

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

CHARLES PILLOW, JAZZ SAXOPHONE

Monday, February 19, 2024

Hatch Recital Hall

7:30 PM



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

PROGRAM

Out of Nowhere	Johnny Green
Our Delight	Tadd Dameron
On a Misty Night	Tadd Dameron
Duke Ellington's Sound of Love	Charles Mingus
Celia	Bud Powell
September in the Rain	Harry Warren
Like Someone in Love	Jimmy Van Heusen

with

Christine Jensen, alto saxophone
Ivan Demarjian, tenor saxophone
Clay Jenkins, trumpet
Mark Kellogg, trombone
Christopher Azzara, piano
Jeff Campbell, bass
Rich Thompson, drums
Amy Azzara, voice

MEET THE ARTISTS

With 7 recordings to his credit, **Charles Pillow** has established himself as one of the premier 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 ogh 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.



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.

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

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Orchestra. She has performed with Jeremy Pelt, Phil Dwyer, Ben Monder, Gary Smuylan, 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.

A versatile saxophonist who focuses on improvisation, **Ivan Demarjian** is a multi-instrumentalist from Massachusetts who brings a distinctive sound on all four saxophones. With an emphasis on alto and tenor, Ivan is known for his depth of sound and musicality, and focuses mainly on jazz, both contemporary and traditional. He also has a passion for playing and writing music of other genres, like pop, RnB, funk, and fusion. He is an active member of Seldon the Band, the Sonic Alchemists, and Dave Rivello's New Jazz Ensemble, all based out of Rochester, NY. When he returns to the Boston area he plays with the Night Shift wedding band agency, the Cape Ann Big Band, and Brassfed Nation. Most recently Ivan has branched out into composing and arranging and has begun his journey as a woodwind doubler on flute and clarinet. He loves to play the piano and has found himself naturally gravitating to teaching. In his hometown of Gloucester, MA he regularly teaches elementary, middle, and high school students both privately and through the after school band program. He plans to continue and develop his role as an educator, influencing the next generation of musicians, throughout the rest of his life. Ivan has performed at venues such as the Shalin Liu Performance Center in Rockport, MA, Neck of the Woods in San Francisco, CA, the Salem Jazz and Soul Festival in Salem, MA, and in Rochester, NY at both The Little Theatre and Kilbourn Hall. In 2021, Ivan played lead tenor in the MMEA All State jazz program, and is now pursuing his bachelor's degree in jazz performance at the Eastman School of Music, where he studies saxophone under Professor Charles Pillow.

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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

Mark Kellogg has embraced a wide range of musical roles throughout his career as a performer, teacher and administrator. Whether it's taken the form of appearing as a concerto soloist, playing in a wide variety of chamber ensembles, performing as an orchestral musician or as a jazz player, teaching students of all ages or overseeing artistic programs or festivals, he has been most fortunate to explore a rich array of musical opportunities. In addition to holding the position of Professor of Trombone at the Eastman School of Music, Mr. Kellogg is chair of the Winds, Brass and Percussion Department and an affiliate faculty member in the school's departments of Jazz and Contemporary Media and Music Teaching and Learning. Co-Director of the Eastman Trombone Choir and Director of the Eastman Brass Guild, he also leads the school's faculty mentoring program in his position as Director of Faculty Development.



An Eastman faculty member since 1991, Mr. Kellogg's past duties have included teaching euphonium, leading the school's audience development program *Eastman To Go*, chairing Eastman's chamber music department and initiating a course under the auspices of Eastman's Arts Leadership Program called "Parallels Between Acting and Musical Performance". This course was inspired by the work of his son, Rob Kellogg, a professional actor in New York City.

Mr. Kellogg performed for twenty-eight years as a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. He occupied the Austin Hildebrandt Principal Trombone position and appeared as soloist with the RPO on many occasions, performing the concerti of Tomasi, Albrechtsberger, Larsson, Shilkret and Jeff Tyzik (commissioned by the RPO in celebration of the orchestra's 80th anniversary), works by Elliott Carter and Fred Sturm and numerous jazz and euphonium solos on the orchestra's Pops series. Prior to his appointment in the Rochester Philharmonic, Mr. Kellogg performed as a member of the San Francisco Symphony and the National Repertory Orchestra. In recent seasons, he has also played with the Oregon Symphony, the Florida Orchestra, the Charleston Symphony, the Naples Philharmonic and Symphoria.

