



SUMMER  
@EASTMAN

# RICH THOMPSON TRIOS: PAST-PRESENT-FUTURE

## RICH THOMPSON, JAZZ DRUMS

Monday, July 8, 2024

Kilbourn Hall

7:30 PM



EASTMAN  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

## PROGRAM

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*Program to be announced from the stage*

Rich Thompson, drums  
Clay Jenkins, trumpet  
Jeff Campbell, bass  
Timothy Ogunbiyi, piano  
Zach Walgren, bass  
Charles Pillow, reeds  
Bob Sneider, guitar

## MEET THE ARTISTS

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Drummer **Rich Thompson** has been in demand as a top call drummer in Rochester for the past 30 years. Besides serving as the drum set instructor at the Eastman School of Music since the fall of 1996, Rich has toured, performed, and recorded with the “who’s who” of jazz greats including pianist James Williams (Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers), The Count Basie Orchestra, Tito Puente, Frank Foster, The Byron Stripling quartet, saxophonist Rich Perry, the Bill Dobbins Trio, Harold Danko, Marion McPartland, Trio East (which includes Clay Jenkins and Jeff Campbell), trumpeters Snooky Young and Terell Stafford, guitarist Gene Bertoncini, Carl Fontana, Phil Woods, Joe Pass, and a host of others too numerous to mention. The Boston Globe cited Rich as “the drummer who drove the Basie sound” when he appeared with them at the Boston Jazz and Blues Festival. His new Rich Thompson Quartet CD entitled “Who Do You Have to Know,” on Origin Records, was released in March 2023.

Rich performs regularly with numerous symphonies in the U.S. and Canada, also on the world renowned “Jazz Cruise” and, in jazz clubs throughout the U.S. and Europe with the Byron Stripling quartet. His clinics and performances have taken him as far as France, Thailand, Japan, Switzerland, and Newfoundland. Rich has written four drum set books published by Kendor Music USA and Advance/Schott Music-Germany. Visit Rich on his website to listen to clips or watch a video of his trio “Generations” at the 2012 Rochester International Jazz Festival.  
[www.richthompson.net](http://www.richthompson.net)

## MEET THE ARTISTS

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**Clay Jenkins'** career as a jazz artist has covered a wide range of musical experiences and responsibilities, bringing him to the forefront of the jazz performing and teaching arenas. Clay's experience as a performer began at an early age, playing and recording with the Stan Kenton Orchestra. In 1978 Clay moved to Los Angeles, where he was in demand as a performer and studio recording musician, and toured with the big bands of Buddy Rich and the Count Basie Orchestra.

Since moving to Rochester, New York in 2000 to join the Eastman faculty, Clay has maintained a busy performing, recording, and teaching schedule. He has remained active throughout the United States and abroad. Clay continues to perform and record with the Clayton/Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, of which he is a charter member and whose trumpet section also included the great Eugene "Snooky" Young (1919-2011). Clay's close friendship with Snooky Young led to three guest appearances at Eastman by the great trumpet player, and Clay recently established the "Snooky Young Endowed Scholarship" at Eastman to assist under-represented minority students. Clay is currently writing a biography of Snooky Young's life.

Clay has performed on over one hundred recordings. He has released seven solo recordings under his name, and as a co-leader he has recorded with Gene Bertocini, Kim Richmond, and Don Aliquo. Additionally, Clay has also recorded with Joe LaBarbera's Quintet, The Clayton/Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, Harold Danko, Rufus Reid, Alan Ferber, and Charles Pillow.

Clay also records with his Eastman colleagues Jeff Campbell and Rich Thompson as "Trio East." Clay's latest recording project, soon to be released, included guitarists Gene Bertocini and Larry Koonse, drummers Joe La Barbera and Jeff Hamilton, and bassist John Clayton.

Clay attended North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas) where he earned his bachelor's degree in music theory. He received his master's degree in jazz studies from the University of Southern California.

Clay plays Edwards Trumpets and is a performing artist for The Edwards Instrument Company.

## MEET THE ARTISTS

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**Jeff Campbell** has carved out an impressive career as bass player of extraordinary artistry, fluent in both the jazz and classical idioms. As a jazz bassist, he maintains an active schedule performing with Marian McPartland, Gene Bertoncini, Rich Perry, Trio East, Harold Jones, and the Eastman Jazz Quartet featuring Harold Danko, and has appeared on McPartland's Piano Jazz program on National Public Radio. In high demand across the globe, Jeff has performed at such prestigious European musical events as the Nice, Montreux, North Sea, Riga, and Parnu Jazz Festivals and has also appeared in the former Soviet Union and the Baltic Republics. His first CD, *West End Avenue*, with John Hollenbeck and John Wojceichowski, features a combination of original compositions and jazz standards. Additionally, Jeff is a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra bass section. His summers are occupied with the Birch Creek Music Performance Center in Door County, Wisconsin, where he serves as program director, and the Eastman Summer Jazz Studies and Bass Day, of which he is co-director.

In addition to a busy performing schedule, Jeff maintains an active career as a jazz educator with a keen interest in bass playing of the past, present, and future. A full-time professor at Eastman since 1997, his teaching duties include jazz bass, jazz history, jazz theory and aural skills, and small group performance. He is a regular contributor to the *Double Bassist* magazine, and is the Jazz Editor of *Bass World*, the official publication of the International Society of Bassists. Jeff's book on the famous Duke Ellington-Jimmy Blanton duets (in preparation for publication) provides bassists with an opportunity to study the bass playing of Jimmy Blanton.

