman Wind Ensemble.

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## Innovative Ensembles

Exploring multimedia, rock, theater, and more, these Eastman-born ensembles are among classical music's new game-changers.

## Jamal Rossi Takes the Stage as Dean

Our seventh dean respects Eastman's past, but has his eye on its future.

## Acts of Creativity in Words and Music

Inspired by literature and dance, Eastman composers and performers cross musical boundaries.

**ON THE COVER:** Dean Jamal Rossi, photographed in Hatch Hall by Kurt Brownell

EASTMAN  
NOTES

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**Editor**

• David Raymond

**Contributing Writers**

• David Raymond  
• Helene Snihur

**Contributing Photographers**

• Kurt Brownell  
• Adam Fenster  
• Gelfand-Piper Photography  
• Kate Melton  
• Nadine Sherman  
• Gerry Szymanski  
• Brandon Vick

**Photography Coordinator**

• Karen Ver Steeg

**Design**

• Steve Boerner  
Typography  
& Design, Inc.

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Eastman-Notes@esm.rochester.edu



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## Mindful of the past, pointed to the future

On October 26, I was deeply honored to be invested as the seventh dean of the Eastman School of Music. Throughout my student years in the 1980s, and since my return to this community in 2005, I have always been excited and inspired by this remarkable school, and my feelings of having the privilege of leading it are indescribable.

While the investiture of a new dean was a notable occasion this fall, it was surrounded by a number of memorable events at Eastman: visits from great musicians like André Previn, who received an honorary doctorate and heard the premiere of his *Music for Wind Orchestra (No Strings Attached)* with the Eastman Wind Ensemble; recitals, concerts, jazz and opera performances with our outstanding student musicians; nostalgia during Eastman Week as we celebrated the great Frederick Fennell and the 25th anniversary of our Piano Accompanying degree, and reminders of the recent past as we re-named the Main Hall – a place every Eastman alumnus remembers well – after our late dean Douglas Lowry, a deserving honor in memory of a remarkable man. The list is amazing in variety and quality, yet in so many ways, it is simply a typical semester at Eastman.

As we approach Eastman's centennial in 2021, we are reminded that our school has a rich history. Yet the

musical world into which our school was founded and flourished has changed dramatically, and our young graduates are entering a musical world very different from the one that existed only a few years ago. Amidst these continual changes, the principles for preparing students for meaningful lives in music remain stable: an emphasis on musical artistry, scholarship, leadership, innovation, creativity, and a commitment to using music for the enrichment society. As we have in the past, Eastman will continue to embrace these principles. As dean, I will remain mindful of our history, while keeping Eastman pointed to the future as a leader in a musical world that is filled with new opportunities.

I look forward to working with our faculty, students, alumni, and friends, as we work together to advance our Eastman to a vibrant future.

Jamal J. Rossi  
Joan and Martin Messinger Dean

## Brotherhood of Music

**Joseph** and **John Irrera** provided a unique footnote to Eastman's 2014 Commencement: they were the first siblings in Eastman history to receive doctorates at the same ceremony. Both degrees are in musical performance and literature, John's for violin and Joseph's in piano. The Batavia (NY)-born brothers have been busy performers, singly and as a duo, since childhood, studying at the Eastman Community Music School since 1993 and performing together three times in Carnegie Hall. Joseph, a Steinway Artist, now teaches piano for ECMS, and John teaches privately in Blacksburg, Virginia.

## Beyond the Horizons

Eastman's summer Music Horizons program has been around for almost 30 years, and has sent about 150 talented high school musicians on to Eastman (and, of course, to many other music schools). At the end of this summer's Music Horizons program on July 25, its founder, **Ruth Cahn** (BM '68), was feted for her leadership of the program, as well as her "creative



Soprano **Natalie Ballenger** (BM '10), a winner in the 2014 Lotte Lenya Competition, showed off her operatic expertise at Ohio Light Opera this summer in Victor Herbert's *Dream City* and *the Magic Knight*. Not seen since it ran on Broadway in 1907, this show was reconstructed from materials at the Library of Congress by OLO artistic director (and Eastman Opera Theatre director) **Steven Daigle** and was a delightful surprise—particularly for Herbert's hilarious parody of *Lohengrin*.

thinking, boundless energy, and deep knowledge of the music field," in the words of Eastman Community Music School director Howard Potter. Music Horizons' new director will be Petar Kodzas,

ECMS Senior Instructor in Classical Guitar.

## Eastman on (and off) Broadway

In June, composer-lyricist **Jason Robert Brown** (x '91), who won a Tony

Award in 1999 for *Parade*, won two more, for "Best Original Score" and "Best Orchestrations," for *The Bridges of Madison County*. The musical adaptation of the best-selling novel had a brief Broadway run, but critics raved about Jason's lyrical score. More of Jason's songs will be heard in a new screen version of his popular *The Last Five*

*Years*, due out this year, and in his new Broadway musical *Honeymoon in Vegas*.

Soprano **Renée Fleming** (MM '83) made her non-operatic stage debut playing a tempestuous opera diva in the romantic comedy *Living on Love*, produced in July at the Williamstown Theater Festival. The play was a hit with audiences, and so was Renée—even more so when she switched into operatic mode and sang briefly.



**Ruth Cahn** was lauded at the 2014 Music Horizons recital in July.



**Bridging Eastman and Broadway:** Tony winning composer **Jason Robert Brown**.



Master's student **Gabe Condon** is already a prizewinning guitarist and composer.

## Strum, Gabriel, Strum

In August, **Gabriel Condon** (BM '13) was awarded first place in the jazz category of the 2014 Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival. This is the latest honor for Gabe, who has received two *DownBeat* magazine awards and participated in several prestigious national music programs. At age 12, he began studying jazz guitar at the Eastman Community Music School with Bob Sneider; he is working toward his master's in jazz composition with Bill Dobbins.





## Café Society

Last winter, Eastman started a new, after-hours series called "Jazz Café" offering informal monthly concerts in the relaxed atmosphere of Miller Place's Sproull Atrium. The opening concert, on Valentine's Day, featured various Eastman jazz faculty musicians; last March 21, the Jazz Café welcomed trombonist Jim Pugh (BM '72, MM '75), who performed a set with a rhythm section of Eastman students: Eli Uttal-Veroff on bass, Eric Metzgar on drums, and Clayton Farris (not seen) on piano. *Photograph by Kurt Brownell*





# Top of Their Form

Sir James Galway was the guest star for a taping of the popular National Public Radio series *From the Top* in Kodak Hall on March 19. The show features talented young classical musicians, and several Rochester students performed with the great flutist in Gounod's *Petite Symphonie*. During his stay at Eastman, Sir James gave a flute master class and received an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Rochester. For more on Eastman's many distinguished guest artists last semester, see p. 18. Photograph by Adam Fenster





## Devastating *Dialogues*

Eastman Opera Theatre's spring production of Francis Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* brought a masterpiece of 20th-century opera to the Kodak Hall stage. Based on a historical incident from the French Revolution, the opera tells of a convent of Carmelite nuns who were executed for refusing to denounce their faith. In the final scene, the nuns sing the *Salve Regina* as they go to their deaths on the scaffold. The stark, striking production, designed by Mary Griswold and staged by Stephen Carr, enhanced Poulenc's devastating musical and dramatic experience. *Photograph by Gelfand-Piper Photography*



.....  
Dean Rossi on the stage of  
Eastman's Hatch Recital Hall,  
which opened in 2010.





# Opening Up *the* World *of* Music

*Jamal Rossi takes the stage  
as Eastman's new dean*

*By David Raymond*

**J**amal Rossi vividly remembers his first impression of the Eastman School of Music, as a new student in the fall of 1983: “There were incredible musical riches all around. All you had to do was walk down the halls.

“If you opened the door of Room 120 [now the Ray Wright Room], you’d hear amazing jazz. If you entered the Eastman Theatre, you’d be inspired by ESSO or the Philharmonia rehearsing. If you looked into Room 802 in the Annex, you’d see fantastic opera.

“When I first arrived at Eastman I was struck by the unbridled enthusiasm for music and the amazing energy I felt all around here. I’d anticipated a rich musical environment with an incredibly high level of achievement, but I didn’t anticipate the deep sense of community and the energy that permeated the school.”

Rossi arrived at Eastman in 1983 as a doctoral student in saxophone, having earned his bachelor of music degree at Ithaca College in 1980, and his master of music degree at the University of Michigan in 1982. After receiving his DMA degree in 1987, he taught on music faculties in North Carolina and South Dakota, served as assistant dean and then as associate dean of the School of Music at Ithaca College between 1989 and 2000, then as the dean of the School of Music at the University of South Carolina for five years.



In a highlight of his installation ceremony, Dean Rossi removed his robes to perform with Professor Nelita True.