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Mr. Kellogg has been a frequent guest with the Eastman Wind Ensemble, appearing as soloist in the Eastman Theatre and on tours to Japan and Carnegie Hall with Donald Hunsberger and Mark Davis Scatterday. He has also performed as a soloist with the Hartford Symphony, the US Army Orchestra, the University of Rochester Symphony, the Youngstown Symphony, the Penfield Symphony, the Hamilton New Music Ensemble, Brazil's Orquestra Sinfonica do Theatro da Paz, and Argentina's Camerata Eleuthera Chamber Orchestra.

Active as a jazz and chamber musician, Mr. Kellogg was a founding member of the brass and percussion ensemble *Rhythm & Brass*, touring the United States and Japan and making four recordings during his two years in the group. He has also performed with Clark Terry, Chris Vadala, Wynton Marsalis, Eddie Daniels, and Mel Tormé. Jazz and commercial recordings include collaborations with Jeff Tyzik, Gene Bertoncini, Allen Vizzutti, Steve Gadd, Gap Mangione and as a member of the Dave Rivello Ensemble. His jazz recording with Eastman School faculty colleague pianist Tony Caramia, *Upstate Standards*, celebrates the music of upstate New York composers Harold Arlen, Alec Wilder, and Jimmy Van Heusen. Mr. Kellogg's most recent CD, *Impressions*, is a collection of French music for trombone and piano, featuring pianists Joseph Werner and Christopher Azzara. Since 2016, he has performed extensively with pianist Priscilla Yuen across the United States and South America.

A Conn Trombone performing artist, Mr. Kellogg has made appearances at numerous festivals and low brass symposia including the International Trombone Festival, the American Trombone Workshop, the Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival, the Northeast Regional Tuba-Euphonium Conference, the Asian Pacific Music Educators Conference, the New York Brass Conference, the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra's International Youth Orchestra Institute, the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival and the New World Symphony as well as at trombone festivals and master classes in Panama, Costa Rica, Argentina, Brazil and Germany.

In 2006, Mr. Kellogg founded Eastman's annual Summer Trombone Institute, a week-long workshop for high school, college, young professional and adult amateur trombonists. In June 2014, he served as co-host of the International Trombone Festival, held at the Eastman School.

Mark Kellogg and his wife, Meghan, a professional pianist, organist, singer and choral director, live in Brighton with their four cats.

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Pianist, arranger, author, and educator, **Christopher Azzara** has made important contributions to advancing the understanding of creativity and improvisation in the music learning process. An innovator in the art of music teaching and learning, Dr. Azzara is Eisenhart Professor of Music Teaching & Learning, and Affiliate Faculty of Jazz Studies & Contemporary Media and Woodwinds, Brass & Percussion at the Eastman School of Music. Teaching and performing internationally, he is the author of numerous articles, arrangements, and books, including *Developing Musicianship Through Improvisation* and *Jump Right In: The Instrumental Series* (GIA). His arrangements for instrumental and vocal ensembles include *A la nanita nana* for choir and chamber orchestra or piano (Oxford), and *Concert Selections for Winds and Percussion* (GIA). His research and publications are concerned with meaningful relationships among listening, creating, improvising, reading, composing, and analyzing music in vocal and instrumental settings. Dr. Azzara's work has appeared in journals such as the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, the *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, the *Music Educators Journal*, *Early Childhood Connections*, and in *The New Handbook of Research on Music Teaching and Learning* (MENC/Oxford), and Oxford Handbooks Online.



Azzara performs as a soloist and in various ensembles, including the *Chris Azzara Trio*, and has played on and produced many studio and educational recordings. In Rochester, he performs with free-lance musicians, members of the Eastman School of Music faculty, and members of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

An active teacher and clinician, Azzara has taught and performed extensively throughout the United States, and in Canada, the Caribbean, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, China, Japan, and Australia. He has presented clinics and workshops in a variety of settings, including TEDxRochester, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, and leading music schools in this country and abroad.

Christopher Azzara is a native of Virginia and attended public schools in Fairfax County. After receiving the Bachelor of Music degree from George Mason University (1981), he taught instrumental music in the Fairfax County Public Schools and performed as a pianist in the Washington D.C. area. He later received a Master of Music (1988) and a

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Ph.D. in Music Education (1992) from the Eastman School of Music. Prior to joining the Eastman faculty, Dr. Azzara was a professor at The Hartt School of Music, Dance, and Theatre of the University of Hartford, CT (1991-2002). Azzara joined the Eastman faculty in 2002 and was chair of the Music Teaching & Learning Department (then called the Music Education Department) from 2010-2018. In 2022, as an Eastman professor, Azzara received the University of Rochester's Edward Peck Curtis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, which recognizes a record of distinguished undergraduate teaching and a commitment to helping less experienced faculty colleagues and teaching assistants master their craft. In 2023, Christopher Azzara was named Eisenhart Professor of Music Teaching & Learning, the oldest endowed professorship at the Eastman School of Music.

