

MELIORA WEEKEND

MORNING CHAMBER MUSIC

ROSEMARY ELLIOTT, DIRECTOR

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

ADAM W. SADBERRY, FLUTE

Saturday, October 7, 2023

Hatch Recital Hall

11:30 AM



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

PROGRAM

If you would like to find out more about this series, student scholarships, and receive email notifications about future concerts please contact Rosemary Elliott at relliott@esm.rochester.edu

Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D Major, BWV 1050.2

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Allegro
Affetuoso
Allegro

Ryan Chan, solo harpsichord
YooJin Jang, solo violin
Adam Sadberry, solo flute

with
Jiaqi Yu, violin
Arthur Nyanfor, viola
Kyle Victor, cello
Arden Ingersoll, bass

Portraits of Langston (2007)

Valerie Coleman
(b. 1970)

Helen Keller
Danse Africaine
Le Grand Duc Mambo
Silver Rain
Parisian Cabaret
Harlem Summer Nights

Adam Sadberry, flute
Zhiwei Ni, clarinet
Elinor Freer, piano
Nyla Thomas, narrator

The Morning Chamber Music series is proud to present concerts that represent the diversity and excellence of the Eastman School. We will be welcoming back alumni guests to establish a mini residency so they can work with current students both in concert and in classes. We would like to thank Dr. Shreedevi K. Pandya whose generous gift has made this possible.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Named one of The Washington Post's 23 for '23, flutist and educator **Adam W. Sadberry** is paving a distinctive career with his citizenry, creativity, and vibrancy both on and off stage. As a winner of Concert Artists Guild's 2021 Victor Elmaleh Competition, his engagements include appearances with The Phillips Collection, Chamber Music Detroit, Four Seasons Arts, Community Concerts at 2nd, and a residency at the Eastman School of Music. At Merkin Hall in 2023, Adam gave the world premiere of *_NOT RUNNING*. (The Life of L. Alex Wilson), a piece by Dameun Strange that was co-commissioned for him by the BMI Foundation and Concert Artists Guild. The piece is about L. Alex Wilson, an unsung hero of the Civil Rights Movement and Adam's late grandfather.



Adam's commitment to citizenry is reflected through his educational work and his deeply-rooted pursuits in self-awareness and equity. In spring 2023, Adam completed a term as a flute faculty sabbatical replacement at the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities), and he has given residencies at Lawrence University, Northern Michigan University, South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, and Wesleyan College (GA). Adam has had performance engagements at Indiana University (Bloomington), Pepperdine University, and Georgia Southwestern State University, and he has given masterclasses at New York University, Oakland University, University of Memphis, Rhodes College, and the Harmony Project (Los Angeles). Adam's work includes presentations on identity, L. Alex Wilson's legacy, and mindfulness that is informed by his Alexander Technique training. In addition Adam was a panelist at the 2023 League of American Orchestras Conference where he shared his thoughts on addressing institutional trauma in orchestras.

Along with his solo and educational work, Adam has a strong foundation in orchestral playing. He is the principal flutist of the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in Santa Cruz, CA. He has played both principal and section flute roles with the orchestras of St. Louis, Detroit, Minnesota, Seattle, Sphinx, and New World. Adam was previously the principal flutist of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, flutist and piccoloist with the Des

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Moines Metro Opera, and African-American Orchestra Fellow with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Adam can be heard playing on the soundtrack of Disney's *The Lion King* (2019) and in the Hollywood Bowl's Juneteenth Celebration (2022) that included artists such as Chaka Khan, Ne-Yo, Billy Porter, Questlove, and Earth, Wind, and Fire.

Adam is 27 years old, from Montgomery, TX, and currently based in Saint Paul, MN. He is working towards an Alexander Technique teaching certificate as a Judith Leibowitz Scholar at the Minnesota Center for The Alexander Technique, and he holds a Bachelor of Music and Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music. Outside of music, Adam finds joy in community, rollerskating, listening to podcasts, reading, spending time outdoors, and above all, eating. Adam can be found on Facebook and on Instagram as [@adamhappyberry](#).

Hailed for his "solid technique... imaginative programming... tasteful creativity in registering orchestral textures" (*AGO Charleston Chapter*), **Ryan Chan** is recognized as a versatile musician specializing in organ and harpsichord. He has performed in notable venues including Freiburger Dom, Katholische Hofkirche in Dresden, Kerk Noordbroek in Groningen, St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle, Church of the Covenant in Cleveland and Syracuse University. He has been featured in festivals including Piccolo Spoleto L'Organo in Charleston, Oberlin Baroque Performance Institute, Rochester Early Music Festival and Skaneateles Festival.

