



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

UNIVERSITY *of* ROCHESTER

CONVOCATION 2023

Wednesday, August 30, 2023
Kilbourn Hall
2:30 PM

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Jamal J. Rossi,
Joan and Martin Messinger Dean

INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. C. Denise Yarbrough,
Director of Religious & Spiritual Life,
Interfaith Chapel, University of Rochester

REMARKS FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Sarah C. Mangelsdorf, University of Rochester President and
G. Robert Witmer, Jr. University Professor

INTRODUCTION OF NEW FACULTY

David N. Figlio, Provost and
Gordon Fyfe Professor of Economics and Education

REMARKS FROM THE UNIVERSITY PROVOST

David N. Figlio

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Jamal J. Rossi

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Jamal J. Rossi

PERFORMANCE

Selections to be announced from the stage

Sara Gazarek, voice
Christine Jensen, saxophone
Gary Versace, piano

KILBOURN HALL



Considered by many to be one of the finest chamber music halls in the world, **Kilbourn Hall** serves as the primary location for faculty, student, and guest artist recitals, chamber music and jazz performances, and opera productions. It is also a frequent choice for commercial recording sessions due to its fine acoustics. Recent guests have

included Anne Sofie von Otter, Jon Scofield, Marc-André Hamelin, Time for Three, and Seong-Jin Cho, among others.

Opened in 1922, Kilbourn Hall was built by George Eastman and dedicated to the memory of his mother, Maria Kilbourn Eastman. Three stories high and decorated in the Venetian Renaissance style, the 444-seat hall is well known for its remarkable beauty, pure acoustics, and excellent sight lines. Over 300 performances take place in Kilbourn Hall each year. In addition to Eastman performances, the hall is also a prime venue for key community festivals including the annual Rochester International Jazz Festival and Fringe Festival.

After years of constant use, the hall received a much needed renovation in the summer of 2016. In addition to enhancing the audience experience through seat and lighting upgrades, the renovation also addressed the critical issue of making the stage ADA accessible from backstage. All of the updates were made with careful attention to preserve the hall's original details and superior acoustics.

EASTMAN SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM 2023-24

Jamal J. Rossi

Joan and Martin Messinger Dean

John Hain

Senior Associate Dean of
Academic and Student Affairs

Matthew Ardizzone

Marie Rolf Dean of
Graduate Studies

Crystal Sellers Battle

Associate Dean of Equity and
Inclusion

Kevin Gibson

Executive Director of Operations

Jennifer Horn

Executive Director of Finance
and Administration

Jessica Kaufman

Executive Director of Marketing
& Communications

Petar Kodzas

Associate Dean & Director of the
Eastman Community Music
School

Rachel Roberts

Director of Strategic Initiatives &
Director of the Institute for Music
Leadership

Reinhild Steingröver

Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs

Elaine Tenny

Director of Human Resources &
Administrative Operations

Aubrie Willaert

Executive Director of
Advancement

EASTMAN NEW FACULTY 2023-24

Justin Benavidez

Associate Professor of Tuba and
Euphonium

Joella Bitter

Assistant Professor of
Anthropology

Joshua Conyers

Assistant Professor of Voice

Ran Dank

Associate Professor of Piano

Patrick Diamond

Associate Professor of Opera and
Director of Production for
Eastman Opera Theatre

Kiera Duffy

Associate Professor of Voice

Filomena Fantarella

Assistant Professor of Italian

Sara Gazarek

Associate Professor of Jazz Voice

Mikel Kuehn

Professor of Composition and
Director of EMuSE

Andrew McCandless

Associate Professor of Trumpet

Daniel Pesca

Assistant Professor of
Composition

Brock Tjosvold

Assistant Professor of Vocal
Coaching

EASTMAN DEPARTMENT CHAIRS 2023-24

CHAMBER MUSIC

Anne Harrow, Associate Professor of Flute & Piccolo

COMPOSITION

Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, Professor of Composition

CONDUCTING & ENSEMBLES

William Weinert, Professor of Conducting & Ensembles

HUMANITIES

Glenn Mackin, Associate Professor of Political Science

JAZZ STUDIES & CONTEMPORARY MEDIA

Jeff Campbell, Professor of Jazz Studies & Contemporary Media

MUSICOLOGY

Roger Freitas, Acting Chair Fall 2023, Professor of Musicology

MUSIC TEACHING & LEARNING

Philip Silvey, Associate Professor of Music Teaching & Learning

MUSIC THEORY

Zachary Bernstein, Associate Professor of Music Theory

ORGAN, SACRED MUSIC & HISTORICAL KEYBOARDS

David Higgs, Professor of Organ

PIANO

Alan Chow, Professor of Piano

STRINGS, HARP & GUITAR

James VanDemark, Professor of Double Bass
David Ying, Associate Professor of Violoncello

