

44TH ANNUAL JESSIE KNEISEL LIEDER COMPETITION

Friday, May 8, 2026
Kilbourn Hall
1:00 PM



Eastman School of Music

PROGRAM

Nacht (Hauptmann) from <i>Sieben frühe Lieder</i>	Alban Berg (1885-1935)
Die verschwiegene Nachtigall (Vogelweide) from <i>6 Songs, Op. 48</i>	Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)
Nocturne (Hartleben)	Joseph Marx (1882-1964)
Neue Liebe (Heine) from <i>Sechs Gesänge, Op. 19a</i>	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Du bist die Ruh, D. 776 (Rückert)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Rastlose Liebe, D. 138 (Goethe)	
An den Mond, D. 193 (Hölty)	
Lorelei (Heine)	Clara Schumann (1819-1896)
Mondnacht from <i>Liederkreis, Op. 39</i> (Eichendorff)	Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Die Spröde from <i>Goethe-Lieder</i> (Goethe)	Hugo Wolf (1860-1903)

Emily Rose Krasinski, soprano
Xiaoliang Qian, piano

PROGRAM

Der Zwerg, D. 771 (Collin) Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Winterreise, D. 911 (Müller)
I. Gute Nacht
XXIV. Der Leiermann

Der Gang zum Liebchen (Wenzig) Johannes Brahms
from **7 Lieder, Op. 48** (1833-1897)

Es träumte mir
from **8 Lieder and Songs, Op. 57** (Daumer)

Minnelied (Hölty)
from **5 Songs, Op. 71**

Im Nebel Robert Owens
from **3 Lieder für Bariton und Klavier, Op. 20** (Hesse) (1925-2017)

Auf ein altes Bild Hugo Wolf
from **Mörike-Lieder** (Mörike) (1860-1903)

Nun seh' ich wohl, warum so dunkle Flammen Gustav Mahler
from **Kindertotenlieder** (Rückert) (1860-1911)

Finn Bucci, baritone
Miao Gao, piano

PROGRAM

Mausfallen-Sprüchlein (Mörike) Hugo Wolf
from *6 Lieder für eine Frauenstimme* (1860-1903)

Mörike-Lieder (Mörike)
VIII. Begegnung
IX. Nimmersatte Liebe

Gretchen am Spinnrade, D. 118 (Goethe) Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Suleika II, D. 717 (Willemer)

Heidenröslein, D. 257 (Goethe)

Im Frühling, D. 882 (Schulze)

Hat gesagt – bleibt's nicht dabei Richard Strauss
from *4 Lieder, Op. 36* (1864-1949)

Ständchen
from *6 Lieder, Op. 17* (Schack)

9 Songs After Goethe, Op. 6 (Goethe) Nikolai Medtner
I. Wandrers Nachtlid II (1880-1951)
III. Elfenliedchen

Ach, wende diesen Blick Johannes Brahms
from *8 Lieder and Songs, Op. 57* (Daumer) (1833-1897)

Der Maiabend (Voss) Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel
from *6 Lieder, Op. 9* (1805-1847)

Konstantina Gotouhidis, soprano
Meihui An, piano

PROGRAM

- Bei dir allein** Franz Schubert
from *4 Refrainlieder, D. 866* (Seidl) (1797-1828)
- Im Frühling, D. 882** (Schulze)
- Einsamkeit**
from *Winterreise, D. 911* (Müller)
- Gedichte der Königin Maria Stuart,**
Op. 135 (Vincke) Robert Schumann
IV. Abschied von der Welt (1810-1856)
V. Gebet
- Ob ich manchmal dein gedenke** Josephine Lang
from *6 Deutsche Lieder, Op. 27* (Köstlin) (1815-1880)
- Schon wieder bin ich fortgerissen** (Heine)
from *6 Lieder, Op. 38*
- Sie sind so schön die milden, sonnenreichen** Franz Schreker
from *Fünf Gesänge* (Ronsperger) (1878-1934)
- Berlin im Licht** (Weill) (1928) Kurt Weill
(1900-1950)
- Wenn ich lieben dürfte, wie ich will** (Kreisler) (1979) Georg Kreisler
(1922-2011)
- Suleika** (Willemer) Felix Mendelssohn
from *6 Gesänge, Op. 34* (1809-1847)
- Rote Rosen** (Stieler) Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)

