

# QUADRENNIAL LEAP YEAR WITH HAROLD DANKO

Thursday, February 29, 2024  
Kilbourn Hall  
7:30 PM



**EASTMAN**  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

## PROGRAM

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**To Start Again** (1982)

Harold Danko  
(b. 1947)

**Soaring Thru Space** (1968)

**Pastoral Landing** (1968)

**Envisage/Future Cast** (2020)

**Ice Mirror** (1990)

**Night Space** (1999)

**Luz Caverna** (1984)

**Subindo** (1985)

Harold Danko, piano

## *INTERMISSION*

**Address Unknown** (2020)

**Second Act** (2020)

**Ffreshh** (1992)

**Omniperception** (1997)

**Tidal Breeze** (1966)

Clay Jenkins, trumpet  
Charles Pillow, woodwinds  
Kyle Vock, bass  
Bobby Blandino, drums

## PROGRAM NOTES

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### HAROLD DANKO'S TWELFTH QUADRENNIAL LEAP YEAR EVENT

**February 29th** (the extra day every four years) provides jazz pianist and composer **Harold Danko** with the occasion of presenting a concert showcasing his original compositions. The tradition was inaugurated in 1980 at the Jazz Gallery in NYC, sponsored by Cobi Narita's Universal Jazz Coalition with a grant from Meet the Composer, continuing with UJC's partnership in 1984 and 1988 and then at legendary NYC jazz clubs such as Birdland and the Five Spot before nesting in Rochester at the Little Theatre Cafe in 2000 and 2004, the Venu Resto Lounge in 2008, Kilbourn Hall in 2012 and 2016, and most recently at the East Rochester's Piano Works Mall in 2020.

The event this year marks Harold's return to the Kilbourn stage as Professor Emeritus and will feature him as solo pianist and in the company of notable colleagues.

*“To Start Again* has become my go-to opening number to get my mind and fingers in the same place. It has been recorded several times and was the title tune of Rich Perry's debut CD on SteepleChase.

*Soaring Thru Space* and *Pastoral Landing* were written in my student years at the Dana School of Music - Youngstown (Ohio) State University. I developed a fascination with quintal harmony from hearing the night music in Bela Bartok's second piano concerto and more directly from Dominic Frontiere's *Outer Limits* music on the TV series.

*Envisage/Future Cast* are non-identical twins from my Rite of Spring studies along with stand-alone numbers, *Address Unknown* and *Second Act*.

*Night Space* is the lead off tune from my *Nightscapes* suite, originally written for quartet.

*Luç Caverna* and *Subindo* are a Brazilian influenced couplet first recorded on *Next Age*, my first CD for SteepleChase.

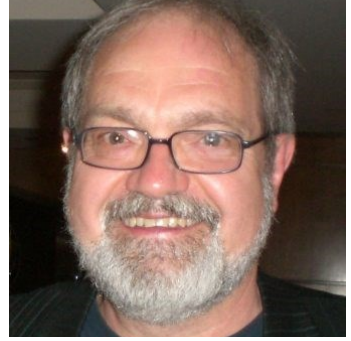
*Freshb*, *Omniperception*, and *Tidal Breeze* were composed in different time periods but are linked by a persistent note series. *Tidal Breeze* has been recorded multiple times and was even heard as background music on the soap opera *Another World*.”

— Harold Danko

## MEET THE ARTISTS

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In a career spanning more than a half century **Harold Danko** has established himself as a distinguished pianist, composer and band leader, fortified by an impressive resume of collaborations with legendary jazz artists, at prestigious jazz venues throughout the world as well as in recordings, television and video. His work is well documented and readily available on multiple CDs and Youtube clips. These include Chet Baker's classic 1987 Tokyo concert with more than five million hits, as well as featured performances with Thad Jones/Mel Lewis, Gerry Mulligan, Lee Konitz, and on James Moody's version of *Giant Steps*.



As a leader Harold has been featured at the Rochester International Jazz Festival, Lincoln Center's "Meet the Artist" series, Washington DC Performing Arts Society series at J.F.K. Center, and numerous jazz festivals both in the USA and abroad. In the 1990's he performed with and composed for his quartet with Rich Perry (tenor saxophone), Scott Colley (bass) and Jeff Hirshfield (drums), and in 1995 received an NEA Fellowship to perform his own works in a series of concerts in New York City. In recent years he has led a trio with Hirshfield and Michael Formanek or Jay Anderson (bass) in addition to adapting his compositions for solo piano performances, and can be heard in various formats on more than thirty CDs on the SteepleChase and SunnySide labels. Since 1980 he has earned ASCAP awards yearly for the value of his catalog of original compositions.