In 2005 Jamal Rossi returned to Eastman as senior associate dean, and then executive associate dean under Douglas Lowry from 2007 until September of 2013, when he was appointed dean of the school following the illness and resignation of Dean Lowry. Last May, following an international search, Rossi's appointment as the new Joan and Martin Messenger Dean of the Eastman School of Music was announced, and his formal investiture ceremony occurred on October 26.

As Eastman's seventh dean, he is determined to build upon those values he sees as the hallmarks of the school: a commitment to musical artistry, scholarship, leadership, innovation, community engagement, and excellence. While the musical world is a much different place than it was when he was a student, or even in the nine years since he returned to Eastman, Rossi believes that educating outstanding musicians to continually learn, adapt, and contribute to this changing musical world around them will enable future generations of Eastman graduates to thrive.

Rossi has his eye focused on moving forward. His primary goal this year, he says, was "to create an environment for a meaningful discussion not only about the remarkable school we are today, but more importantly, about the even more remarkable school we plan to be in the future." As Eastman prepares to celebrate its centennial in 2021, "I want Eastman to be positioned for the next one hundred years of musical excellence and leadership."

In late August Rossi launched "Eastman 2021: Shaping the Future of Music," an ambitious school-wide conversation that involved discussions among all of Eastman's stakeholders—faculty and staff members, students and

alumni, volunteer boards and all who care about the future of Eastman—throughout the fall 2014 semester. The discussions and meetings will lead to a plan of action outlining the major initiatives that will be pursued in the years leading up to the centennial.

"I want for us to look carefully at the musical world and ask, 'Are we doing everything we can to the best of our abilities to prepare our students for successful careers as musicians?' As a leader among schools of music, we must also be willing to rethink what we do, and to create new ideas and programs that will help shape the future of music."

One of Rossi's primary goals in the coming years is to eliminate financial barriers for those students who desire an Eastman education, and whom the faculty wish to enroll. "My top fundraising priority will be to increase support for student scholarships. A gift of a scholarship is a gift of opportunity for students to pursue their dreams. What a powerful impact this has on shaping the future of music!"

Rossi also has ambitions to create endowed professorships, improve Eastman's facilities, and to commit Eastman to community engagement. "The greatness of a school is measured by the quality of its faculty, the students it enrolls, and the impact its alumni have in the world. Besides eliminating financial barriers to enrolling outstanding students, I want to assure that Eastman will have the resources to support a world-renowned faculty. While the music world is always changing, one constant is the fact that talented students will always be attracted to studying with outstanding faculty members. This has been true throughout Eastman's history, and it will remain so for as far into the future as we can imagine."

The summer before Rossi returned to Eastman, he recalled visiting Rochester and attending a Jazz Festival concert in the Eastman Theatre with a friend. "When we emerged onto the balcony level of the theatre, my friend's conversation never skipped a beat, because to him, he was simply attending a concert at the local theatre where he grew up. However, I recall being struck by the beauty of this amazing theatre, and feeling incredibly fortunate to be coming back to a very, very special place."

During the interim year between Deans James Undercofler and Douglas Lowry (2006–2007), Rossi led the planning for the Eastman Theatre Renovation and Addition project. Upon his arrival at Eastman in 2007, Dean Lowry asked Rossi to continue to lead the project through to completion in 2010. This included the extensive renovation of the Eastman Theatre (and its renaming as Kodak Hall) and the construction of Eastman's East Wing, which includes the Hatch Recital Hall. This 200-seat hall was intended to be a visual and



acoustical jewel in the crown of Eastman venues, and it has been a great success, used frequently for student, faculty, and guest artist recitals, master classes, and community events. “A beautiful and intimate recital hall was a dream of Eastman faculty members and directors for several decades. I feel very fortunate to have been part of a team of individuals who brought this dream to a reality.”

As he looks to the future, Rossi wants to make certain that Eastman’s facilities are consonant with the excellence of the teaching and music making that occurs within the school. “We were thrilled to completely renovate the main hall in preparation for its dedication as Lowry Hall in October. It was important that this grand space was befitting of the man for whom the space is now named, and also to create a positive first impression for visitors when they enter our school.” Other projects that Rossi plans to pursue include completing the renovation of Messenger Hall, home of the Eastman Community Music School, developing Block F, the land diagonally across from the Eastman Theatre entrance, and renovating existing spaces that are in need of a facelift.

The underlying questions, he says, are, “What improvements will best benefit the way we prepare our students?” and just as important, “how can we develop our property

so it not only benefits Eastman, but also the larger community?” Engagement with the Rochester community has been a major part of Eastman’s activities since its founding by George Eastman, and it continues to play an important part in Dean Rossi’s vision for the school.

He is an enthusiastic supporter of Eastman initiatives that bring music instruction to Rochester city schoolchildren, such as Eastman Pathways and *RocMusic*, a program Rossi was instrumental in founding. “I believe fervently that music’s purpose is to enrich life, and that musicians have a responsibility to enrich the communities in which we live. It is in making a meaningful difference in the lives of people through music, that they will care about music and its future.”

**F**inancial, technological, and aesthetic changes are everywhere in the contemporary musical world, and Dean Rossi knows that Eastman needs not only to stay on top of them, but to lead the dialogue about them. “We must always be vigilant about respecting the mission and values that have made Eastman a truly great school, while simultaneously doing nothing less than our very best to prepare current and future students for meaningful lives in music.”

.....  
 Leading an Eastman tradition:  
 Jamal Rossi hosting the  
 Holiday Sing in the School’s  
 Main Hall (now Lowry Hall).



# Innovative Ensembles

# New Ideas

Eastman-trained musicians are erasing musical boundaries and reshaping the musical world.



.....  
Cello Rock rules! The heavy metal cellos and percussion of Break of Reality in concert: Patrick Laird, Adrian Daurov, Ivan Trevino, and Laura Metcalf.



**O**n January 15, 2015, Eastman's Institute for Music Leadership is sponsoring "How to Succeed in a Changing Musical World." The one-day conference, an initiative of the IML's Paul R. Judy Center, precedes the Chamber Music America National Conference in New York City—and Eastman will be in the forefront.

As he saw more and more symphony orchestras and large musical organizations reduce their ranks or fold entirely, Paul R. Judy, a life trustee of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and former president of its board, came to believe that classical music ensembles needed to transform themselves through artistic innovation in order to survive.

The new paradigm reflects what has been happening

at Eastman since the forming of the IML in 1996. Several of the most successful ensembles working today started out at student groups at Eastman, where they learned the importance of flexibility, diversity, and entrepreneurial imagination:

- **Alarm Will Sound**, a large ensemble devoted to contemporary music, presents themed concerts like *1969*, which incorporate projections, dramatic lighting and other theatrical elements.
- **Break of Reality** brings its classically-based "cello rock" to bars as well as to concert halls.
- **Breaking Winds Bassoon Quartet**, which made its name with a hit YouTube video of Lady Gaga songs, financed its first album with a Kickstarter campaign (see p. 1).



So Eastman's stamp is on this conference, beginning with the keynote address by Dean Jamal Rossi (DMA '87). Eastman alumni are prominent among the speakers: Judith Ricker (BM '76, MM '81, MBA '91) on branding; Steve Haase (BM '99) on marketing; and Darrell Grant (BM '84) on artistic collaboration. Younger alumni are prominently featured in a session on "Chamber Music's New Breed": Emily Wozniak of SoundExChange (MM '14) and Gavin Chuck (MA '96) and Alan Pierson (DMA '06) of Alarm Will Sound.

These Eastman-born groups illustrate the Judy Center's model for innovation in their use of flexible instrumentation, innovative programming, new ways of engaging audiences, performing in nontraditional venues, and use of multimedia or interdisciplinary components like visual projections, video, and theatrical elements. They are not only succeeding in the changing musical world, they're molding the musical world of the future.

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*The Paul R. Judy Center for Applied Research presents "How to Succeed in a Changing Musical World" on Thursday, January 15, in New York City. For more information go to [www.chamber-music.org/2015-national-conference/pre-conference](http://www.chamber-music.org/2015-national-conference/pre-conference).*



.....  
Alarm Will Sound's 1969 blended music, theater, and film to bring the events of a turbulent year to life. The group is shown during a performance of 1969 in Kodak Hall in January 2013.

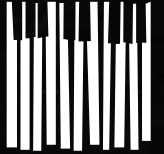




## Eastman In New York

Eastman's presence at the Paul R. Judy Conference in January heralded three performances by Eastman musicians at prominent venues in New York:

EASTMAN  
*in*  
NEW YORK



- On October 28, 2014 in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, pianist **Daria Rabotkina** (DMA '12 and an Artist's Certificate recipient), performed works by Bach, Beethoven, and Schumann. This performance, sponsored by the George D. and Frieda B. Abraham Foundation, was presented in memory of Douglas Lowry.
- On December 4 at The Morgan Library & Museum, professors **Federico Agostini** and **Enrico Elisi** performed an evening of sonatas for violin and piano by Mozart, Brahms, and Beethoven inspired by the Morgan's music manuscript collection.
- And on March 2, 2015, jazz musicians from Eastman will perform at Dizzy's Club as part of the Jazz at Lincoln Center series.