Jessica Kodsi, mezzo-soprano
Veniamin Blokh, piano

PROGRAM

Mörike-Lieder (Mörike) Hugo Wolf
VIII. Begegnung (1860-1903)
XXX. Neue Liebe
XL. Der Jäger
XLIX. Zur Warnung

Der Gondelfahrer, D. 809 (Mayrhofer) Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Die schöne Müllerin, D. 795 (Müller)
III. Halt!
V. Am Feierabend

Four German Songs Charles Ives
I. Weil' auf mir (Lenau) (1874-1954)
III. Feldeinsamkeit (Allmers)
IV. Ich grolle nicht (Heine)

Liederkreis, Op. 39 (Eichendorff) Robert Schumann
III. Waldesgespräch (1810-1856)
IV. Die Stille

Über allen Gipfeln ist Ruh (Goethe) Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel
(1805-1847)

Ashton Rapp, baritone
Zheng Xie, piano

BRIEF PAUSE

PROGRAM

- Heimliches Lieben, D. 922** (Klencke) Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)
- Bei dir allein**
from *4 Refrainlieder, D. 866* (Seidl)
- Der Schmetterling, D. 633** (Schlegel)
- Mondnacht** Robert Schumann
from *Liederkreis, Op. 39* (Eichendorff) (1810-1856)
- Ständchen** Richard Strauss
from *6 Lieder, Op. 17* (Schack) (1864-1949)
- 3 Lieder nach Theodor Storm* (Storm) Käthe Volkart-Schlager
Wiegenlied (1897-1976)
Abends
Im Walde
- Der Knabe und das Immlein** Hugo Wolf
from *Mörrike-Lieder* (Mörrike) (1860-1903)
- Mein Liebster ist so klein, daß ohne Bücken**
from *Italienisches Liederbuch* (Heyse)
- Liebeszauber** (Geibel) Clara Schumann
from *6 Lieder, Op. 13* (1819-1896)
- Vorfrühling** (Avenarius) Anton von Webern
from *3 Poems for Voice and Piano* (1883-1945)
- Gefunden**
from *Drei Avenarius Lieder* (Avenarius)
- Nach Süden** (Hensel) Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel
from *5 Lieder, Op. 10* (1805-1847)
- Frühling** (Eichendorff)
from *6 Lieder, Op. 7*

Marlena St. Jean, soprano
Derek Hamersly, piano

PROGRAM

6 Lieder, Op. 13

Ich stand in dunklen Träumen (Heine)

Sie liebten sich beide (Heine)

Die Liebe sass als Nachtigall (Geibel)

Der Mond kommt still gegangen (Geibel)

Ich hab' in Deinem Auge (Rückert)

Die stille Lotosblume (Geibel)

Clara Schumann

(1819-1896)

Die Mainacht (Hölty)

from **4 Songs, Op. 43**

Johannes Brahms

(1833-1897)

Mädchenfluch (Kapper)

from **9 Songs, Op. 69**

Gretchen am Spinnrade, D. 118 (Goethe)

Franz Schubert

(1797-1828)

Ständchen (Rellstab)

from **Schwanengesang, D. 957**

Die junge Nonne, D. 828 (Jachelutta)

Hannah Yan, mezzo-soprano

Zhouyi Zuo, piano

PROGRAM

6 Lieder, Op. 68 (Brentano) Richard Strauss
II. Ich wollt ein Sträußlein binden (1864-1949)
V. Amor

Abendstern, D. 806 (Mayrhofer) Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Im Frühling, D. 882 (Schulze)

Dass sie hier gewesen, D. 775 (Rückert)

Hat dich die Liebe berührt (Heyse) Joseph Marx
(1882-1964)

Und gestern hat er mir Rosen gebracht (Lingen)

3 Lieder, Op. 22 (1930) Erich Wolfgang Korngold
I. Was du mir bist? (Straten) (1897-1957)
III. Welt ist stille eingeschlafen (Kobald)

Ich hab in Penna einen Liebsten wohnen (Heyse) Hugo Wolf
from *Italienisches Liederbuch* (1860-1903)

Bedeckt mich mit Blumen (Geibel)
from *Spanisches Liederbuch*

Nicole Khouzami, soprano
Derek Hamersly, piano

MEET THE ARTISTS

Soprano **Emily Krasinski** is celebrated for her clear sound and immense understanding of language and culture, which she showcases in each performance she gives. This past February, Emily was honored to receive the Annabel Muentner Second Vocal Prize in the 25th Annual Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition. She was also a finalist in the 43rd Annual Jessie Kneisel Lieder Competition in 2025. Emily is a skilled collaborator, focusing largely on ensemble singing large and small. Most recently, she organized, programmed and sang in a chamber concert featuring Brahms' *Liebesslieder-Waltzer* and Schumann's *Minnespiel*. She is currently studying voice with Professor Anthony Dean Griffey and is set to graduate with degrees in vocal performance and in business this May. This fall, Emily will begin her Master's degree at Yale School of Music as part of the Institute of Sacred Music's Voxtet, a select group of eight singers specializing in early music, oratorio, and chamber ensemble.