VOICE, OPERA & VOCAL COACHING

Katherine Ciesinski, Professor of Voice
Robert Swensen, Professor of Voice

WOODWINDS, BRASS & PERCUSSION

Mark Kellogg, Professor of Trombone

MEET OUR NEW FACULTY

JUSTIN BENAVIDEZ

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF TUBA AND EUPHONIUM

Hailed by *Fanfare Magazine* as “a true virtuoso of his instrument”, Justin Benavidez is the newly appointed Associate Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at the Eastman School of Music. He previously held a similar faculty position at Florida State University. In the summer, he teaches and performs at the Round Top Summer Music Festival in Round Top, Texas.

Benavidez has performed across North America, Europe, and Japan. He has been featured numerous times on APM’s *Performance Today* radio program. His debut solo album, *Emblems*, won Silver Medals in the Classical Album and Solo Instrumentalist categories of the Global Music Awards. *The International Tuba Euphonium Association Journal* described it as “an impressive and highly entertaining record” on which Benavidez “shreds with enthusiasm, exuberance, and precision.” His second album, *Storyteller*, also won Silver Medals in the Classical Album and Solo Instrumentalist categories of the Global Music Awards. *Fanfare Magazine* described it as “splendidly eloquent [...] a masterclass in expressiveness” with a sound that is “gloriously warm and comforting.”

As an orchestral musician, Benavidez has performed as tubist with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic, Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra, Sarasota Orchestra, and Utah Symphony. He was previously the principal tuba of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra.

Benavidez is a Melton Meinel Weston and Denis Wick performing artist.

JOELLA BITTER

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Joella Bitter is “thrilled to be joining the Eastman community.” She specializes in the anthropologies of sound and city-making, particularly in Uganda, where her research is based. She has a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from Duke University, with a Graduate Certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies. Her work has been supported by the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the

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American Council of Learned Societies, and Duke University. As a multimodal teacher-scholar, Bitter's work lies at the intersection of feminist praxis, experimental ethnography, creative arts, and digital humanities.

JOSHUA CONYERS

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF VOICE

Grammy-nominated American Baritone, Joshua Conyers has been singled out by *Opera News* for his “deliciously honeyed baritone that would seduce anyone,” by *The New York Times* as having “a sonorous baritone” that “wheedled and seduced,” and by *The Washington Post* for having a “show stealing” performance. A native of Bronx, NY, he is known for his captivating performances and recognized as one of the leading dramatic voices of today. Mr. Conyers has performed with the most prestigious opera companies, symphonies, and concert halls in the world such as The Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera, Washington National Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, English National Opera, New York Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, and many others. As a concert soloist and recitalist, he has sung throughout the United States and Europe. His recordings include the Grammy Nominated album *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X* by Anthony Davis portraying the role of Reginald, *Journey: My American Story* with Lexicon Classics and the baritone soloist in *Bernstein, Gershwin, & Copland: Works* with Naxos.

Mr. Conyers has a deep commitment to community engagement, giving masterclasses and seminars at several universities and organizations across the United States and abroad. Active in the community, Joshua is a member of the Young Professionals Advisory Board of the Newark Boys Chorus School, mentoring underserved young men of color who find their paths through music. Previously, Mr. Conyers was a voice teacher at New England Conservatory Preparatory School and Continuing Education in Boston, MA. Joshua received his BM in Vocal Performance and Professional Certificate from the UNC School of the Arts/A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute, and his MM in Vocal Performance from Indiana University.

MEET OUR NEW FACULTY

RAN DANK

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PIANO

Ran Dank is one of today's most ardent advocates for contemporary music. In recent seasons, he has performed Kevin Puts' piano concerto *Night*, the Tobias Picker concerto, *Keys to the City*, Frederic Rzewski's *The People United Will Never Be Defeated*, William Bolcom's Pulitzer-winning set of *Twelve New Etudes*. Alongside his wife, pianist Soyeon Kate Lee, Ran debuted the world premieres of Frederic Rzewski's *Four Hands*, and Alexander Goehr's *Seven Impromptus*.