◀ The beloved soprano **Dawn Upshaw** is known for the breadth of her repertoire and the emotional directness of her interpretations. Upshaw recently added another Grammy Award to her collection for *Winter Morning Walks*, a collaboration with composer **Maria Schneider** (MM '85). In addition to a master class on song interpretation (shown here with master's student Hannah Roberts), Upshaw also adjudicated the annual Jessie Kneisel Lieder Competition.

# Gala

## Guests

*They're at the top of the classical music world. They have earned Grammy Awards, Kennedy Center Honors, knighthoods, and much more for their musical artistry. And they were honored guests at Eastman during the spring 2014 semester, performing and passing on their experience and expertise to our students.*



▶ **Roger Vignoles** and **Graham Johnson** are two of today's finest practitioners of the fine art of collaborative pianism. They visited Eastman for master classes with voice students, Vignoles in February and Johnson in March. One of Graham Johnson's sessions with voice students was devoted to the *mélodies* of Francis Poulenc—appropriately enough, many of them were preparing the spring Eastman Opera Theatre production, Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (see p. 8). Vignoles is shown working with Whitney Morrison (top), Johnson at the keyboard accompanying Alicia Ault (bottom).



▶ After winning the Queen Elisabeth Piano Competition in 1952, **Leon Fleisher** was one of the most prominent American pianists for about a decade. His career was undermined in the 1960s by focal dystonia in his right hand, but experimental botox treatments returned the use of both hands in the last decade and revived his recital and recording career. Fleisher's visit to Eastman in February included master classes in solo piano and chamber music, as well as a performance of the Brahms Quintet with the Ying Quartet. Fleisher is shown here in a master class with Jina Jand.



▶ British cellist (and children's book author) **Steven Isserlis** has visited Eastman several times, most recently in February. In a Hatch Hall master class, he encourages Sam DeCaprio as he performs a movement from a Bach sonata.

▶ **James Galway**, who taught briefly at Eastman in the early 1970s, before his solo career took off, visited Rochester once more in March as a guest on the radio series *From the Top* (see p. 6). "The Man with the Golden Flute" also gave a master class to flute students; he is shown here with Jennifer Zhou (BM '14).

# “ACTS OF C

.....  
A man returns to a literal ghost town in Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon's *Comala*, performed by Rochester PUSH Physical Theatre, Eastman BroadBand, and Pittsburgh's Alia Musica.



# REACTIVITY”

## Eastman Composers — and Friends — Go on the Road

**W**hile new music has always been plentiful on the Eastman campus, this year two faculty composers collaborated with dance and theater groups to take some of their significant recent projects, along with music by Eastman students, far beyond Gibbs Street.

On January 24, *Comala*, by Associate Professor of Composition Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, was presented in Kilbourn Hall by Eastman BroadBand, Pittsburgh’s Alia Musica new-music ensemble, and Rochester’s PUSH Physical Theatre. The forces were led by conductor Federico Garcia, the artistic director of Alia Musica.

*Comala*, which was nominated for the 2011 Pulitzer Prize in music, is based on the Mexican writer Juan Rulfo’s celebrated novel, *Pedro Páramo*. The novel’s atmosphere of magical realism is reflected in Zohn-Muldoon’s music: the time-pressed living characters, oppressed by the passing of time, express themselves in normal speech, while the dead characters, free of time’s constraints, reflect endlessly in song.

*Comala* was described by the Pulitzer committee as an “ambitious cantata that translates into music an influential work of Latin American literature; giving voice to two cultures that intersect with the term ‘America.’” The Kilbourn Hall presentation began a tour that also included performances in Cincinnati; Lexington, Kentucky; and Pittsburgh.

Eastman’s biannual Benson Forum explores the nature of creativity across artistic disciplines, matching music making with the creation of art, dance, and other areas. For this year’s Benson Forum, Assistant Professor of Italian Elena Bellina and Professor of Composition Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez joined forces for “On a Winter’s Night a Traveler . . .”, a celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Italian writer Italo Calvino (1923–1985). Sanchez-Gutierrez and six other Eastman composers—Ricardo Acosta, Evan Henry, Daniel Kohane, Zach Sheets, Aristeia Mellos, and Daniel Pesca—wrote music inspired by Calvino’s lecture series *Six Memos for the Next Millennium*.



For the 2014 Benson Forum, actors from Kairos Italy Theater enacted the words of Italo Calvino, and musicians from Eastman wrote and played music inspired by them.

The music, also performed by Eastman BroadBand, alternated with staged scenes from Calvino’s fantasy novel *The Cloven Viscount* performed by members of New York’s Kairos Italy Theater. Sanchez-Gutierrez described the event as “a fluid act of creativity that constantly transformed itself.” It was performed first at Eastman’s Hatch Hall, then at New York University’s Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimo.



During the Women in Music Festival, Jennifer Higdon, a flutist herself, guided members of the Fingerlakes Flutes in a master class performance of her *Steeley Pause*. Higdon, right, is shown with flutist Liisa Ambegaokar Grigorov (BM '85).

**ON THE WEB** A Facebook group is devoted to Women in Music advocacy, and Eastman alumni who were involved in past festivals are encouraged to share their stories about projects that have originated or grown from it: collaborations with composers, recordings, research projects, and more: [www.esm.rochester.edu/wmf/share/](http://www.esm.rochester.edu/wmf/share/). The site includes details about all the previous Women in Music Festivals.

## A Popular Festival Takes a Final Bow

This was the final year for Eastman's popular Women in Music Festival, which has presented music by women composers and saluted the accomplishments of women in all areas of music since 2004. This year the festival's composer-in-residence was possibly its biggest name guest yet: Pulitzer Prize winner Jennifer Higdon, one of the most frequently performed living American composers. She gave several days of coaching and master classes and attended an all-Higdon chamber music concert, as well as a performance of her popular *blue cathedral* by the Greater Rochester Women's Philharmonic. Other festival guests included the Kaplan Piano Duo and Canadian harpist/composer Caroline Lizotte. Eastman student and faculty performers were joined by counterparts at Nazareth College and SUNY Geneseo.

Festival director and assistant professor of accompanying Sylvie Beaudette (DMA '93) said in the festival program: "Thanks to all of you ... for celebrating women's achievements with us. Encourage your daughters to become composers, discover women composers through

repertoire and music history, and support performers and ensembles who include these great works in their programs. Now it is your turn ..."

## Eastman and All That Jazz

Eastman's involvement in the Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival, which ran this year from June 20 through 28, was extensive, with plenty of performances featuring student and faculty artists and alumni. Eastman Community Music School faculty guitarist Bob Sneider has been dubbed "the hardest-working guy at the jazz festival"; he proved it again this year with his nightly jam sessions at the Rochester Plaza Bar and Grill and hosting the Jazz Workshops for Aspiring Music Students.

Other highlights by Eastman faculty members included performances by Bill Dobbins (in a concert of the music of Dave Brubeck), pianist Harold Danko, bassist Jeff Campbell (MM '92), and trumpeter Clay Jenkins.





The members of Earth Science, performing at the 2014 Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival. Left to right: Wendy Eisenberg (BM '14), guitar; Brandon Choi (BM '16), trumpet; Aaron Staebell (BM '05, MM '10), drums; Tyrone Allen II (BM '17), bass; Andrew Links (BM '16), keyboard.



Modeled on Venezuela's successful El Sistema, RocMusic offers free music instruction to Rochester City School District Students three afternoons a week. RocMusic is now in its third year.

Three Jazz Honors Units student combos performed on the Jazz Street Stage.

On June 23, Eastman presented its annual ESM/XRIJF Gerry Niewood (BM '70) Jazz Scholarship Concert, featuring the Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra under Howard Potter and the Eastman Jazz Ensemble under Bill Dobbins, with guest artist John Sneider, trumpet (Bob's brother). The concert also saluted the 2014 Jazz Scholarship winners: pianist-composer Max Berlin of Huntington Woods, Michigan, and trumpeter Emanuel Burks of Amherst, New York. Both entered Eastman this

fall, Max to study jazz composition and Emanuel (also known by his stage name, Chunka Amaré) as a trumpet performance major.

## Reaching Out To Rochester

"For the enrichment of community life" is more than just the phrase carved on the façade of the Eastman Theatre; it has been a challenge and a guide to generations of Eastman students. One of George Eastman's ideals was to provide a place where Rochesterians could study, make, and enjoy music. Eastman's students, faculty members, and alumni want to bring music into the community and ensure its survival with future generations.