Danko holds Professor Emeritus status at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, where he chaired the jazz studies program for eleven years and established the Jazz Performance Workshop curriculum. In 2007 he received a Bridging Fellowship for research in the Linguistics Department of the University of Rochester on the relationship of speech and music. Prior to his appointment at Eastman he served on the faculties of the Manhattan School of Music, the New School/Mannes, Hartt College, and other institutions. Harold's featured column, "Solo Piano", appeared in Keyboard Magazine for more than five years, and his keyboard improvisation method, "The Illustrated Keyboard Series", is a highly regarded reference work. Beginning his piano studies at the age of five, he

## MEET THE ARTISTS

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became serious about pursuing a career in jazz at the age of fifteen when he commenced studies with Gene Rush in Youngstown, Ohio. After graduation from Youngstown (Ohio) State University, where recently he was awarded an honorary doctorate in music, and a stint in the U.S. Army band Harold landed the piano chair in Woody Herman's Thundering Herd, which launched his career as a much sought after jazz musician, composer, and educator.

His latest CDs, released over the last three years on the SteepleChase label, *Spring Garden*, *Rite Notes*, and *Trillium* are all inspired by Igor Stravinsky.

“These recordings document important steps in my continuing exploration of Stravinsky’s music for purposes of composition and improvisation – a harvest growing directly from the Rite of Spring and other related works. In live performances the eighteen pieces developed from my studies serve as springboards for further investigation and improvisation. My post-production work on the recordings sparked greater interest in finding even more content to draw on from Stravinsky’s scores, and the pieces have evolved into a kind of suite for solo piano incorporating details that had to be left out of the CDs. I premiered an abbreviated version in 2020 at my Leap Year concert on February 29 in East Rochester and longer versions later at the Bop Shop and Rochester International Jazz Festival.”

**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

## MEET THE ARTISTS

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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 Bertoncini, 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 Bertoncini 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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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 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.



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.

**Kyle Vock** received a Masters Degree in Jazz Bass Performance from the Eastman School of Music in 2010. In 2008 he earned a Jazz Studies degree at SUNY New Paltz, where he founded the New Paltz Jazz Society. As president of the student-run club, Kyle brought workshops and performances to campus by world renowned Jazz musicians like Jack DeJohnette and Rufus Reid. After graduating from Eastman, Kyle taught for three summers at the Performing Arts Institute of Wyoming Seminary, directing the jazz program in his final season.



Kyle performs regularly in the Rochester/Western NY area in many groups spanning many different styles of Rock, Blues, Jazz, and Contemporary.

Since 2013, he has Directed the Nazareth University Rock Ensembles and taught both electric and upright bass at Naz.

## MEET THE ARTISTS

**Bobby Blandino** is a true legend in the Rochester region and beyond. One of the most respected and in-demand drummers in the Rochester jazz community, Bobby's playing has always reflected the styles of the master drummers. He studied with the great Vinnie Ruggiero in Brooklyn and played at the inaugural Rochester Jazz Festival with saxophonist Joe Romano. Performances with notable jazz artists at numerous venues over the last several decades include many concerts for prisons and at St. Peter's jazz vespers in New York City.



*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

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Tickets for all series concerts can be purchased at [EastmanTheatre.org](https://EastmanTheatre.org)

### FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

## Alexander Kobrin, piano

Hatch Recital Hall

Friday, March 1, 2024 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.

### JAMES E. CLARK CHAMBER MUSIC RESIDENCY

## JACK Quartet

Hatch Recital Hall

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 12:30 PM

Hailed by The New York Times as “our leading new-music foursome,” and described as “expert in the most ferociously difficult modern scores” by The New Yorker, the GRAMMY-nominated JACK Quartet is one of the most respected experimental string quartets performing today, synchronized in its mission to create international community through transformative, mind-broadening experiences and close listening.

\*This concert does not require tickets and is free to attend.

## UPCOMING STUDENT ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

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All student performances are free unless otherwise noted.

## Eastman School Symphony Orchestra

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Friday, March 1, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Music of Brahms and Dvořák

## Eastman Chorale

Kilbourn Hall

Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 3:30 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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