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*

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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 the great 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.

Drummer **Rich Thompson** has been in demand as a top call drummer in Rochester for the past 25 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), trumpeter Snooky Young, 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.



Rich has been touring this country and abroad with the Byron Stripling Quartet for the past five years. His new CD entitled "Trio Generations" was released in May of 2012 on Origin Records. It was included on the long list for two Grammys. His new CD entitled "Less is More" was

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recorded with trumpet sensation Terrell Stafford, pianist Gary Versace, and bassist Jeff Campbell and was released in March of 2013 on Origin Records also. In 2016 Rich recorded “Have Trumpet Will Swing” w/the Bryon Stripling Quartet and in 2017 “I Believe in You” by the group Triocity was released. Triocity features multi- saxophonist/reedman Charles Pillow and bassist Jeff Campbell.

Rich performs regularly with numerous symphonies in the U.S. and Canada, the world renowned “Jazz Cruise” and 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 at the Rochester International Jazz Festival.

Amy Azzara is a vocalist based in New York City. Born in Hartford, CT and raised in Rochester, NY, she was immersed in music from day one of her life. Amy learned songs by ear and was always surrounded by musicians.

Present day is navigating life in Manhattan, singing in the New York scene, and working on creative projects. Amy sings in a variety of styles and colors. She adores recording and improvising. One of Amy's assets is her ability to sing in different settings: as a soloist, as a background vocalist, singing wordless, or in a group.

Azzara's released works are available on streaming services. Her latest originals are entitled “Assumptions,” and “little computers.” She is currently working on a musical with her childhood best friend Bridget Welch. Amy has done recording work, and she teaches voice and beginning piano lessons. She is also a collaborator of Foray Music, a positive resource for musicians of all ages and levels. Foray maintains a YouTube channel, a weekly newsletter, and a podcast.

Amy earned a B.M. in Jazz Vocal Performance from the University of Miami. During her time at the Frost School of Music, Azzara had the privilege of studying with Dr. Kate Reid, as well as singing lead soprano in a Downbeat award-winning jazz vocal ensemble and learning from renowned jazz educators at the Frost School of Music. In 2022, Azzara toured Europe with the Frost Chorale under the direction of Dr. Amanda Quist. The group sang in London and Paris in beautiful, historic places. The chorale

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had the opportunity to sing alongside VOCES8. In 2021, Amy attended the JAS Aspen Summer Academy under the direction of Christian McBride.

Amy has sung with Christian McBride, Cyrille Aimee, Shelly Berg, Kathleen Grace, Rich Saunders, Joe Block, and Connor Rohrer. Mentors have been vital in her journey, to shape and hone her technique, improvisation, artistry, professionalism, and overall approach: Dr. Kate Reid, Dr. Charlie Christensen, Dr. Christopher Azzara, Dafnis Prieto, Alison Wedding, Laura Jean Diekmann, Karie Templeton, Eva Regan, and the Geva family (a non-exhaustive list).

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

KILBOURN CONCERT SERIES

Lady Blackbird

Kilbourn Hall

Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Introducing Lady Blackbird - a bold, effervescent West Coast-based vocalist who has burst onto the jazz scene, harnessing the energy of Billie Holiday and Chaka Khan to create her unique style.

KILBOURN CONCERT SERIES

Steven Isserlis, cello

Kilbourn Hall

Sunday, February 25, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Acclaimed worldwide for his profound musicianship and technical mastery, British cellist Steven Isserlis enjoys a unique and distinguished career as a soloist, chamber musician, educator, author and broadcaster. As a concerto soloist, he appears regularly with the world's leading orchestras and conductors, including the Berlin Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra Washington, London Philharmonic and Zurich Tonhalle orchestras.

With pianist, Connie Shih

UPCOMING STUDENT ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

All student performances are free unless otherwise noted.

OSSIA

Kilbourn Hall

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Eastman New Jazz Ensemble

Kilbourn Hall

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 7:30 PM



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



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