Eastman has a legacy of forging partnerships with schools, of creating off-campus concert series, and of volunteering with local organizations. Some are of long standing, like the Community Music School's Pathways program in Rochester city schools, directed by Jan Angus (MM '72); others are new, like RocMusic, a program based on Venezuela's El Sistema which provides tuition-free music and string instruction to children in Rochester, directed by Alexander Pena (BM '10, MM '13).

Eastman's Community Engagement can be seen in detail on a new page on the Eastman School website: [www.esm.rochester.edu/engagement/](http://www.esm.rochester.edu/engagement/). This page lists more than 30 examples of Community Engagement, Education, Concert Series, and Festivals that show how Eastman enriches the musical life of Rochester.



Chaya Czernowin

## Czernowin Visits Eastman

This year's Howard Hanson Visiting Professor of Composition, the Israeli-born composer Chaya Czernowin, who visited the school from April 7 to 11. Along with master classes and coachings, Czernowin, who is the Walter Bigelow Rosen Professor of Music at Harvard University, attended a Kilbourn Hall concert of her music performed by Musica Nova. Czernowin has been praised for the emotional intensity of her music theatre compositions and works for chamber ensembles. The Hanson Visiting Professorship is funded by Eastman's Hanson Institute for American Music.



*Merry Mount* in Kodak Hall: the Eastman Rochester Chorus, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Michael Christie, and soloists (from left to right): Charles Austin, Richard Zeller, and Eastman students Andrea McGaugh and Matthew Valverde.

## Puritans Take Carnegie Hall

Howard Hanson’s opera *Merry Mount* has been rarely performed since its 1934 debut at the Metropolitan Opera, but last spring the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Eastman Rochester Chorus (prepared by its director William Weinert), and a large cast of professional and student soloists—250 performers in all—brought this story of religious repression among 17th-century puritans back to New York City, as part of Carnegie Hall’s Spring for Music Festival.

Critical reaction to the opera itself was mixed, ranging from “turgid, bloated, and bombastic” to “galvanizing,

gorgeous, and brutal,” but critics agreed that the performers, led by conductor Michael Christie, gave an exciting and colorful performance of Hanson’s score. The performance was broadcast live over New York’s WQXR-FM. (The photograph shown was taken at a concert given in Kodak Hall in April, before the tour.)

There was an additional Eastman connection in the Spring for Music Festival: the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and May Festival Chorus under James Conlon presented the oratorio *The Ordering of Moses* (1937) by Robert Nathaniel Dett (MA ’32), a prominent African-American musician of the early 20th century.



A post-graduate pose in front of the Main Building by Ivana Martinic, who had just received a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance.

## “Each one of you is so important”

On Sunday, May 18, more than 250 Eastman students (including Ivana Martinic, shown at left) earned the right to add “ESM ’14” after their names, as Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctoral degree recipients at our 89th annual Commencement.

Samuel Hope (BM ’67), Executive Director Emeritus of the National Association of Schools of Music, who served as NASM executive director from 1975 to 2013, was this year’s guest speaker and recipient of our Distinguished Alumnus Award. “You are able to use the special gift of music that musicians have,” he told the 2014 graduates, “a



Eastman welcomed Itzhak Perlman, possibly the world's best-known violinist, for a concert on February 22, performing Max Bruch's G Minor Concerto with the Philharmonia led by Neil Varon. A sold-out Kodak Hall also witnessed as Perlman received an Honorary Doctorate in Music from the University of Rochester, presented by University President Joel Seligman and Eastman Dean Jamal Rossi.

gift that comes for reasons we know not, moves through time in ways we know not, and has effects that we know, but also effects that we know not. That is why each one of you is so important. You have special powers to connect people to the glorious mysteries of music in ways that you will see and in ways that you will see not.

“May the lessons of music—obvious and embedded—continue to reveal their multiple powers to each of you. May they inspire your minds, spirits, and decision-making as doors open over a lifetime to the great work of creative action that lies ahead.”

Associate Professor of Music Theory William Marvin (PhD '02) received the University's Edward Peck Curtis Teaching Award, and Eastman's Eisenhart Teaching Award winner was professor of English Jonathan Baldo (a previous winner of the Edward Peck Curtis Award). Jamal Rossi led his first Commencement as Joan and Martin Messenger Dean of the Eastman School of Music; he had been named to that position the previous week. “You graduate with more than a degree and more than an education,” Dean Rossi told the graduates. “You graduate with the power to transform the world.”

## Eastman Alumni Win 2014 Grammys

Four Eastman alumni won awards in the 56th Annual Grammy Awards competition, held January 26 in Los Angeles.

Mastering engineer **Bob Ludwig** (BM '66, MA '01) won a Grammy in each of the four categories in which he was nominated: Album of the Year and Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical, for Daft Punk's *Random Access Memories*; Record of the Year for *Get Lucky* by Daft Punk and Pharrell Williams; and Best Historical Album for the Rolling Stones' *Charlie is My Darling—Ireland 1965*.

**Maria Schneider** (MM '85) received the Best Contemporary Classical Composition Grammy for her song cycle “Winter Morning Walks” from the album *Winter Morning Walks*, which featured a recent Eastman guest, soprano Dawn Upshaw (see p. 18).

**Martha Cluver** (BM '03) and **Eric Dudley** (BM '01) are members of the vocal group Roomful of Teeth, which won the Grammy for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance for their self-titled debut album.

Earlier in January, Eastman graduate **Kent Knappenberger** (MM '89) was announced as the recipient of the Recording Academy and Grammy Foundation's inaugural Music Educator Award.

## A Notable Fall Semester



**André Previn**

Eastman's fall 2014 semester included notable guests and exciting events. In early October, composer-conductor-pianist extraordinaire **André Previn** received an honorary doctorate from the University and heard the premiere of his latest work, *Music for Wind Orchestra (No Strings Attached)* played by the EWE before a full house at Kilbourn Hall.

**Eastman Weekend 2014**, from October 17–19, brought alumni together to celebrate many of the great things that are “Essentially Eastman” (see back cover). The following week, on October 26, Jamal Rossi was invested as Eastman's Joan and Martin Messenger Dean.

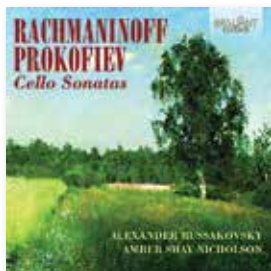
From October 23 through 26, the **EROI Festival** presented a look and listen at the relationship between silent film and live organ music, including a showing of *La Passion de Jeanne d'Arc* (1928).

And from November 6 through 9, **Eastman Opera Theatre** presented Benjamin Britten's comic masterpiece *Albert Herring*.

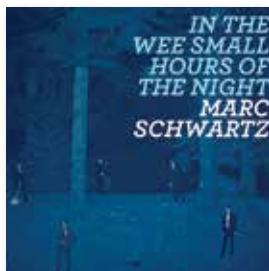
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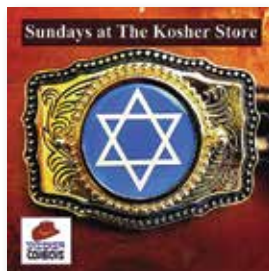
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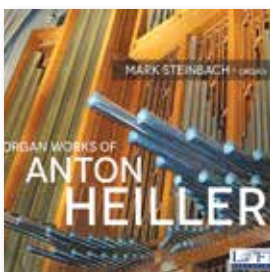
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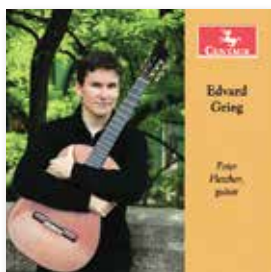
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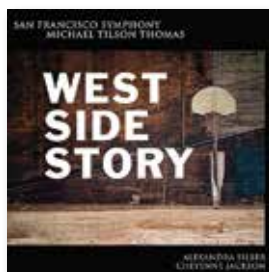
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## MARGARET KAMPMEIER

### 1 American Tapestry: Duos for Flute and Piano

Bridge 9411

Margaret (BM '85) joins flutist Susan Rotholz for a celebration of American music for flute and piano—Aaron Copland's Duo, Robert Beaser's Variations, and sonatas by Robert Muczynski and Lowell Liebermann, all tonal and eclectic in nature.

## AMBER SHAY NICHOLSON

### 2 Rachmaninoff and Prokofiev: Cello Sonatas

Brilliant Classics 94771

Amber (BM '99, MM '01, DMA '04), who won Eastman's 2001 Concerto Competition and now teaches at the University of Southern Mississippi, joins cellist Alexander Russakovsky in two of the great cello sonatas of the Russian repertoire, along with two encore pieces by Glazunov and Tchaikovsky.

## MARC SCHWARTZ

### 3 In the Wee Small Hours of the Night

CDBaby

In his debut album, New York saxophonist Marc

(MM '13) revisits some great standard repertoire and a few lesser-known jazz titles. Other musicians on the album include trumpeter Adam Horowitz (BM '09), guitarist Ben Bishop (MM '10), bassist Fumi Tomita (BM '14), and drummer Jeff Krol (BM '13).