Jeff's music education began at an early age under the influence of his professional-musician parents. As a young musician, Jeff received much of his musical training working with local professional musicians in a myriad of musical styles and venues. Through these experiences, Jeff developed a healthy balance between the artistic and practical issues faced by today's professional musician. Jeff holds degrees in double bass performance and music education from Brigham Young University (BM) and the Eastman School of Music (MM, DMA). He has studied bass with John F. Clark, James VanDemark, Jeffrey Turner, and Robert Zimmerman, and jazz composition with Bill Dobbins and Fred Sturm.

## MEET THE ARTISTS

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**(Timothy) Digba Ogunbiyi** is a Nigerian Pianist and composer. He was born and raised in Lagos Nigeria. His earliest musical influence was in his parent's local church where he learnt how to play the drums. He always had a passion for music but never had a formal musical training until after high school when he decided to study music professionally.

He enrolled at the Peter King College of Music Lagos under the tutelage of Peter King a renowned jazz saxophonist and composer. In 2010, he was awarded a full scholarship into the Muson Diploma School of Music Lagos where he studied classical piano. He went on to acquire a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Lagos. During this time, he was very active in the Lagos jazz scene and was often seen playing with both local and international artists. In 2016, he attended the NY Jazz workshop and had the opportunity of meeting other musicians from different parts of the world as well as playing in different jam sessions. His music has been described by many as an eclectic fusion of Jazz and classical harmony with exotic underlying African rhythm.

In December 2017, Digba moved to the United States on employment as music director for RCCG, House of Glory Freehold, NJ. During this time, he also studied with Allen Farnham and Garry Dial at the New Jersey City University for a master's degree in performance.

His debut album titled Ade'digba was released in September 2020. Digba is currently studying with Gary Versace at the Eastman School of Music as a DMA candidate. He continues to record and perform in jazz venues and festivals as a band leader and as a side man.

With 7 recordings to his credit, **Charles Pillow** has established himself as one of the premiere woodwind instrumentalists and saxophonists of the day. His recordings include, "Electric Miles" 2018 on MAMA, his large ensemble featuring the music of Miles Davis, which was a top 10 critics pick, "Triocity" Originarts, 2017, with fellow Eastman instructors Jeff Campbell and Rich Thompson, "Van Gogh Letters" ELCM 2010, featuring Eastman instructor Gary Versace, "The Planets" and "Pictures at an Exhibition" both on Artistshare, "In this World" on Summit, 2001 and "Currents" on Challenge, 1996.

## MEET THE ARTISTS

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A fluent performer, educator and touring musician, he has appeared on over 100 CD's of jazz and pop artists such as Brad Mehldau, John Scofield, Michael Brecker, David Liebman, David Sanborn, Jay Z, Paul Simon, Tom Harrell, Joe Henderson, Maria Schneider and Bob Mintzer. In addition to his teaching at the Eastman school of music, he gives masterclasses throughout the US and abroad.

Before joining the Eastman faculty in late 1997, **Bob Sneider** toured for several years with two-time Grammy Award winner Chuck Mangione. Other notable performers with whom Sneider has performed, toured or recorded include: Nat Adderley, Joe Locke, Don Menza, Lou Donaldson, Joey DeFrancesco, Pat Bianchi, Gary Versace, Pat Labarbara, Grant Stewart, Ken Peplowski, Gerry Niewood, Chris Potter, Roy McCurdy, Eric Alexander, David Hazeltine, Frank Strazzerri, Jon Faddis, Keeter Betts and frequent appearances with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Pops(guitar/banjo). Sneider has performed in major festivals, concert halls and jazz clubs throughout South America, Central America, North America and Europe. Sneider is a graduate of the University of Rochester where he studied with Bill Dobbins and Ramon Ricker. Growing up in Brockton, MA, Sneider's mentor and teacher was Chet Kruley – a veteran of the Fletcher Henderson, and Nat Pierce bands.

Sneider has several solo and co-led CD projects that have received rave reviews and international airplay: *Introducing Bob Sneider* (self produced), *Out of the Darkness* (Sons of sound), duo projects with pianist Paul Hofmann – *Interconnection* (Sons of sound) and *Escapade* (Sons of sound) and Serve & Volley (Origin), The Bob Sneider/Joe Locke Film Noir Project – *Fallen Angel* (Sons of sound) and Nocturne for Ava (Origin), *All Through The Night* (RIJF). Several of his students have won major jazz competitions and attended renowned institutes: YoungArts, DownBeat, Grammy National Band, The Brubeck Institute, Kennedy Center / Jazz Ahead.

*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 SUMMER@EASTMAN CONCERTS

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All summer performances are free unless otherwise noted.

SUMMER@EASTMAN

### **Summer Organ Academy Faculty Concert**

Third Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 7:30 PM

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### **Bob Sneider & Paul Hofmann Play Steely Dan, Part II**

Hatch Recital Hall

Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 7:30 PM

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### **Charles Pillow, jazz saxophone**

Kilbourn Hall

Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 7:30 PM

SUMMER@EASTMAN

### **Vertex Saxophone Quartet**

Hatch Recital Hall

Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 7:30 PM

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### **Summer Organ Academy Faculty Concert**

St. Paul Episcopal Church

Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 7:30 PM

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### **Clay Jenkins, jazz trumpet**

Kilbourn Hall

Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 7:30 PM

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### **Summer Organ Academy Participant Concert**

Third Presbyterian Church

Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 11:00 AM



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