Ran Dank and Soyeon Kate Lee have also created a concert series called Music by the Glass, which is held in a New York SoHo art gallery. During these performances, an audience of young professionals listen, mix and mingle with fellow solo and chamber work artists while enjoying treats and wines by the glass.

Ran Dank is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Naumburg Piano Competition and the Sydney International Piano Competition. He was also the First Prize winner of the Hilton Head International Piano Competition.

Ran's recent performances have included performances with the Pasadena Symphony and Keitaro Harada in April 2022 and the Westchester Philharmonic and Jayce Ogren in October 2022. Ran has upcoming performances with the Monterey Symphony in February 2023, Chautauqua in August 2023, and he is returning to Pro Music San Miguel de Allenda in March of 2024.

PATRICK DIAMOND

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF OPERA & DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION FOR
EASTMAN OPERA THEATRE

Originally from New Mexico, Stage Director Pat Diamond creates work which is fresh, relatable, engaging, and alive. He has selected and conspired to make projects which speak to the moment when they are being performed, and reflect the artists he is collaborating with. His productions include both Theatre and Opera, ranging from established repertoire to new works, and devised events. Pat has directed productions of Shakespeare, Britten, Calderón de la Barca, Mozart, Puccini, Janáček,

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Mayakovsky, and Verdi, among others. He directed the American revivals of Moniuszko's rarely seen Polish Opera, *Halka*, and Wolf-Ferrari's operatic adaptation of *Le donne curiose*, based on a play of the same name by Goldoni. Pat has developed new work with playwrights Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, A. Rey Pamatmat, and Kathryn Walat, who he also worked with in collaboration with composer Gregory Spears. He is co-creator of the devised Music Theatre piece, *drömseminarium*, with composer Ellen Lindquist and renowned Nobel Laureate Tomas Tranströmer. Pat was producer and director of *The Dido Project*, a site-specific performance of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* developed with string quintet Sybarite 5, at the Samsung Experience in New York. Companies that he has worked with include Wolf Trap, Aspen Music Festival, West Edge Opera, and 2G.

Pat is deeply committed to cultural sustainability, equity, and inclusion, putting these values at the forefront of his work as an artist in the field. He is the Executive Producer of *Unequal Temperament*, a podcast series hosted and curated by Timothy Long, centering on Native American cultural issues, and featuring a series of frank, open conversations with artists of color from all backgrounds.

Pat was most recently on the faculty at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, where he directed Weill, Rice, and Hughes' *Street Scene*, as well as a digital streaming production of Ullmann's *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*, which can be seen on Shepherd School's YouTube channel. He has also been on faculty at Yale School of Music and the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale, where he received his MFA in Directing.

KIERA DUFFY

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF VOICE

Kiera Duffy has performed as a soloist with many of the world's preeminent classical music organizations, including the Berlin Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, London Symphony, Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Ongaku-Juku Japan, as well as the Aldeburgh Festival, Ojai Festival of Contemporary Music, Wigmore Hall, Mostly Mozart Lincoln Center, and Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. She has performed an extraordinarily wide range of repertoire, and is an especially sought-after interpreter of the work of the European modernists as well as

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contemporary composers like Caroline Shaw, Mohammed Fairouz, Michael Hersch, Jake Heggie, Grace Evangeline Mason, Rene Orth, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Layale Chaker, Philip Glass, Unsuk Chin, George Lewis, and Missy Mazzoli, among many others.

For the last seven years, Kiera Duffy has been Professor of the Practice at the University of Notre Dame, where she has served as the Coordinator of Undergraduate Voice Studies and Creative Producer of Opera ND for the Department of Music, and voice faculty for the Graduate Program of Sacred Music. Duffy's research interests include Evidence-Based Vocal Pedagogy; Cognition and Motor Learning Theory; Modern and Contemporary Repertoire and Performance Practice; Interdisciplinarity in Western Classical Performance; Fostering Inclusion in the Classical Canon; and Mindfulness Practices for the Performing Musician.