## YIDDISH COWBOYS

### 4 Sundays at the Koshers Store

Drapkin Technology  
(available at CDBaby)

Yippie Yai Oy Vey! Clarinetist Michael Drapkin (BM '79) leads this country/Klezmer band in a program of Jewish wedding and dance music, offering fresh takes on classic numbers like "Raisins and Almonds" and "Miserlou."

## MCCORMICK PERCUSSION GROUP

### 5 Soli

Parma Records 7884

Soli features new compositions by Baljinder Sekhon (PhD '13) and Matt Barber (MA '09), written for soprano Jamie Jordan (MA '09), who is also heard in all the works on this CD. Jean Barraqué's *Chant après chant* also

features pianist Corey Holt-Merenda (MM '88). McCormick Percussion Group is based at the University of South Florida, where Baljinder teaches composition and electronic music.

## MARK STEINBACH

### 6 Organ Works of Anton Heiller

Loft 1136

Mark (MM '87, DMA '90), who is Brown University Organist, recently released this CD of music by the great blind Austrian organist. The program include Heiller's recently discovered Passacaglia (1940) and other works played on an ideal "period instrument": the 1962 von Beckerath instrument of St. Paul's Cathedral in Pittsburgh. The CD also includes Mark's extensive program notes.

## PETER FLETCHER

### 7 Edvard Grieg

Centaur Records CRC 3306

Sweet and nostalgic favorites by the Norwegian master, arranged for solo guitar and performed by Peter (BM '95). The selections include excerpts from

the *Peer Gynt* and *Holberg Suites* and the *Lyric Pieces* for piano.

## ROBERT DUSEK AND BRYAN PEZZONE

### 8 Runes: A Piano Fantasy

Ravello Records

Bryan performs music of Robert (both are BM '84) on this new CD. It has been praised as "an immersive and cohesive listening experience," "ultra-cool," and "not what you might expect from a classical recording." *Runes* is the first collaboration between Bryan and Robert in 25 years; the CD includes many enhanced features, including downloadable pdfs of the music.

## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

### 9 Bernstein: West Side Story

SFS Media

This lavish 2-CD presentation of the classic Bernstein/Sondheim musical, recorded in concert in 2013, includes Broadway stars Cheyenne Jackson and Alexandra Silber as Tony and Maria ... and soprano Julia

Bullock (BM '09). Julia is billed only as "A Girl"—but the Girl gets to sing the haunting "Somewhere." Julia's rendition was popular on YouTube weeks before the official release of the CD, which immediately went to #1 on the classical charts.

## STEPHANIE SANT'AMBROGIO

### 10 Brahms: The Violin Sonatas

MSR 1483

Stephanie (MM '85) performs Brahms' three sonatas and the Scherzo from the "FAE" Sonata with pianist James Winn. *Gramophone* called it "a superb new recording ... [Stephanie and James] pay meticulous attention to matters of phrasing and interplay."

*Do you have music or performances on a recent or forthcoming CD? Notes wants to know! Send promo copies to Eastman Notes, Office of Communications, Eastman School of Music, 26 Gibbs Street, Rochester, NY 14604; or just alert us that it is available.*

# { ALUMNI NOTES }

## 1940s

**Robert Thayer** (BM '49) retired in July 2012 after a career of more than 50 years in music teaching and administration. Following service as music executive at SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music and Bowling Green State University's College of Musical Arts, during the past decade Robert has filled post-retirement engagements as music administrator at DePauw University, the University of Connecticut, Lawrence University, and Florida Gulf Coast University. He has been awarded honorary membership in the National Association of Schools of Music, recognition as an "individual of high professional qualification."

## 1950s

**John Beck** (BM '55, MM '62) went to New York in May to hear the Rochester Philharmonic's Carnegie Hall performance of Howard Hanson's opera *Merry Mount* (see p. 23). While there, he writes, "I stayed an extra day and organized a lunch with all of my former students who work in or around New York. The photo is from the lunch on May 8. A few students could not make the lunch . . . but the ones in the picture are a good representation of former Eastman percussionists who are doing well in the Big Apple. From left to right: **Billy Miller** (BM '83), **Tom Nazziola** (BM '88), **Leigh Stevens** (BM '75), **Justin Diciocco** (BM '63), **Dean Witten** (BM '73), **Howard Joines** (BM '82), **Ingrid Gordon** (BM '92), **John Beck**, **Ellen Beck**, **Dave Ratajczak** (BM '80), **Wally Usiatynski** (BM '79). Not pictured is **Joe Tompkins** (BM '92)."

**Vincent Frohne** (MM '59, PhD '63) was recently



1 **John Beck** (BM '55, MM '62)

invited to write a review and preface for the treatise *Origins and Nature of Notre Dame Modal Polyphony in the 12th Century* by E. Frederick Flindell. Vincent has almost completed his book *Aesthetics and Creativity in the 20th Century*, as well as his String Quartet No. 2, dedicated to the Juilliard String Quartet.

**Edward Pettingill** (BM '54) and **Esther (Freelove) Pettingill** (BM '62) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 22, 2014. Esther is president of the Binghamton (NY) Township Historical Society and organist/choir director of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Edward recently retired from the Binghamton Philharmonic after 48 years. He still plays violin and viola, tunes pianos, and volunteers with the Binghamton Zoo and the Town of Binghamton Fire Company. They have four children and 10 grandchildren.

**Lewis Rowell** (BM '55, PhD '58) celebrated his 80th birthday with a concert by faculty members of the Indiana University School of Music. Lewis is Professor Emeritus of Music Theory, Ethnomusicology, and

India Studies. Among the works by Lewis performed on the concert was *Songs of Autumn*, written in 1956 for **Annette Johansson** (BM '55)—who returned to perform them.

*All Quiet on the Western Front*, the opera by **Nancy Van de Vate** ('52), had its full American premiere on May 24 at Roulette in New York City. *The New York Times* praised Nancy's "skillfully wrought score."

**George Walker** (DMA '56 and '57) has seen numerous recent recordings and performances of his music. Emmanuel Feldman recorded his Cello Sonata for Delos Records; the New Jersey Symphony commissioned his Sinfonia No. 4, which was also performed by the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and National Symphonies and performed at the Cabrillo Festival. The National Symphony included George's popular *Lyric for Strings* in a series of public school concerts, and his *Pageant and Proclamation* was played by the Santa Fe Symphony. In May, George was nominated for the New Jersey Hall of Fame in the Arts and Letters category. The Pulitzer Prize winner shared his nominations with sculptor Alexander Calder,

photographer Alfred Steiglitz, and TV news anchor Brian Williams, among others.

## 1960s

**Joyce Catalfano** (BM '65) and **Liisa Ambegaokar Grigorov** (BM '85), of the Ithaca-based ensemble Fingerlakes Flutes, were joined by Elizabeth Shuhan and Stephanie Dumais for two performances of Jennifer Higdon's flute quartet *Steeley Pause* (1988) during Eastman's tenth Women in Music Festival, March 24–29 (see p. 22).

**Richard Reber** (BM '60, MM '62) retired this year after 50 years at the University of Kansas. Richard taught private piano, piano literature, and seminars in performance, research, and pedagogy. He served as director of KU's Piano Division for a total

of 19 years working with such artists-in-residence as Aaron Copland and George Crumb.

## 1970s

**Stan Kingsley Day** (MA '75) composed a new score for Shakespeare's *The Tempest* for a production last winter at Chicago's City Lit Theater. Stan is Senior Editor for the Department of University Relations at Northwestern University.

**Phil Hildreth** (BM '77) is Director of Music of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers, Florida. He conducts the choir and a music team for each Sunday service.

In April, **Geary Larrick** (MM '70) performed fifteen of his own compositions for marimba, composed between 1975 and 2013, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Stevens Point, WI. His article "African American History and the Marimba" was published in the Spring 2014, *National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors (NACWPI) Journal*.

**Hollis Thoms** (PhD candidate '77–'79) celebrated his 65th year with numerous premieres, publications and exhibits, including three premieres by his children. On February 24, **Jonas Thoms** (BM '06), instructor of horn at Wright State University (OH), premiered *Lauds*, joined by fellow members of the WSU Brass Quintet. On February

## Send your news!

Do you have an announcement you'd like to share with your fellow alumni? Send your personal and professional news to Notes, Office of Communications, Eastman School of Music, 26 Gibbs Street, Rochester, NY 14604.

Fax: 585-274-1089

E-mail: [Eastman-Notes@esm.rochester.edu](mailto:Eastman-Notes@esm.rochester.edu)

We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and length. The deadline for the Spring/Summer 2015 issue of Notes is May 15, 2015.

