What defines the Eastman experience?

Eastman prepares you to take the stage in today’s musical environment. Fellow students share your drive and passion to make music and eagerly explore the infinite possibilities for musical artistry in our changing world. While you are here on your journey, please be sure to take in everything Eastman, as well as the Rochester community, has to offer.

Eastman is located in the cultural center of Rochester that has a rich musical history and a thriving live music and arts scene. When you are not practicing or preparing for the next exam, be sure to take in the life around you. With the help of our alumni, who were once former students just like yourself, we have compiled a list of things you simply must do before you graduate. We hope the results will help to capture the entire “Eastman experience.”

On Campus

1. Attend every concert at the school that you possibly can.
2. Visit the Ruth Watanabe Special Collections at the Sibley Music Library.
3. Take classes in things outside of your regular music schedule. Even take a class on the River Campus.
4. Meet alumni.
5. Teach and perform for kids (on campus or in the community).
6. Take a tour of the Rush Rhees tower carillon. If you are feeling adventurous, consider taking carillon lessons!
7. Visit Rush Rhees Library and spend a quiet afternoon roaming the stacks. Visit the historic archives and see what interests you there!
8. Attend the Orientation Barn Dance and the Winter Ball.
9. Enjoy Welcome Weekend, the Holiday Sing, Boo Blast, Spring Fling, and Senior Week.
10. Play Quidditch with the U of R club team.
11. Spend a summer in Rochester. Enjoy the beautiful weather that you miss (for the most part) during the school year. Sing with “Eastman Summer Sings” or play with the Eastman Community Music School Orchestra.
12. Get some experience through a job or internship, even if you don’t financially need it.

Food

13. Grab a cup of excellent coffee at Java’s or Spot Café.
14. Shop, browse, and taste at the Rochester Public Market, which won the 2010 “America’s Favorite Farmers Market” contest. Get an empanada from Juan & Maria’s!
15. Check out the smaller local markets as well (in South Wedge or Brighton).
16. Heat it up with spicy fare at John’s Tex-Mex in the South Wedge.
17. Try lunch at Thali of India (bring your student ID).
18. Visit Aladdin’s on Monroe Ave; eat on the balcony!
19. Have dinner with friends at the food court at the flagship Wegman’s (in Pittsford). Have dessert and top it off with "the buzz."
20. Have afternoon tea at La-Tea-Da, or come back in the evening to visit its alter ego, Sugar Mountain Bake Shoppe, for some fantastic cupcakes.
21. Eat way too much at Dinosaur Bar-B-Que.
22. Step across the threshold of the Old Toad and find yourself transported across the Atlantic to a semi-authentic English Pub.
23. Check out nearby restaurants such as Charlie’s Frog Pond, Jines or Mario’s. In the mood for something sweet? Visit Abbott’s Frozen Custard or Stever’s Chocolates.
24. Have a Garbage Plate at Nick Tahou’s.

Around Town & the Region

25. Get off campus at least once a week and find something to do to clear your head.
26. Visit the old dorms to see how students used to live - and appreciate that you only have to walk across the street in a snowstorm instead of a mile.
27. Skate on the rink in Manhattan Square Park.
28. Take a historic walk of East Avenue.
29. See a movie at the Little Theatre.
30. Visit the Rochester Museum & Science Center & Strasenburgh Planetarium.
31. Walk down Park Ave and explore everything on it! Visit Parkleigh - especially around the holidays.
32. Take the tour of the Mount Hope cemetery. Try to find the final resting places of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass.
33. See a concert in the Highland Bowl.
34. Before spring juries, walk to Highland Park to encounter the calming influence of the lilacs.
35. Stay late after the semester to attend the Lilac Festival - if it doesn’t rain.
36. Bike the river and canal trails.
37. Take time to get to know "some of the locals.”
38. Go to a Red Wings Game.
39. Learn to knit or to dance, take a cooking class or riding lessons, volunteer at Strong Hospital, or get involved in a community project.

Most of all, make friends. At Eastman, you will make bonds for a lifetime – and you will be glad that you did.

40. Visit the Memorial Art Gallery for their special events and take in some of their lectures. Visit the artists’ studios behind the Memorial Art Gallery.
41. Tour the George Eastman House.
42. See a classic film at the Dryden Theatre.
43. Go crate digging at the record stores: Lakeshore Record Exchange, Bop Shop, Record Archive, and Needle Drop Records.
44. Check out the Strong National Museum of Play or the Seneca Park Zoo.
45. Visit the Susan B. Anthony House.
46. Visit Letchworth State Park - and perhaps spend a night camping and hiking.
47. Fill a day with fun and excitement at Darien Lake or Seabreeze Amusement Park.
48. Take a trip to Niagara Falls and try to see it from the Canadian side! Drive back through Buffalo for original Buffalo-style chicken wings at the Anchor Bar or Duffs.
49. Take a weekend trip to the Finger Lakes. Camp in one of the “Gorge”-ous state parks in Ithaca, and visit all the parks in one day on one ticket.
50. Get to know as many colleagues as you can. After you graduate - keep in touch with these friends. Hold them dear to your heart. It is an opportunity of a lifetime - even though at times you may not necessarily think so!

Thanks to our many alumni who helped create this list. What’s on your list? Contact the Eastman Office of Advancement at alumni@esm.rochester.edu.