Ryan recently won second-prize in the 'XVI. Internationalen Gottfried-Silbermann-Orgelwettbewerb', making him the first Hong Kong/Chinese organist to place in this premier European competition. He is the first-prize winner of the 2018 Arthur Poister Organ Scholarship Competition, as well as a finalist in the 2022 National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (American Guild of Organists). Upcoming engagements include solo recitals in Bremen Dom, Altenburg Schlosskirche and Dresden Kathedrale in Germany, and also St. James' in the City, Los Angeles.

Ryan is currently based in Rochester, New York, pursuing a doctoral degree in organ at Eastman under the tutelage of David Higgs.

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Applauded by *The Strad* for her “fiery virtuosity” and “consummate performances,” violinist **YooJin Jang** is a winner of the 2017 Concert Artists Guild Competition and First Prize winner of the 2016 Sendai International Music Competition. These victories have resulted in a busy itinerary of international recital and concerto engagements and also the release of two new recordings for the dynamic young talent lauded by the *Boston Musical Intelligencer* as being “a performer without fear or technical limitation.”

Recent and forthcoming concerto performances include appearances with the symphony orchestras of Columbus, Chautauqua, Dubuque, and Roswell. In recital, highlights include YooJin’s recent Carnegie Hall debut and concerts at Jordan Hall and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston and the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert series in Chicago. A passionate chamber musician, YooJin has performed with Caramoor’s Rising Stars and toured with Musicians from Ravinia’s Steans Music Institute and Musicians From Marlboro.

Internationally, YooJin has performed with the KBS Symphony Orchestra and Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as with the Budapest Festival Orchestra led by Ivan Fischer, Bulgaria National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, and Spain’s Extremadura Orchestra; and recitals in Japan in Sendai, Nagoya and at Hamarikyū Asahi Hall in Tokyo.

In 2017, YooJin released two albums: live performances of the Mendelssohn and Stravinsky Violin Concertos with the Sendai Philharmonic Orchestra and Junichi Hirokami and a recital disc featuring music of Mendelssohn, Stravinsky, Grieg, and Sibelius with pianist Kae Ozawa. Her first album, *Korean Young Musicians*, was released on the KBS (Korean Broadcast System) label, in cooperation with Aulos media & KBS Classic FM. She is also regularly heard on the radio, including a recent appearance on WQXR’s McGraw Hill Young Artists Showcase.

YooJin’s latest victories at CAG and Sendai follow a long line of international competition success. In 2013, she won Japan’s 4th International Munetsugu Violin Competition, which included the loan of the 1697 ‘Rainville’ Stradivari violin. She was also a top prize winner at the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, the Michael Hill

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International Violin Competition (including the Audience Prize and Best Performance of the New Zealand Commission Work), and the Yehudi Menuhin Competition.

YooJin is a co-founder of The Kallaci String Quartet, which made its international debut at the Kumho Art Hall in Seoul, Korea and the Seoul Spring Festival of Chamber Music. Recognized for her creative work in chamber music, she won the 2011 Borromeo String Quartet Guest Artist Award, and in 2009 she was awarded the Schloss Weikersheim Scholarship as part of the London String Quartet Competition. YooJin has also participated in the Marlboro and Ravinia Festivals, where she worked with artists such as Menahem Pressler, Dénes Várjon, and Peter Wiley.

YooJin holds a Bachelor of Music from The Korean National University of Arts, where she studied under Nam Yun Kim. She earned a Master of Music, Graduate Diploma, and Artist Diploma from New England Conservatory, as a student of Miriam Fried; and she is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts at NEC.

A native of Montana, pianist **Elinor Freer** has built a versatile career as soloist, chamber musician, teacher, and artistic administrator. Praised for her “utmost sensitivity” (Harrisburg Patriot News) and “profound commitment and understanding” (General-Anzeiger, Bonn) Ms. Freer has performed throughout the United States, Europe, Mexico, and China, including appearances at The Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, The Valery Gergiev Festival in Rotterdam, the Gnessim Institute in Moscow, the Akademie múzických in Prague, and more. Her performances have aired on National Public Radio and on “Performance Today,” and she has recorded for Cedille Records.