## { ALUMNI NOTES }

25, Jason Thoms, music director of Concordia Camerata at Concordia College, premiered *Eight Poems of Emily Dickinson* for mixed choir and piano four hands. Oboist **Sonja (Thoms) Winkler** (BM '06), premiered *Lyric 2* with IKTUS Percussion Ensemble on a program of the Baltimore Composers Forum.

### 1980s

Pianist **Darrell Grant** (BM '84) performed at the Miles Davis Birthday Celebration at Tula's Jazz Club in Seattle; in the Art of Jazz series with flugelhornist Dmitri Matheny in Bellingham, WA on May 25; and in "He Said. She Said." with vocalists Marilyn Keller and Jeff Baker at the Wilsonville (OR) Festival of Arts.

**Jacqueline Leclair** (BM '88) has been granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Oboe at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University. On August 1, 2014, Dr. Leclair became one of the School's two Associate Deans. She also serves as the Schulich School's Woodwind Area Chair.

*The Lotus Pond*, the most recent CD by oboist **Cynthia Green Libby** (DMA '83), was featured in the *International Double Reed Society and International Alliance for Women in Music Journals* and on NPR. Cynthia, who is Professor of Oboe and World Music at Missouri State University, will premiere a work by John Presson with oboist Yu Hao in Qingdao, China, in May 2015.

**Akamel Parwez** (PhD '81) was the bass-baritone soloist in his *Haiku Triptych: Three Haiku of Basho*, sung in the original Japanese in a "Composer's Voice" concert at Jan Hus



Soprano **Renée Fleming** (MM '83) sent us this photograph and a brief note: "The attached photo is of a recording session I had on April 25 for my upcoming holiday disc for release this October. All 5 of us on the left are ESM grads: flutist **Lou Marini**, me, **David Finck** (BM '80), **David Ratajczak** (BM '80), and **Lee Musiker** (BM '81), who arranged the charts for us." Also in the photo are executive producer **David Lai**, audio producer **David Frost**, and sound engineer **Isaiah Abolin**. *Renée Fleming: Christmas in New York*, released October 14, also features **Wynton Marsalis**, **Chris Botti**, and **Rufus Wainright**, among others.

Presbyterian Church in New York.

"All-American Tenor" **Mark Thomsen** (MM '83) was the subject of a profile in the January 2014 issue of *Classical Singer*. Mark discussed his last-minute substitution at the Met as **Don Ottavio** in *Don Giovanni*, his new summer training program for singers in Italy, the International Opera Performing Experience, and the challenge of balancing his career and his family life.

### 1990s

Last January, **Andrés Mojica** (BM '92) performed **Alexandre Guilmant's** Symphony No. 1 for Organ and Orchestra, and **Handel's Concerto in B flat major** with the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra under the direction of conductor **Maximiano Valdes**. **Andrés**, who is the organist and organ professor at the University of Puerto Rico, is pursuing his DMA in organ performance at the University of Kansas.



Composer **Robert Paterson** (BM '95) recently released *Winter Songs*, a collection of five song cycles on American Modern Recordings, produced by Grammy-winner **Adam Abeshouse**. *The New York Times* called the disc a "beautiful, witty and sometimes utterly desolate collection," comparing **Rob** to **Schumann** and **Schubert**.

On June 1 at St. Peter's Church in New York, saxophonist **Chad Smith** (BM '98) performed a 100th birthday tribute to **Al Gallodoro**, the legendary classical and jazz saxophonist and clarinetist whose credits included the NBC Symphony under **Arturo Toscanini**

and the Paul Whiteman Orchestra. **Gallodoro**, who died in 2008, played the opening clarinet flourish of *Rhapsody in Blue* in the 1945 movie of the same name. He claimed to have played **Gershwin's** piece more than 10,000 times.

### 2000s

Two Eastman alumni were winners in the 2014 Lotte Lenya Competition, sponsored by the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music and held at Eastman on April 12. **Natalie Ballenger** (BM '11) won the Third Prize of \$7,500, and **Diana Rose Becker** (BM '07) received a Lys Symonette Award of \$3,500 for her performance of an aria from **Ned Rorem's** *Our Town*.

**Julia Bullock** (BM '09) won the **Walter W. Naumburg Foundation's** International Vocal Competition on March 14. **Julia** received a \$15,000 cash award, two concerts in New York, and recital performances elsewhere. **Julia** had made

her New York recital debut just two days before; *Times* reviewer **Anthony Tommasini** praised her "impressive artistry" and her "plush, full, and nuanced" singing. She also won the 2012 Young Concert Artists International Auditions and holds the **Lindemann Vocal Chair** of Young Concert Artists.

**Vera Ivanova's** (PhD '07) *Three Studies in Uneven Meters* was performed by pianist **Brenda Tom** at a concert by Earplay in San Francisco in May. The *Financial Times* called the piece "Superb . . . Six minutes of keyboard bliss."

**Christopher "Kit" Jacobson** (MM '06) is Chapel Organist at Duke University. He will accompany the choirs in all services, tours and recordings, as well as work with the Divinity School Chapel in sacred music. For the past five years, he was Associate Organist and Choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Columbia, SC.

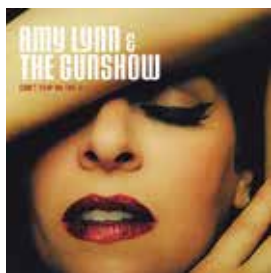
**Hannah Lash** (BM '04) is composer-in-residence of the Birmingham (AL) Symphony Orchestra; her *Nymphs* was premiered May 2 by the orchestra under **Courtney Lewis**. **Hannah** is also a member of the Yale University music faculty. She has received commissions from the Fromm Foundation, the Naumberg Foundation, and the Aspen Music Festival, among others.

**Michelle Rae Martin-Atwood** (MM '01, DMA '09) received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching from the State University of New York. **Michelle** joined the faculty of SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music in 2010 and has taught classes including Music Theory, Aural Skills, History of Sacred Music, and Applied Organ; she also teaches

privately and performs frequently, including a recent performance of Duruflé's Requiem with the Regina (Saskatchewan) Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra.

Continuing good news from recent graduates of W. Peter Kurau's horn studio: **Julie Fagan Thayer** (BM '04) is the new Fourth Horn of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra; and **Jaelyn Rainey** (BM '09) was recently named Third Horn of the Atlanta Symphony.

**Cynthia Johnston Turner** (DMA '04), director of wind ensembles at Cornell University since 2004, is the new director of bands at the University of Georgia. In addition to conducting the UGA Wind Ensemble, Cindy oversees the entire UGA band program and serves as head of graduate wind conducting. At Cornell, Cindy twice led the Wind Ensemble at the College Band Directors National Association's Eastern Division Conference, and organized biennial trips with the ensemble to Costa Rica.



A new pop release features no fewer than six Eastman alumni: *Don't Trip on the Glitter* by Amy Lynn & The Gunshow (CDBaby). The lady of the title is **Amy Lynn Zanetto**; also performing are Amy's husband **Alex Hamlin** (BM '00) on baritone sax, **Mike Ross** (BM '04) on drums, **Ben Gallina** (BM '04) on bass, **Ed Rosenberg** (BM '03) on tenor sax, and **Jeff**

**Hermanson** (BM '99) on trumpet.

## 2010s

**Alexander Pena** (BM '10, MM '13) is the program director and lead teacher for the RocMusic Collaborative, a tuition-free community program modeled on Venezuela's El Sistema (see p. 23). In May, RocMusic sponsored its First Annual Benefit Recital and Instrument Drive, and a Summer Music Camp.

**Erica Seguine** (BM '09) was commissioned by the New York Youth Symphony's First Music program to write a jazz composition to be premiered at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola at Jazz at Lincoln Center on December 8, 2014.

## IN MEMORIAM

### 1930s

**Thais (Marasco) Gates** (BM '36), January 2014  
**Joshua Morton Missal** (BM '37, MM '38), September 2013  
**H. Owen Reed** (PhD '39), January 2014

### 1940s

**William A. Adam** (MA '47), November 2013  
**Raymond M. Bauer** (BM '43, MM '50), January 2014  
**Gene Conrad** (Gene Roberts, MA '42), November 2013  
**Henry C. Gulick** (BM '47, MM '48), May 2014  
**Esther (Amsler) Heller** (MA '41), November 2013  
**Elizabeth (Beeson) Helms** (BM '44), December 2013  
**Kathryn (Ponsford) Koehler** (BM '49, MM '53), March 2014  
**Muriel (Fairbanks) Mickel** (MM '41), February 2014  
**Robert W. Mols** (BM '43, MM '46, PhD '62), November 2013  
**Emily (Lowenfels) Oppenheimer** (BM '43), March 2014

## TRIBUTES

# Donald Shetler

Donald Shetler, professor emeritus of music education, died on May 31 in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

Born in 1926, Dr. Shetler received degrees in music education from East Tennessee State University and the University of Michigan. Before coming to Eastman, he directed music education in the Ann Arbor Public Schools for ten years, and then moved to Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He was also active as a conductor, and served as assistant cellist and principal conductor of the Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra.