FILOMENA FANTARELLA

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ITALIAN

Filomena Fantarella completed her Ph.D. in Italian Studies at Brown University where she taught language and cultural courses. She also coordinated the language program in Spring 2020 and Fall 2021. Her research interests include second language acquisition, the relationship between politics and literature, Fascism and anti-Fascism, the intellectual history of the nineteenth and twentieth century, and food studies. Her book, *Un figlio per nemico. Gli affetti di Gaetano Salvemini alla prova dei fascismi*, was published by Donzelli Press in July 2018. The book has received a Special Mention for the Giacomo Matteotti Prize 2019, from the President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic, and it was reviewed and praised widely in the Italian press. The English Edition of the book, *The Family of Gaetano Salvemini Under Fascism. The Inimical Son* was published by Palgrave Macmillan in April 2023 (foreword by David Kertzer, Pulitzer 2015). Her new research project is on the development of Italian Studies in the United States through the work of Giuseppe Prezzolini, for which she has been awarded a research grant from the Ragusa Foundation for Humanities in NYC.

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SARA GAZAREK

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF JAZZ VOICE

Graced with an “impeccable” voice (*Winnipeg Free Press*) and hailed as an artist who “may well turn out to be the next important jazz singer” by the *LA Times*, two-time GRAMMY Award® nominated vocalist Sara Gazarek has been one of the leading lights of an impressive generation of jazz vocalists since her brilliant emergence at age 20.

While her subsequent career has been the picture of success—highlighted by five critically acclaimed albums, numerous world tours, an ardent fanbase, enthusiastic reviews, a teaching position at the University of Southern California and collaborations with such luminaries as Kurt Elling, Fred Hersch, Billy Childs and Larry Goldings—it is with her latest double-GRAMMY® nominated album, *Thirsty Ghost*, and most recent four-song EP, *Vanity*, that Gazarek brings her musical expression stunningly into phase with her emotional maturity. Gazarek is a founding member of the all-female, GRAMMY® nominated vocal ensemble, *säje*, and currently serves as Governor of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Recording Academy.

MIKEL KUEHN

PROFESSOR OF COMPOSITION AND DIRECTOR OF EMUSE

The music of American composer Mikel Kuehn (b. 1967) has been described as having “sensuous phrases... producing an effect of high abstraction turning into decadence,” by *The New York Times* critic Paul Griffiths. He has received awards and honorable recognition from ASCAP and BMI (student composer awards), the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (2000 and 2002 First Hearing Contests), Composers, Inc. (Lee Ettelson Award), the Copland House (Aaron Copland Award), the Destellos Foundation (Argentina), the Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, Eastman (Hanson and McCurdy Prizes), the Flute New Music Consortium, (first prize) the Guggenheim Foundation (2014 Fellowship), the League of Composers/ISCM Composers’ Competition (first prize), the Salvatore Martirano Memorial Composition Contest, the Ohio Arts Council (six Individual Excellence Awards), and the Luigi Russolo Competition (Italy). Kuehn’s works have been programmed on numerous concerts, conferences, and festivals internationally. His music has been

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commissioned by the Barlow Endowment, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Ensemble 21, Ensemble Dal Niente, Flexible Music, the Fromm Foundation at Harvard, violist John Graham, clarinetist Marianne Gythfeldt, the Hoff-Barthelson Music School, cellist Craig Hultgren, the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), guitarist Dan Lippel, pianist Marilyn Nonken, Quatuor Apollinaire (France), Perspectives of New Music, saxophonists Jean-Michel Goury and John Sampen, Selmer Paris, the Spektral Quartet, and the Thelema Trio (Belgium).

From 1998 to 2023, Kuehn was Professor of Creative Arts Excellence at Bowling Green State University where he served as director of the MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music and the Bowling Green New Music Festival from 2007-2010. He received degrees in composition from the Eastman School of Music (PhD, MA) and the University of North Texas (BM) and is author of the computer music application nGen. His research includes an upcoming book chapter on composing electroacoustic music with Ambisonics. His music can be heard on two New Focus Recordings portrait albums, *Objet/Shadow* (2016) and *Entanglements* (2022). Other recordings of his works are available on ACA Digital, Centaur (CDCM series), Erol (France), ICMC (Ireland), MSR Classics, and Perspectives of New Music/Open Space.

ANDREW MCCANDLESS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF TRUMPET

Andrew McCandless was appointed Principal Trumpet of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in 1999 and has established himself as a prominent brass player in the orchestral world.

Since his first professional position at the age of 20 with the Savannah Symphony, Andrew has also held the position of Principal Trumpet with many notable orchestras including the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Dallas Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Sun Valley Summer Symphony in which he still performs today.

