

FRIENDS OF  
*Eastman Opera*

# 24TH ANNUAL VOICE COMPETITION

Adjudicated by  
**CHRISTIAN VAN HORN**

Friday, February 21, 2025  
Kilbourn Hall  
7:30 PM



**EASTMAN**  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

## PROGRAM

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**Hai già vinta la causa** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
from *Le Nozze di Figaro, K. 492* (1756-1791)

**Voilà donc la terrible Cité** from *Thaïs* Jules Massenet  
(1842-1912)

**Decio signor del mondo...Di tua beltade immagine** Gaetano Donizetti  
from *Poliuto* (1797-1848)

Minghang Wang, baritone  
Jeongmin Oak, piano

**Meine Lippen, sie küssen so heiß** from *Giuditta (1934)* Franz Lehár  
(1870-1948)

**The Jewel Song** from *Faust* Charles Gounod  
(1818-1893)

**Escúchame** from *Florencia en el Amazonas (1996)* Daniel Catán  
(1949-2011)

Alanna Beilke, soprano  
Chun-Hsin (Cynthia) Liu, piano

**Within This Frail Crucible** Benjamin Britten  
from *The Rape of Lucretia, Op. 37 (1946)* (1913-1976)

**Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen** Erich Wolfgang Korngold  
from *Die tote Stadt* (1897-1957)

**Ô vin dissipe la tristesse** from *Hamlet* Ambroise Thomas  
(1811-1896)

Finn Bucci, baritone  
William Shi, piano

## PROGRAM

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**Nein! Länger trag' ich nicht...Durch die Wälder, durch die Auen** from *Der Freischütz, Op. 77* Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826)

**Addio fiorito asil...** from *Madama Butterfly* Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

**It was something I could stroke...** from *Of Mice and Men* (1969) Carlisle Floyd (1926-2021)

Benjamin Krutsch, tenor  
Chun-Hsin (Cynthia) Liu, piano

**Song to the Moon** from *Rusalka, Op. 114* Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

**Porgi, amor** from *Le Nozze di Figaro, K. 492* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

**The trees on the mountains** from *Susannah* (1955) Carlisle Floyd

Jillian Hope Griffey, soprano  
Chun-Hsin (Cynthia) Liu, piano

**Angelo casto e bel** from *Il Duca d'Alba* Gaetano Donizetti

**Je crois entendre encore** from *Les pêcheurs de perles* Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

**Miles!** from *Turn of the Screw* (1954) Benjamin Britten

Luke Honeck, tenor  
Mizi Li, piano

## PROGRAM

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**This us what it is to love an artist** from *Eurydice* (2020) Matthew Aucoin  
(b. 1990)

**Caro nome** from *Rigoletto* Giuseppe Verdi  
(1813-1901)

**Presentation of the Rose** Richard Strauss  
from *Der Rosenkavalier, Op. 59* (1864-1949)

Carolina Sullivan, soprano  
Ariel Wong, piano

**Depuis le jour** from *Louise* Gustave Charpentier  
(1860-1956)

**Sì, mi chiamano Mimi** from *La bohème* Giacomo Puccini

**Dove sono i bei momenti** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
from *Le Nozze di Figaro, K. 492*

Neylan Loffredo, soprano  
Andrew Chen, piano

**Tarquinius Does Not Dare** Benjamin Britten  
from *The Rape of Lucretia, Op. 37* (1946)

**Lunge da lei...De' miei bollenti spiriti** from *La traviata* Giuseppe Verdi

**Kuda, kuda, kuda vi udalilis** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
from *Eugene Onegin, Op. 24* (1840-1893)

Jason Garcia-Kakuk, tenor  
Derek Hamersly, piano

## PROGRAM

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**Va! Laisse couler mes larmes** from *Werther*

Jules Massenet

**Smanie implacabili**

from *Così fan tutte*, *K. 588*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

**Am I in your light?** from *Dr. Atomic* (2005)

John Adams  
(b. 1947)

Hannah Yan, mezzo-soprano  
Jeongmin Oak, piano

## MEET THE SINGERS

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Chinese baritone **Minghang Wang** is currently a senior at Eastman School of Music. He has been featured in numerous roles with Eastman Opera Theater, including Riobobo in *Florenzia en el Amazonas*, Ein Musiklehrer in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and Marquis de la Force in *Dialogues des Carmélites*. In 2024 he made his debut with Buffalo Opera Unlimited as Antonio in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. He also sang the role of Melisso in *Alcina* with Chautauqua Opera Conservatory. Prior to that, he joined the Berlin Opera Academy, where he performed the role of Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*. Minghang Wang will be a Frank R. Brownell III Apprentice Artist this summer with Des Moines Metro Opera.