Donald Shetler taught at Eastman from 1965 to 1988 and was former chair of Eastman's music education department. From 1965 to 1971, he was founder and first director of the pioneer Suzuki Talent Education Program, "Project Super," and he was recognized internationally for his research in prenatal musical response.

Professor Shetler was the first Eastman faculty member to be awarded a University of Rochester Bridging Fellowship, which supports interdisciplinary study by faculty members in schools across the University. He organized the Cluster for Music Cognition and Development with the University's

# Herman Crews

The Eastman community was saddened to learn of the sudden death of Herman Crews on Sunday morning, July 13, 2014.

Herman was a beloved member of our Eastman community, working for the past eight years as a furniture and property mover in Facilities and Auxiliary Operations. Prior to that, Herman was a technician in the Orthotics and Prosthetics department at the University of Rochester Medical Center. He had given over 28 years of service to the University.

Herman was born in Ozark, Alabama

on June 15, 1944, and moved to Rochester with his family when he was 11 years old. A graduate of East High School and the University of Rochester, he served in the United States Navy for 20 years. His hobbies included photography and he was an enthusiastic baseball, basketball, and football fan.

Herman had an infectious smile, a quick sense of humor, an extraordinarily positive outlook, and a special devotion to our school, especially our students. Herman Crews is survived by his brother Eugene, his son Michael, and numerous nieces and nephews.

After his retirement, Donald Shetler moved to South Carolina, where he established a consulting service and became Adjunct Professor of Music at Charleston Southern University. He also remained active as a performer, and founded the chamber ensemble "Fiori da Musica."

In 2009, the Eastman School established the first Donald J. Shetler Prize in Music Education, for a graduate student who exhibits outstanding musical performance, scholarship, and leadership in the music education profession.

Herman had an infectious smile, a quick sense of humor, an extraordinarily positive outlook, and a special devotion to our school, especially our students.

Herman Crews is survived by his brother Eugene, his son Michael, and numerous nieces and nephews.



A prolific composer and arranger and a beloved teacher and colleague, Fred Sturm led Eastman's jazz department for a decade.

TRIBUTE

## Fred Sturm

Fred Sturm, who was chair of Eastman's Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media (JCM) Department from 1991 to 2002, died on August 24 at his home in Wisconsin. He was 63 years old.

Sturm studied at Lawrence University, where he conducted the school's first jazz ensemble and received his Bachelor of Music degree in 1973. Sturm was jazz studies director at Lawrence University for 14 years beginning in 1977. The Lawrence Jazz Ensemble received several *DownBeat* awards under his direction.

Sturm received his Master of Music degree in jazz studies at Eastman in 1984 and joined the Eastman faculty in 1991. At Eastman, Sturm chaired the JCM Department, directed the Jazz Ensemble and Studio Orchestra, and coordinated the jazz composition and arranging and film scoring programs. Under his direction, the Eastman Jazz Ensemble received four *DownBeat* awards. Sturm's family also includes Eastman graduates: his son Ike and daughter-in-law Misty (both BM '00, MM '03) and his daughter Madeline (BM '02).

## Rita Shane and Derrick Smith

This past fall, Eastman was saddened by the deaths of two beloved voice professors: Rita Shane and Derrick Smith.

In 2002, he returned to Lawrence University, where he won the University Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2005 and was the Kimberly-Clark Professor of Music and director of jazz and improvisational music.

Sturm worked with jazz ensembles and radio orchestras in Germany, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Scotland, and Norway; as clinician at national educational conferences and festivals; and as composer-in-residence for school and university music programs. In 2003, he was awarded the ASCAP/IAJE Commission in Honor of Quincy Jones. He received the *DownBeat* Jazz Education Achievement Award in 2010.

"Fred Sturm was a beloved colleague whose music and educational philosophy reflected his kindness and artistry," said his Eastman colleague Harold Danko. "During a long career and despite hardships and suffering his masterful knowledge and leadership empowered his peers and students in following their own musical paths. He will be missed by all but we were indeed blessed to know him."

The next edition of *Eastman Notes* will feature tributes for both of these much-missed performers and teachers.

- George F. Perkins**  
(BM '44, MM '47),  
February 2014
- Lillian (Dowling) Perkins**  
(MA '47), March 2014
- Marvin J. Rabin**  
(MM '48), December 2013
- Gene Roy**  
(Gene Jacox, '47),  
December 2013
- Lucille (Fietz) Schultz**  
(MA '47), November 2013
- Richard F. Shell**  
(BM '41, MM '46),  
November 2013
- William H. Sprigg** (BM '45,  
MM '50), April 2014
- Eugene J. Ulrich**  
(MM '49, PhD '55),  
January 2014

**1950s**

- Mary (Williams) Beasley**  
(BM '51), June 2013
- James A. Bloy**  
(MM '53), December 2013
- Rosalie M. Bond**  
(BM '59), March 2014
- Corlis J. Driggers**  
(BM '53), November 2013
- Blaine E. Edlefsen**  
(MM '53, DMA '66),  
December 2013
- Theodore C. Frazier**  
(BM '50, MM '56),  
March 2014
- Zilpha M. Friedman**  
(BM '50, MM '51),  
May 2014
- Joseph B. Henry**  
(BM '52, MM '53, DMA  
'56), June 2014
- Gladys Jean Iler**  
(BM '58, MM '66),  
January 2014
- M. Eloise Jarvis**  
(MM '54, PhD '59),  
October 2014
- Joseph W. Jenkins**  
(BM '50, MM '51),  
January 2014
- Donald F. Jensen**  
(BM '50, MM '52),  
November 2013
- Roy Henry Johnson**  
(BM '56, MM '57),  
February 2014
- Gloria (Brown) Jones**  
'50), October 2013
- Mary (Fisher) Landrum**  
(MA '50), February 2014
- Ralph H. Lane**  
(BA '56, MM '66),  
February 2014
- Joan (Beals) Lee**  
(BM '54), April 2014

- Alfred J. Mazzocchio**  
(MM '50), November  
2013
- Margaret (Brolly)  
McCrystal**  
(BM '55, MSE '79),  
February 2014
- Kenneth Murley**  
(BM '59, MM '61),  
February 2014
- Jean (Richardson)  
Wadsworth**  
(MA '59), November 2013
- Doralee Ruth (Clowes)  
White** (MA '50),  
November 2013
- Barbara Mary (Roark)  
Williams** (BM '58),  
November 2013
- Joseph T. Work**  
(BM '53, MM '54),  
February 2014

**1960s**

- Carolyn (Saulenas)  
Anderson** (BM '62),  
February 2014
- Karen Lorraine Andrie**  
(BM '65), January 2014
- Donald Kenneth Gilbert**  
(BM '62), April 2014
- James L. Preiss**  
(BM '63), January 2014
- Sandra L. Seefeld**  
(BM '68), February 2014
- Robert L. Town**  
(BM '60), December 2013
- Jean (Moody) Wadsworth**  
(MM '66), November 2013
- Robert B. Washburn (PhD  
'60)**, November 2013

**1970s**

- Ruth (Hofsted) Ferguson**  
(MM '70), March 2014
- Paul Robert Goldstaub**  
(MM '74, DMA '77),  
January 2014
- William Jeffrey Penn**  
(BM '77), April 2014

**1980s**

- Jonathan E. Faggert**  
(MM '84), March 2014

**1990s**

- Mark Alan Flugge**  
(MM '94), May 2014
- Larry James McGiboney**  
(MM '91), January 2014

**2000s**

- Amy Adele Foster**  
(DMA '06), January 2014
- Jo Hee Kim**  
(MM '04), January 2014



## { FACULTY NOTES }

Several Eastman faculty members played alongside Eastman alumni when the United States Army Field Band gave a concert in Kodak Hall on March 23.

**Mark Scatterday** (DMA '89) wielded the baton in a Sousa march, and professors **Peter Kurau** (BM '74) and **Richard Killmer** played horn and oboe respectively, and an ensemble of Eastman students performed Sousa's *El Capitan*. Eastman alumni who are currently members of the U.S. Army Field Band include percussionists **Tom Enokian** (BM '89) and **Rob Marino** (BM '05); clarinetists **Reis McCollough** (BM '00) and **Jeremy Klenke** (x '08); harpist **Melissa Dunne** (BM '98, MM '00); double bassist **Joel Ciaccio** (BM '05), bassoonist **Thad Crutcher** (BM '07); flutists **Kasumi Leonard** (BM '09), **Gina Sebastian** (BM '09), and **Dean Owen**; and oboist **Sarah Schram-Borg** (BM '04).