As Principal Trumpet with the TSO, Andrew is regularly featured as a soloist. In 2010, Andrew performed the world première of *Songs of the Paradise Saloon*, a trumpet concerto written specifically for him by Bramwell Tovey, and commissioned by the TSO. He appears as a guest

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artist and chamber musician throughout North America, having performed with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Regina Symphony Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

Andrew began playing the trumpet at the age of nine and later studied at the Youth Performing Arts School in his native Louisville, Kentucky. He continued his studies at Boston University and the Eastman School of Music. As a junior in college, Andrew began playing with the Savannah Symphony as Co-Principal Trumpet. Today, he continues to be involved in classical music education. Andrew is on faculty at The Royal Conservatory, teaches privately, and has given masterclasses throughout North America including at the Eastman School of Music, University of Calgary, University of Toronto, Northwestern University, The Juilliard School and The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University.

Andrew is a Yamaha performing artist.

DANIEL PESCA

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COMPOSITION

Daniel Pesca has been hailed as “the perfect composer-virtuoso pianist” (*All about the Arts*) and “equally talented as pianist, composer and advocate of his peers’ works” (*Fanfare*). Among Daniel’s most recent compositions are *Walk with me, my joy* for Constellations Chamber Concerts in Washington, DC and *New Examples of Confusion* for the Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition. Other recent works have been commissioned with support from national granting organizations including the National Endowment for the Arts and New Music USA and for ensembles such as the American Wild Ensemble and New Morse Code. His music has been heard at festivals and venues around the country and in Europe. As pianist, Daniel has premiered over 150 works, is a founding member of the Grossman Ensemble and co-director of the Zohn Collective, appears on a dozen commercial recordings (including a solo album, *Promontory*), and has performed as soloist with orchestras in works by Messiaen, Bernstein, Berg, Carter, and others.

Daniel was on faculty at University of Maryland, Baltimore County from 2019 to 2023. He previously taught at University of Chicago, Northeastern Illinois University, Ithaca College, and Syracuse University.

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BROCK TJSVOLD

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF VOCAL COACHING

In demand as both an instrumental and vocal collaborator, pianist Brock Tjosvold has performed throughout the United States with many up-and-coming musicians, as well as established ensembles. Prior to joining the faculty at Eastman, Brock was Assistant Professor of Vocal Coaching & Accompanying at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, where he was music director and vocal coach of the Crane Opera Ensemble.

During his time as a DMA student at Eastman, Brock won the Ann C. Fehn Memorial Award (1st Prize Pianist) at the 2021 Jessie Kneisel Lieder Competition. He was also awarded the 2020 Excellence in Accompanying Award. Brock has performed extensively around the nation in prestigious venues and festivals, such as the Grand Teton Music Festival, where he is the collaborative pianist for Donald Runnicles Musical Arts Scholarship Competition. Notable collaborations have included clarinetist Amy Humberd and singers Anthony Dean Griffey and Donald George. Brock has performed in professional orchestras such as the Albany Symphony Orchestra, New World Symphony, and Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra. He was also the principal keyboardist for the 2017 National Repertory Orchestra.

Brock completed his master's degree at the University of Michigan with Martin Katz and a Performer's Certificate at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, studying with Anne Epperson and Kevin Murphy. Brock received his DMA in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music from the Eastman School of Music, studying with Dr. Jean Barr and Dr. Andrew Harley. In addition to his primary studies, he received a minor in sacred music and a minor in solo piano, studying with Dr. Douglas Humpherys.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Sara Gazarek—See biography in “Meet Our New Faculty”

As a Downbeat Critic’s Poll winner for Rising Star Big Band, Arranger, and Soprano Saxophonist, **Christine Jensen** is constantly in motion leading her own jazz orchestra and small ensemble. Her jazz orchestra recordings have gone on to win Juno awards, including *Habitat* (2014) and *Treelines* (2011). She is two-time recipient of SOCAN’s Hagood Hardy Jazz Composer Award. *Habitat* received the coveted 5 stars in Downbeat, along with being included at the top of several international critic’s polls, including Jazz Album of the Year in 2014.

Jensen’s music has taken her all over the world, where she has received numerous commissions and conducting opportunities in Canada, the US and Europe. Her recent guest artist residencies have brought her to Frost School of Music-UMiami, The New School, University of Michigan, UMO Jazz Orchestra, Stockholm Jazz Orchestra, and Luxembourg Jazz Orchestra. She has performed with Jeremy Pelt, Phil Dwyer, Ben Monder, Gary Smulyan, Geoffrey Keezer, Lenny Pickett, and Donny McCaslin, as well as directing Terrence Blanchard with the Orchestre National Jazz de Montreal. She is founding artistic director and conductor of the Canadian National Jazz Orchestra, as well as the past artistic director of Orchestre National Jazz de Montreal. As a saxophonist, Jensen continues to collaborate on small and large ensemble projects with her sister Ingrid Jensen out of New York, along with the addition of guitarist Ben Monder with Infinitude.