**Alanna Beilke**, soprano, is a fourth-year undergraduate student and proud cheesehead from Madison, Wisconsin. Her roles with Eastman Opera Theatre include Esther (*Silent Light*), Madame Lidoine (cv)/Soeur Catherine (*Dialogues des Carmélites*), Primadonna (cv) (*Ariadne auf Naxos prologue*), and Chorus (*Dido and Aeneas*). She was an Eastman Concerto Competition winner, and as a result, sang selections from Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* with the Eastman Philharmonia in October 2024. She is an alumna of Taos Opera Institute and Si Parla, Si Canta, and was awarded first place at the New York Finger Lakes NATS vocal competition in 2023.

**Finn Bucci** is a baritone from Whiteford, Maryland pursuing his MM in Vocal Performance here at the Eastman School of Music. Finn completed his undergraduate studies at Eastman in 2024. He played Johan in Eastman Opera Theater's recent Fall production of *Silent Light* and will be performing the role of José Tripaldi in the upcoming production of *Ainadamar* here at Eastman. Finn was a finalist in the Jesse Kneisel Lieder Competition last year and is excited to once again sing in Kilbourn Hall.

**Benjamin Krutsch**, tenor, has performed leading and supporting roles across the country. Recent highlights include covering the title role in Wagner's *Lohengrin* at the Utah Festival Opera and making his debut as Don José (*Carmen*) with Music on Site, Inc. Last season, he appeared with Eastman Opera Theatre as Chevalier de la Force (*Dialogues des Carmélites*) and Der Tenor (*Ariadne auf Naxos*). He also premiered the role of Levi in Lori Laitman's *Uncovered*. A 2024 Eastman Concerto Competition

## MEET THE SINGERS

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winner and finalist in multiple vocal competitions, Mr. Krutsch has performed as a soloist in works by Mahler, Vaughan Williams, and Holst.

**Jillian Hope Griffey** is an up-and-coming soprano from Winston-Salem, NC. She is currently a first year Master's student at the Eastman School of Music. In May 2024, she graduated with her Bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Jillian has performed in numerous productions with Piedmont Opera, and has just finished her first opera production at Eastman, Ned Rorem's *Evidence of Things Not Seen*. Previously, she has performed as "Eurilla" in UNCOSA's production of *Orlando Paladino* where she was hailed an "audience favorite", and also as "Vannella" in UNCOSA's production of *Lo frate 'nmamorato*.

**Luke Honeck**, praised as a "charismatic tenor," is from Anchorage, Alaska currently pursuing his master's degree at Eastman. He has recently been seen as Nemorino in Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore* and as Devon in the U.S. premiere of *Missing* by Brian Current. On the oratorio stage, he has appeared as Uriel in Haydn's *The Creation*, and as soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Grand Mass in C minor*, and Bach's *B minor Mass*. He is a recipient of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Encouragement Award, and was named the 2024 Ted Stevens Young Alaskan Artist.

Lyric coloratura soprano **Carolina Sullivan** is a second year master's student at Eastman; previously, she received her Bachelor of Music in Performance from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Her notable roles include Soeur Constance in *Dialogues des Carmélites*, G in *H & G: a great and terrible story*, and Clara Johnson in *The Light in the Piazza*. Last spring, Carolina was the winner of the Jessie Kneisel German Lieder Competition. She is a top prize recipient of the Great Lakes Regional NATS competition, as well as several other local competitions in Cincinnati, Ohio, her hometown.

## MEET THE SINGERS

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**Neylan Loffredo**, soprano, is currently pursuing a Master's in Vocal Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music. She has performed Esther in Paola Prestini's *Silent Light* and is currently preparing for the role of Margarita Xirgu in Osvaldo Golijov's *Ainadamar* with the Eastman Opera Theater. In addition to performing, she is a dedicated voice teacher at the Eastman Community Music School, where she shares her passion of healthy vocal technique and interpretation to singers. Originally from Texas, Neylan's Bolivian and Albanian heritage informs her artistry allowing emotional depth and authenticity to every performance.