Professor of Percussion **Michael Burrirt** (BM '84, MM '86) received a Master Teachers Grant from the Victorian State Government, and was in Melbourne in August as an Artist in Residence, performing in a concert of his own music and that of Alejandro Vinao. Michael was featured in an interview in the Australian magazine *PERCUSscene* before his visit.

Professor of Musicology **Honey Meconi** recently joined the Editorial Board of the *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, the largest professional society of musicologists in the world. She is also a member of the Advisory Board of the new Belgian series "Alamire Manuscripts in Facsimile," where she is joined by **Hannah Mowrey Clarke** (PhD '10).

**Dariusz Terefenko** (MM



On March 4, Eastman dedicated a manual pipe organ from the early 1920s, refurbished and repaired by Parsons Organ Company and donated to the school by Professor of Accompanying Jean Barr. The Wangerin-Weckert 2 instrument was owned by Jean's mother, Gertrude Loos Barr, a prominent church organist in Milwaukee for more than a half-century and chair of the organ department at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. Jean is shown here with Eastman organ professors Edoardo Bellotti on her right and Nathan Laube on her left.

'98, MA '03, PhD '04), associate professor of jazz studies and contemporary media, recently published *Jazz Theory: From Basic to Advanced Study* (Routledge). Accompanied by a DVD and a companion website ([www.routledge.com/cw/terefenko](http://www.routledge.com/cw/terefenko)), the 490-page textbook is divided into sections for beginners, intermediate, and advanced students.



**1** John Marcellus

**Holly Watkins**, associate professor of musicology, was awarded a 2014-2015

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship to support work on her new book, *Echoes of the Nonhuman: Organicism, Biology, and Musical Aesthetics from the Enlightenment to the Present*. Holly was one of only 65 scholars from more than 1,000 applicants to receive the grant.

**1** After 36 years, **John Marcellus** is now Professor Emeritus of Trombone at Eastman. "Doc" retired last spring after service on the Eastman faculty since 1978. As a constant inspiring presence in the trombone world, Doc was celebrated during the International Trombone Convention held at Eastman in May with an impromptu concert featuring his colleagues and former Eastman students, who play in dozens of symphony orchestras worldwide.

In our last issue of *Eastman Notes*, **Stephen Kennedy**, instructor in sacred music, was incorrectly identified as associate professor of organ. We regret the error.

### Faculty Service Awards for 2014

#### 35 Years

- **Richard Grunow**, Professor of Music Education

#### 30 Years

- **Donna Brink Fox**, Eisenhart Professor of Music Education

#### 25 Years

- **Steven Laitz** (PhD '92), Professor of Music Theory
- **Rita Shane**, Professor of Voice
- **Kathleen Bride**, Professor of Harp

#### 20 Years

- **Douglas Humpherys** (DMA '95), Professor of Piano
- **Timothy Scheie**, Associate Professor of French
- **William Weinert**, Professor of Conducting and Ensembles

#### 10 Years

- **Melina Esse**, Associate Professor of Musicology
- **Caterina Falli**, Associate Professor of English as a Second Language
- **Chien-Kwan Lin**, Associate Professor of Saxophone
- **Dariusz Terefenko** (MM '98, MA '03, PhD '04), Associate Professor of Jazz Studies & Contemporary Media
- **Holly Watkins**, Associate Professor of Musicology

## { STUDENT NOTES }

Guitarists from the United States and Canada competed at the 2014 Great Lakes Guitar Competition, held in April in Buffalo, NY, but Eastman students prevailed! First prize was won by **Daniel Nistico**, second prize by **Kahlil Sarikey**, and third prize by **Austin Wahl**.

Graduate composition students **Jason Thorpe Buchanan** and **John Liberator** received ASACAP's Morton Gould Awards for 2014. Jason received the award for his *Asymptotic Flux—Second Study in Entropy* for ensemble, and John for his solo piano work *She rose, and let me in*.

Saxophonist and doctoral student **Phil Pierick** received a Fulbright Study/Research Grant and will spend the 2014–2015 academic year in Austria, where he will study contemporary music performance practice with Lars Mlekusch at the Konservatorium Wien Privatuniversität.

In the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Performance Competitions, the Finja Quartet, which features saxophonists **Ainsley Kilgo**, **Daniel Stenziano**, **Tyler Wiessner**, and **Kevin Zhao** (all BM '15), won First Place in the Chamber Music Wind Ensemble division. In that same competition **Yiou Li** (BM '17) was awarded First Place in the Senior Performance division for piano, and **Thomas Steigerwald** (BM '15) took Third Place in the Young Artist Performance division for piano.

Bassoonist **Ivy Ringel** (BM '16) won the 2014 Meg Quigley Vivaldi Competition and Symposium.

**James Peyden Shelton** (DMA) received First Place in the 2014 Blackburn Trumpets Graduate Division at the 2014 National Trumpet Competition.



Eastman master's student Matthew Langford visited the African nation of Burundi on a mission trip several years ago, and encountered Apollinaire Habonimana at his church, where he is pastor and music director. Although he is a self-taught performer on saxophone and guitar, Apollinaire has also started Burundi's first music school, the Shemeza Music School, which now has a staff of four and about 40 students. He calls it "a crazy dream," but Eastman is helping to make his dream come true. Langford and several other students visited Burundi in 2013, and this summer Apollinaire was able to visit Eastman, where he took lessons in saxophone and voice from graduate students and a music education methods course. Langford hopes to return to Burundi next year with a string quartet—the first ever heard in the country. Burundi is one of the poorest, most war-torn nations in Africa, but according to Apollinaire, "The people of Burundi have many stories to tell through music and art." Matt Langford is in the second row, third from left; Apollinaire is in the second row, fifth from left.

At the 2014 North American Saxophone Alliance Collegiate Solo Competition, **Myles Boothroyd** (MM '15) won First Prize, and **Jonathan Wintringham** (MM '14) won Third Prize.

Saxophonist **Alexa Tarantino** (BM '14) was recognized at the Jazz Education Network's fifth annual conference with the Mary Jo Papich Co-Founder Women in Jazz Scholarship, which acknowledges dedication, talent, leadership, and service within the field of jazz.

The Eastman Guitar Quartet was selected to perform at the Guitar Foundation of America Convention in California on June 21. This group is comprised of four current graduate students: **Sungmin Shin** (DMA), **Kahlil Sarikey** (DMA), **Michael Mendoza** (MM

'14), and **Michael Klein** (MM '14).

Graduate student **Su Hyun Kim** was a First Place Winner at the American Protégé International Piano and Strings Competition.

Several students in the Organ, Sacred Music, and Historical Keyboards Department won recent competitions. DMA student **Amanda Mole** received first prize in the Arthur Poister National Organ Competition and the John Rodland Memorial National Organ Competition. DMA student **Tom Mueller** won first prize in the 2014 Schoenstein Competition in Hymn Playing at Christ Church, Cambridge, MA. Master's degree student and organist **Thomas Gaynor** was awarded first prize in the 2014 Fort Wayne National Organ Playing

Competition. First prize winner in the West Chester University International Organ Competition was DMA student **Brian Glikes**. The 2014 Westfield International Organ Competition was won by master's degree student **Malcolm Matthews**.

*DownBeat's* 2014 Student Jazz Awards recognized the Eastman School of Music's Eastman Chamber Jazz Ensemble under director Jeff Campbell for outstanding undergraduate college performance, and chose **Michael Conrad's** "West Point" as the best original composition for large ensemble. It's the second *DownBeat* Student Music Award for Michael, who also won in 2011.

Twelve students represented Eastman in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Conservatory

Project on April 23. Performers included a trio composed of freshman **Tyrone Allen**, double bass, and seniors **Adler Scheidt**, guitar, and **Alexa Tarantino**, alto saxophone, playing "A Weaver of Dreams" by Victor Young and Jack Elliott. Doctoral student **Yuseon Nam**, violin, and master's degree students **Soohyun Juhn**, cello, and **Yewon Jeong**, piano, performed a movement from Beethoven's "Archduke" Piano Trio. Senior **John Leighton**, tenor, and master's degree students **Joel Balzun**, baritone, and **Christopher Longo**, tenor, presented a scene from Puccini's *Turandot*. Soloists were junior **Thomas Steigerwald**, piano, performing Balakirev's *Islamey*; master's degree student **Markiyann Melnychenko**, violin, in Ravel's *Tzigane*; and senior **Jennifer Zhou**, flute, performing Zyman's *Sonata*.



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## Eastman Essentials, Elegant Setting

Eastman Weekend 2014 featured many things thought of as “Essentially Eastman,” including a centenary tribute to Eastman Wind Ensemble founder Frederick Fennell; a celebration of the 25th anniversary of our Accompanying degree; and medals to commemorate 50-year degree alumni. The whole thing got off to a rousing start with a concert of Eastman ensembles in the newly renovated Lowry Hall, dedicated on October 2. *Photo by Matthew Yeoman*