Teachers and mentors include Kenny Werner, Jim McNeely, Dick Oatts, Remi Bolduc and John Hollenbeck. Since 2006, she has held composition and arranging lecturer positions at McGill University, Purchase College, University of Sherbrooke as well as guest professor at University of Montreal, as well as being artistic director of McGill Jazz Orchestra and small ensembles.

Originally hailing from Cos Cob, CT, jazz pianist, organist, and accordionist **Gary Versace** is one of the busiest and most versatile musicians on the international jazz scene, often featured in bands led by musicians such as John Scofield, Maria Schneider, John Abercrombie, Anat Cohen, Al Foster, Regina Carter, Ellery Eskelin, Ray Anderson, Rich

MEET THE ARTISTS

Perry, John Hollenbeck, Ralph Alessi, Kurt Elling, Madeleine Peyroux, Matt Wilson, Brad Shepik, Ingrid Jensen and many others.

Versace has released several CD's under his own name on the Criss Cross and SteepleChase labels, the most recent being 'All for Now,' released in 2020 to critical acclaim and a 4 star review in Downbeat magazine. He received a Grammy nomination in 2019 along with vocalist Kate McGarry and guitarist Keith Ganz for their trio recording 'The Subject Tonight is Love,' thus marking his eighth appearance on a Grammy nominated recording. Other recent CD releases as a sideman include appearances with Rich Perry, Vic Juris, John Hollenbeck and the Frankfurt Radio Big Band, Ronnie Cuber/Gary Smulyan, John Hart, the Andrew Rathbun quintet featuring Tim Hagans and Bill Stewart, Ralph Alessi, Kurt Elling, and dozens more over the past several years with both nationally and internationally known jazz artists.

He continues to appear annually in the Downbeat's Critics and Reader's Polls, and won the Jazz Journalists' Association's 'Best Instrumentalist – Instruments Rare In Jazz (accordion)' award in 2018 and their 'Organist of the Year' award in 2012. Gary appeared twice as a guest on Marian McPartland's acclaimed NPR show 'Piano Jazz,' and McPartland has described him as '...endlessly inventive...(Versace) really has an extraordinary talent.'

Versace was a tenured professor at the University of Oregon in their jazz studies program before moving to New York City in 2002, where he has spent the last 18 years as a full time performer. He joined the Eastman faculty in 2017 as an Associate Professor of Jazz Studies, and continues to maintain an active career worldwide as a performer, educator, and clinician.

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.

UPCOMING EASTMAN SERIES CONCERTS

Tickets for all series concerts can be purchased at EastmanTheatre.org

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

Alexander Kobrin, piano

Hatch Recital Hall

Friday, September 1, 2023 at 7:30 PM

Over the course of eight concerts, Professor Kobrin will present all 32 of Beethoven's piano sonatas throughout the 2023-24 academic year. Kobrin will perform on a Shigeru Kawai piano, generously on loan to Eastman for this concert series.

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

Jazz and Contemporary Media Faculty

Kilbourn Hall

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 7:30 PM

FRINGE FESTIVAL

Tig Notaro – “Hello Again”

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Saturday, September 16, 2023 at 8:00 PM

Join Emmy and Grammy-nominated Tig Notaro as she headlines the Rochester Fringe Festival for one night only in her new show, "Hello Again." Tig rocketed to stardom in 2012 with “Live,” her stand-up about her cancer diagnosis. Now her special, “Happy To Be Here,” ranks 100% on Rotten Tomatoes, and her animated special, “Drawn,” is streaming on several networks. She appears in "Army of the Dead" and “Star Trek: Discovery” and hosts the podcasts “Don't Ask Tig” and “Tig and Cheryl: True Story.”

EASTMAN PIANO SERIES

Yunchan Lim

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 3:00 PM

Millions of viewers took note of this amazing pianist's talents in the 17 days of intense competition at the 2022 Cliburn Competition. Rising to the top as the gold-winner of that competition was Korean-born pianist, Yunchan Lim. As Jury Chair Marin Alsop expressed: “Yunchan is that rare artist who brings profound musicality and prodigious technique organically together.”



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



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