**Jason Garcia-Kakuk** is a tenor from Queenstown, MD. He was most recently seen as H in EOT's production of *H&G* (Allen Shawn). In 2024, he was seen at Opera Baltimore as Angel in *The Impresario* (Mozart) and as Triquet & Lensky (Cover) in *Eugene Onegin* (Tchaikovsky). Looking forward to 2025, Jason is covering Ruiz Alonso in EOT's *Ainadamar* (Golijov), and in July will be a Studio Artist at Finger Lakes Opera. There, he'll cover the Duke & perform as Borsa in *Rigoletto*, and as Colin in *The Anonymous Lover*. Jason holds his B.M. in Voice Performance from Temple University.

**Hannah Yan** is a mezzo-soprano based in NYC. She is a graduate student pursuing a Masters of Music in voice performance and literature at the Eastman School of Music (ESM). Her engagements in the 2024-25 season include being the Alto Soloist in Bach's *Christum wir sollen loben schon* and the Doctor in *Evidence of Things Not Seen* by Ned Rorem at ESM. Previously, she also played the role of Junon in *Orphée aux enfers* by Offenbach at the University of Michigan's School of Music Theatre and Dance. She has also received the Farwell Award from the Musicians Club of Women in their annual competition.



## MEET THE COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

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**Jeongmin Oak**, originally from Seoul, South Korea, is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music, under the direction of Dr. Andrew Harley. She has actively been performing as a répétiteur, vocal coach and pianist. She has performed the prologue to *Ariadne auf Naxos-Prologue*, *Dido and Aeneas*, and *Dialogues des Carmélites* at Eastman. She has been invited to Vocal Piano Program at the 2024 Music Academy of the West, Vocal Collaborative Piano Program and Opera Coaching Program at the 2024 Aspen Music Festival and School.

**Chun-Hsin (Cynthia) Liu**, originally from Taiwan, is now pursuing her DMA degree in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music, where she holds a Graduate Assistantship in Studio Accompanying, Opera Pianist Assistantship in the Voice and Opera Department and under the tutelage of Dr. Andrew Harley.

As a recipient of the Graham Johnson prize in Song Fest, She had an opportunity to work with Mr. Johnson closely this past summer. A passionate art song collaborative pianist, she joined Song Studio led by soprano Renée Fleming in Carnegie Hall as a fellow, and Source Song Festival. She is also a recipient of multiple scholarships including Macy Sloan Scholarship, The Barbara M. H. Koeng Award, Excellence in Accompanying Awards.

**William Shi** is the inaugural winner of the Australian Music Foundation's Richard Bonyng Award, a three-time recipient of Eastman's Excellence in Accompanying Award alongside the Jean Barr Award in Accompanying, and currently serves as Adjunct Faculty at Nazareth University. He has accompanied masterclasses with Dawn Upshaw, Renée Fleming, and Erin Morley, and was re-invited back to Tanglewood after being the only 2023 Fellow accepted to both Instrumental and Vocal Piano disciplines. William is currently undertaking a DMA in Piano Performance & Literature with Dr. Ran Dank, alongside an MM in Piano Accompanying & Chamber Music with Dr. Andrew Harley.

## MEET THE COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

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Pianist **Mizi Li** is a sought-after collaborative pianist and chamber musician. Currently pursuing a DMA in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music under Dr. Andrew Harley, she has been recognized for her artistry in numerous prestigious programs. She was a Vocal Fellow at the 2023 Toronto Summer Music Art of Song Program and a winner of the 2024 Songfest: The John Harbison American Song Prize. In 2024, she was selected for Art Song Lab, Source Song, Texas Chamber Music Institute, and Wintergreen Music LEAD Cooperative, where she was one of two collaborative pianists.