A prizewinner and laureate in the Joanna Hodges International Piano Competition and the American Pianists Association Auditions, Ms. Freer has been the recipient of numerous awards including fellowships at the Steans Institute of the Ravinia Festival and the Tanglewood Music Center. She holds degrees with honors from the Cleveland Institute of Music, the University of Southern California, and, as a Frank Huntington Beebe scholar, a Performer’s Diploma from the *Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Utrecht*

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in the Netherlands. She feels privileged to have studied and coached with Paul Schenly, John Perry, Kyoko Hashimoto, Gilbert Kalish, Ferenc Rados, Peter Serkin, Leon Fleisher, and Claude Frank.

Passionate about expanding audiences for classical music, she founded and directed residencies in rural Kansas and Montana, bringing live music onto street corners and into diverse venues such as schools, psychiatric hospitals, banks, and grocery stores. For these initiatives she was awarded multiple grants from the NEA. For ten years she and her husband cellist David Ying directed the Skaneateles Festival and garnered a CMA/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming.

A former faculty member of Fort Hays State University and the University of Missouri, Ms. Freer is on the piano and chamber music faculty of the Eastman School of Music and lives in Brighton, NY, with her husband, David, and their two children.

Zhiwei Ni started playing the clarinet at the age of 9, under the famous clarinet educator, Fan Lei. In 2016, Zhiwei studied at Interlochen with Emil Khudiyev. He also studied and graduate from Colburn Music Academy with Yehuda Gilad. In March 2020, he was admitted to the Eastman School of Music where he studies under professor Michael Wayne on a full scholarship. From 2019 to 2020, he was selected for the China Youth Symphony Orchestra (NYO-China) twice, touring Europe. Zhiwei was nominated the second prize of the third Central Conservatory of Music International Mozart Clarinet Competition in 2016 and the first place in the China National Clarinet competition in Qingdao. In 2020, Zhiwei won the second prize of the Vandoren Emerging Artist competition. In 2021, he won the grand prize of the China-Spain International Music Competition - Clarinet session and the 1.Prize and the Grand Cash Prize of Rising Star Berlin International Music Competition. In 2022, he was selected as a candidate for the Carl Nielsen International Competition. In 2023, Zhiwei won the prestigious Young Artist Competition of ICA. He was invited to give a recital in Dublin in 2024.

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Arthur Nyanfor is a 20 year old violist hailing from Columbia, South Carolina and has been playing viola for approximately 9 years. His love for music began with piano at the age of five. At about that same time he began singing and then joined multiple church choirs and youth ensembles. Arthur also joined his elementary school ensemble, which was comprised of Caribbean steel pan drums. He found his love for the viola at age of 11 in his school orchestra, specifically because of its unique role in being the vital center of any ensemble. In his second year of high school, Arthur started taking private viola lessons. For the past three years he has participated in a variety of chamber, orchestral, and symphonic ensembles. Arthur was invited to participate in the 2020 Sphinx Performance Academy at the Curtis Institute of Music and the NYO2 program at Carnegie Hall. In the same year, his string quartet won second place in the USC String Quartet competition, judged by the Parker String Quartet. Arthur currently studies with George Taylor at the Eastman School of music in viola performance and hopes to pursue a career in orchestral playing.

Nyla Thomas is a 2nd-year Master's student studying Vocal Performance and Literature at Eastman School of Music. She currently studies and coaches with Professor Katherine Ciesinski and Dr. Allison d'Amato. She is from Southaven, Mississippi where she started her journey as a vocalist at her church, Christ Communion Temple COGIC, at a young age. She received her Bachelor of Music Education from Mississippi State University (MSU), where she performed as a soloist with MSU's choral ensembles, MSU Opera Workshop, Black Voices, gospel group Vessels of Worship (V.O.W.), and First Presbyterian Church of Columbus Loft Choir. Along with being a student at Eastman, she serves as a Graduate Assistant for the Music Education Department. She teaches Voice Class to Music Education (instrumental) students and enjoys seeing students' vocal progress.

Nyla has recently performed the role of Mabel in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* with the Golden Triangle Theatre Troupe in Columbus, MS. Nyla was a finalist at the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) in Natchitoches, Louisiana. During the summer of 2021, she participated in *Opera Viva!*, a week-long study abroad focused on cultivating young artists in opera. While at *Opera Viva!*, she competed in the organization's first Italian Opera Aria Competition and was awarded second prize in the Collegiate Division.

