

COMPOSERS CONCERT

Tuesday, March 3, 2026
Hatch Recital Hall
7:30 PM



Eastman School of Music

PROGRAM

Canopy, Veins, Earth Cracks (2026)

Haoyi Zhang
(b. 2005)

Ella Zack, violin
Colin Chin, cello
Honor Hickman, flute
Jay Kline, bass clarinet
Irene Huang, piano
Liyao Yu, conductor

Listen (2026)

Nathanael Kumar
(b. 2004)

Sarah Cao, soprano
Misha Studenkov, accordion

Dover Beach

Matthew Arnold

The sea is calm tonight.
The tide is full, the moon lies fair
Upon the straits
Listen! you hear the grating roar
Of pebbles which the waves draw back, and fling,
At their return, up the high strand,
Begin, and cease, and then again begin,
With tremulous cadence slow, and bring
The eternal note of sadness in.

Sophocles long ago
Heard it on the Ægean, and it brought
Into his mind the turbid ebb and flow
Of human misery

The Sea of Faith
Was once, too, at the full,
But now I only hear
Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,
Retreating, to the breath
Of the night-wind, down the vast edges drear
And naked shingles of the world.

Ah, love, let us be true
To one another! for the world, which seems
To lie before us like a land of dreams,
So various, so beautiful, so new,
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;
And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night

PROGRAM NOTES

Canopy, Veins, Earth Cracks (2026)

Haoyi Zhang

Canopy, Veins, Earth Cracks explores the ideas of spreading, branching, and growth. Through a series of timbral experiments, a single musical idea is taken up by different sonic mediums and allowed to evolve in distinct forms.

—*Haoyi Zhang*

Listen (2026)

Nathanael Kumar

In 2026, Matthew Arnold's poem "*Dover Beach*" seems more relevant than ever. The world is full of groups in moral, political, and armed conflict. People of all walks of life are convinced that these are deteriorating times.

The text of this art song is extracted from "*Dover Beach*", and like the source material, it is a plea: we have to listen to and love one another if we want the world to get any better.

This art song was written for Sarah Cao and Misha Studenkov — thank you for your friendship and collaboration!

— *Nathanael Kumar*

MEET THE COMPOSERS

Haoyi Zhang is a third-year undergraduate composer at the Eastman School of Music. She previously studied with Evis Sammouris, Elizabeth Ogonek, and Daniel Pesca. Her music has been performed across Europe, Asia, and North America by music students and professional artists such as the Mivos Quartet. Currently, her pieces mainly focus on exploring the accumulation and transformation of energy, along with the passage of time.

Nathanael Kumar has been creating for as long as he can remember. After a decade spent writing fantasy stories, humming inscrutable tunes, and theorizing new inventions, he found a permanent creative home in classical music in the sixth grade, when he discovered a miniature tuba called the “euphonium”. In the ensuing years, he fell in love with soloing, composition, and the violin standard repertoire. Now, as a full-time music student, he leads a double life as a composer and euphonist.

In his compositions, Nathanael strives to write accessible music for the modern era. His latest work, a solo for horn and piano, intertwines free tertian harmonies with an old Canadian folk song. As a euphonist, he has a penchant for unorthodox solo repertoire, and alongside his practical studies, he’s pursuing a Certificate in Arts Leadership. Nathanael currently studies with Elizabeth Ogonek and Justin Benavidez at the Eastman School of Music.

UPCOMING EASTMAN PRESENTS CONCERTS

Tickets for all series concerts can be purchased at EastmanTheatre.org

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

Steven Doane, cello

Friday, March 6, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

EASTMAN PRESENTS – FERNANDO LAIRES PIANO SERIES

Sir Stephen Hough

Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

One of the most distinctive artists of his generation, Sir Stephen Hough combines a distinguished career as a pianist with those of composer and writer. Since taking first prize at the 1983 Naumburg Competition in New York, Sir Stephen has appeared with most of the major European, Asian and American orchestras and plays recitals regularly in major halls and concert series around the world from London's Royal Festival Hall to New York's Carnegie Hall. In 2014 he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) and was knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honors in 2022.

EASTMAN PRESENTS – KILBOURN CONCERT SERIES

SO Percussion

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

Eastman Virtuosi

Saturday, March 28, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

UPCOMING EASTMAN ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

All student performances are free unless otherwise noted.

Eastman Wind Orchestra

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 7:30 PM
Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

EMuSE

Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 7:30 PM
Hatch Recital Hall

Eastman Percussion Ensemble

Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 7:30 PM
Kilbourn Hall

Celentano Quartet Award Recitals

Friday, March 6, 2026 at 4:30 PM & 8:30 PM
Hatch Recital Hall

Eastman School Symphony Orchestra

Friday, March 6, 2026 at 7:30 PM
Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Musica Nova

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 7:30 PM
Kilbourn Hall

OSSIA

Friday, March 20, 2026 at 7:30 PM
Hatch Recital Hall

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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