**Ariel Wong** is a second year master's student in piano performance at the Eastman School of Music, in the studio of Marina Lomazov. A native of Hong Kong, she earned her bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in Utah, studying with Dr. Scott Holden. Ariel's musical abilities have been recognized through numerous accolades, including as the National First-Prize Winner of the 2020-2021 MTNA Piano Competition, senior division. She has also taken home prizes in the Utah Steinway Piano Competition and the Emory Young Artists Piano Competition. In 2022, Ariel soloed with the Utah Valley Symphony, playing Rachmaninoff's *Second Piano Concerto*.

Taiwanese-American pianist **Andrew Chen** is currently pursuing his MM degree in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music, under the direction of Dr. Andrew Harley. He studied piano with Betty Woo and violin with Dan Flanagan at UC Berkeley, where he graduated with double degrees in Music and Statistics. In 2023, Andrew participated in the Collaborative Piano Institute at Louisiana State University and served as the staff pianist for the Eastern Music Festival in Greensboro, NC. Andrew will be attending Aspen Music Festival this summer as a vocal collaborative piano fellow.

**Derek Hamersly** began his piano studies at age 8 in Santa Cruz, California. Graduating from Carnegie Mellon University with University Honors in 2019, he received both a B.F.A. in Piano Performance and a B.S. in Physics. His former instructors include Dr. Susan Bruckner, Dr.

## MEET THE COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

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Hanna Wu Li, Dr. Dimitri Papadimitriou, and Dr. Christopher Taylor. He was pianist in the CMU Philharmonic's performance of Stravinsky's *Petrushka* and a finalist in the 2019 CMU Concerto Competition. Derek is currently pursuing the MM degree in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music under the guidance of Dr. Andrew Harley.

## 24th ANNUAL VOICE COMPETITION ADJUDICATOR

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With a voice that can "shake the heavens" (Opera Today), bass-baritone **Christian Van Horn** has established himself as a favorite of audiences and critics alike. With his powerful instrument and commanding stage presence, Van horn has been hailed by The New York Times as "a bass-baritone of uncommon agility and power," with a versatility that allows him to embody a variety of compelling roles, ranging from Méphistophélès to Don Giovanni.

The 2024/25 season promises to be another tour de force as he stars as the Four Villains in Offenbach's *Les contes d'Hoffmann* at The Metropolitan Opera, with a Live in HD broadcast October. Other engagements include the title role in Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Esa-Pekka Salonen, his greatly anticipated role debut as Philippe II in Verdi's *Don Carlos* at the Opéra national de Paris, Escamillo in Bizet's *Carmen* for both San Francisco Opera and Royal Ballet and Opera, and his title role debut in Verdi's *Attila*, presented in concert at the Teatro Real.

Last season, Van Horn brought his "vocally resplendent and dramatically compelling" (San Francisco Chronicle) voice to the title role of *Bluebeard's Castle* at Carnegie Hall and on tour throughout Asia with Elina Garanča, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and Music Director Yannick Nézet-Seguin. He made his Wiener Staatsoper debut in the title role of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, and later sang the role in concert at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées.

Van Horn also returned to the Opéra national de Paris as the Four Villains in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, which he later sang in a new production at the

## 24th ANNUAL VOICE COMPETITION ADJUDICATOR

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Salzburg Festival. In the spring he returned to Paris where he made his title role debut in the new Damiano Michieletto production of Massenet's *Don Quichotte*. "In an enviable state of vocal health and with a virile physical presence" (Platea Magazine), his singular interpretation of this beloved character was celebrated for the many moments where his "power blends with vulnerability" (Le Monde). Additionally last season he performed at The Metropolitan Opera (Colline in Puccini's *La bohème*), Bayerische Staatsoper (Raimondo in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*), Opera Philadelphia (Fiesco in Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*), and the Richard Tucker Gala Concert at Carnegie Hall.

A frequent and beloved presence at The Metropolitan Opera, Van Horn has starred in numerous productions, including the title role of Boito's rarely performed *Mefistofele* with The New York Times proclaiming "Long may he reign in hell." He has also thrilled global audiences through the Met's popular Live in HD series, including star turns in *Wozzeck*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Falstaff* and *The Exterminating Angel*. The Guardian hailed as "a revelation" in these broadcasts.