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She is an aspiring opera singer who dreams of performing internationally and hopes to one day share the gift of music to children in Mississippi by opening a chain of performing arts schools that will allow them to cultivate their dreams and desires of becoming performing artists.

Kyle Victor is a Caribbean-American cellist from Houston, Texas. Kyle graduated from Klein High School where he played in the Chamber Orchestra, which went on to see much success. One of the most notable was winning Grand Champions in the National Orchestra Cup, where he also received best soloist.

Kyle started playing the cello at age 10 as a part of the 5th grade strings program at his local elementary school. He immediately fell in love with the cello and has continued playing ever since, studying throughout his younger years with Jenny Huang. Kyle also studied with Professor Daniel Saenz. Kyle did his bachelors under Amit Peled at the Peabody Conservatory, where he received an Excellence in Music Leadership Full scholarship, and most recently he received the Stephen Kates Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Cello. He is currently attending the Eastman School of Music studying under Professor Doane and Elliott. Kyle was also a member of the Houston Youth Symphony, performing with them as the winner of their concerto competition along with the AFA symphony summer institute. He was also awarded membership in the TMEA All-state Orchestra for two consecutive years.

Kyle has been fortunate to work with some notable musicians like Amit Peled, Alban Gerhardt, Chloe Trevor, Marin Alsop, Sheku Kanneh-Mason and others. He hopes to one day start a non-profit organization centered around helping low-income areas and providing music programs to children and adults.

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Coming from a non-musician family, **Jiaqi Yu's** talent was recognized early, and she was encouraged to follow her passion for the violin. Yu started studying with a violin pedagogue, Prof. Xiaoshao Huang, when she entered the elementary school of Central Conservatory. At age 19, Ms. Yu earned a full scholarship to Oberlin College and Conservatory to study with Milan Vitek. She has also studied with Grammy-award-winning violinist Sibbi Bernhardsson after Milan Vitek retired from Oberlin.

Jiaqi, as a passionate soloist and collaborator, worked closely with top institutions, such as Central Conservatory in Beijing, Oberlin College and Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, and Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. She also worked with world-class musicians and well-known string quartets, such as Milan Vitek, Sibbi Bernhardsson, Kirsten Doctor, Marilyn McDonald, Merry Packham, Masumi per Rostad, Verona Quartet, Brentano String Quartet, Doric String Quartet, Tokyo String Quartet, and Ying Quartet.

Ms. Yu has performed as concertmaster and principal player for some of the top institutions in the world, including Eastman Musica Nova, Oberlin Conservatory Chamber Orchestra, Oberlin Orchestra, Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble, NYO- China Orchestra, and China Youth Orchestra. Yu traveled with the orchestra worldwide, including Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, South Korea, the Czech Republic, and the United States. Yu has also played a lead role as a principal musician in distinguished productions, including concertmaster of the world premiere of Dance Mobile by 2000 Ernst von Siemens Music Prize-winner Augusta Read Thomas during the Eastman School of Music Centennial celebration.

Jiaqi Yu is pursuing an Advanced Diploma at the Eastman School of Music after finishing the Master of Music degree in Rochester, NY, with Professor Yoo Jin Jang, the Sendai International Music Competition winner in 2016. Yu is currently an adjunct violin faculty member at Rochester Institute of Technology, also playing as the concertmaster in the RIT Philharmonic Orchestra. In August 2022, Yu won the 3rd prize in the Young Soloist International Music Competition.

In February 2023, Yu was honorable mentioned by the American Virtuoso International Music Competition Winter Edition.

UPCOMING MELIORA WEEKEND CONCERTS

All listed performances are free unless otherwise noted.

MELIORA WEEKEND

Eastman Saxophone Project & Brass Guild

Kilbourn Hall

Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 2:00 PM

MELIORA WEEKEND

Horn Choir, Trombone Choir, & Tuba Mirum

Kilbourn Hall

Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 4:30 PM

MELIORA WEEKEND

A Musical Tribute to Douglas Lowry

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 7:30 PM

Celebrate the music of Dean Emeritus Lowry during a special commemorative concert featuring the Eastman Chorale, Musica Nova, Symphony Orchestra, and Wind Ensemble.

MELIORA WEEKEND

First-Year Wind Quintets

Ciminelli Lounge

Sunday, October 8, 2023 at 11:30 AM

MELIORA WEEKEND

Eastman Chorale

Kilbourn Hall

Sunday, October 8, 2023 at 3:30 PM

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.



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



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