Previous roles at Lyric Opera of Chicago include Méphistophélès in a new production of Faust and Silva in Verdi's *Ernani*, where he "delivered the finest vocalism of the night, wielding his sonorous bass-baritone with agility in vitriolic moments and singing with consummate grace in his arias" (Chicago Classical Review). Past seasons at San Francisco Opera featured the Four Villains in *Hoffmann*, Narbal in Berlioz' *Les Troyens*, Oroveso in Bellini's *Norma*, and Claggart in Britten's *Billy Budd*. Throughout his career, Van Horn has performed more than one hundred times each on the stages of The Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, and Bayerische Staatsoper.

Beyond the opera stage, Van Horn's concert performances have dazzled audiences worldwide. He has collaborated with renowned orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the Berlin Philharmonic, gracing prestigious venues from Carnegie Hall to the Salzburg Festival. His rich, resonant instrument has made him a champion of recorded music as well, including the title role in *Le Nozze di Figaro* on Sony Classical. His many accolades include the 2018 Richard Tucker Award and top honors in the Metropolitan Opera National Council competition.

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Born in Rockville Centre, New York, Van Horn earned his Bachelor of Music from the State University of New York at Stony Brook before attending the Yale School of Music, where he received both his Master's degree and Artist Diploma. He is also an alumnus of the prestigious Lyric Opera of Chicago Ryan Opera Center.

*We acknowledge with respect the Seneca Nation, known as the “Great Hill People” and “Keepers of the Western Door” of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We take this opportunity to thank the people whose ancestral lands the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester currently occupies in Rochester, New York.*

# VOICE, OPERA, AND VOCAL COACHING DEPARTMENT

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Robert Swensen, *Chair of VOVC Department & Professor of Voice*

Lindsay Baker, *Instructor of Opera*

Nicole Cabell, *Associate Professor of Voice*

Octavio Cardenas, *Assistant Professor of Opera*

Katherine Ciesinski, *Martin E. and Corazon D. Sanders Professor of Voice*

Joshua Conyers, *Assistant Professor of Voice*

Kathryn Cowdrick, *Professor of Voice*

Alison d'Amato, *Associate Professor of Vocal Coaching*

Patrick Diamond, *Associate Professor of Opera & Director of Production, EOT*

Kiera Duffy, *Associate Professor of Voice*

Anthony Dean Griffey, *Professor of Voice*

Timothy Long, *Associate Professor of Opera & Artistic and Music Director, EOT*

Wilson Southerland, *Assistant Professor of Opera & Associate Music Director, EOT*

Brock Tjosvold, *Assistant Professor of Vocal Coaching*

Chelsea Whitaker, *Assistant Professor of Vocal Coaching*

## **AFFILIATE VOVC FACULTY**

Christina Balsam Curren, *Vocal Coach &  
Associate Professor of German and German Lyric Diction*

Andrew Harley, *Associate Professor of Collaborative Piano &  
Director, Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music*

Paul O'Dette, *Professor of Lute & Professor of Conducting and Ensembles*

William Weinert, *Professor of Conducting and Ensembles*

## **EMERITUS FACULTY**

Steven Daigle, *Professor Emeritus of Opera*

## UPCOMING EASTMAN SERIES CONCERTS

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Tickets for all series concerts can be purchased at [EastmanTheatre.org](http://EastmanTheatre.org)

### EASTMAN PIANO SERIES

## Haochen Zhang

Kilbourn Hall

Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Since his gold medal win at the Thirteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2009, Haochen Zhang has captivated audiences in the United States, Europe, and Asia with a unique combination of deep musical sensitivity, fearless imagination, and spectacular virtuosity. In 2017, Haochen received the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, which recognizes talented musicians with the potential for a major career in music.

### KODAK HALL SERIES

## Trey Anastasio

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Over the past four decades, composer/guitarist/vocalist Trey Anastasio has forged a singular, multi-faceted career, winning acclaim and garnering accolades across genres and disciplines including rock, classical, musical theatre, and more. He is a founding member of Phish, one of today's most successful and innovative rock bands.

## UPCOMING STUDENT ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

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All student performances are free unless otherwise noted.

## Repertory Singers & Treble Chorus

Kilbourn Hall

Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 3:30 PM

## Eastman Wind Orchestra

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7:30 PM



For the most up to date information on Eastman concerts and events, scan this code to visit our online calendar.



**EASTMAN**  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  

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UNIVERSITY *of* ROCHESTER