Pianist **Xiaoliang Qian** is celebrated for his dynamic performances and technical mastery. Currently pursuing his doctorate at the Eastman School of Music under the mentorship of Professor Marina Lomazov, Xiaoliang has won top prizes in the Thousand Islands Competition, MTNA Young Artist Competition, Lewisville Lake International Piano Competition, Grand Junction Young Artist Competition, and Schubert Club Scholarship Competition, etc. As an active performer, Xiaoliang has appeared in recitals and concerts worldwide, both as a soloist and as a collaborator. Most recently, he was featured as a soloist with the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra and the Lewisville Lake Symphony Orchestra.

Finn Bucci is a baritone from Bel Air, Maryland, pursuing his Master's in Vocal Performance and Literature at the Eastman School graduating this year, studying in the studio of Anthony Dean Griffey all the way from 2019 as an undergraduate until now. He will be pursuing an MMA in Opera at the Yale School of Music starting in the Fall and will be attending the Aspen Music Festival and School this summer as a Studio Artist. Mr. Bucci has loved lieder as long as he has been singing, starting with *Sonntag* by Brahms many moons ago.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Miao Gao is an award-winning pianist who has received prizes in major international competitions, including the Weatherford International Piano Competition (Jury Discretionary Award, 2025), the Lancaster International Piano Competition (Second Prize, 2025), the 4th Shigeru Kawai International Piano Competition (Second Prize, 2023), the Huang Long International Music Festival Piano Competition (First and Special Prize, 2019), the 15th Khachaturian International Piano Competition (Third Prize and Special Prize, 2019), and the 7th Steinway Youth Piano Competition (Second Prize, 2017).

Since 2022, he has studied at the Eastman School of Music with Professor Alexander Kobrin, where he is currently pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

Konstantina Gotouhidis is a 21-year-old soprano pursuing a Bachelor's degree and Arts Leadership Certificate at Eastman. She recently appeared as Ida in *Die Fledermaus* and as Florindo in *24 Opera*, and has had the pleasure of being a part of the choruses in Eastman's productions of *Dido and Aeneas* and *Ainadamar*. She also covered the roles of Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro* as well as Adele in *Die Fledermaus* at Lyric Opera Studio Weimar. Konstantina is very excited to perform the role of Adele in Lyric Opera Studio Weimar's production this summer!

The first musician in her family, **Meihui An** started playing the piano at the age of four and has since performed as a soloist and chamber musician across North America and Asia. Deeply committed to community engagement, Meihui frequently performs at local events, bringing music to diverse audiences. She was named as a Yamaha Young Performing Artist in 2023. Meihui is currently pursuing a Master's in Piano Performance under the guidance of Marina Lomazov and Joseph Rackers at Eastman where she also earned her Bachelor's. Outside of music, she enjoys content creation, learning new languages, and traveling around the world.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Jessica Kodsi is a mezzo-soprano from Chattanooga, Tennessee who currently studies at the Eastman School of Music with Professor Kathryn Cowdrick. Jessica made her Eastman Opera Theatre debut in 2023 as Pythia in Nkeiru Okoye's 2015 chamber opera *We've Got Our Eye on You* and performed as Elizabeth Kertész in the 2025 world premiere of Steve Bramson's opera *CLICK!* In addition to performing on stage, she has also worked as an Assistant Stage Manager for six EOT productions. Jessica is excited to continue her musical studies next year at the University of South Carolina Opera Theatre program.

Veniamin Blokh, born in St. Petersburg, Russia, began piano studies at age four and trained at the Central Special Music School of the St. Petersburg Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory (2001–2012). He earned his BM summa cum laude from the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory (2017), followed by a MM summa cum laude at Texas Tech University and an Artist Diploma at Texas Christian University. He is currently pursuing a DMA in Piano Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music, where he serves as a collaborative pianist. An award-winning performer, Veniamin has appeared internationally as soloist and chamber musician, and enjoys teaching, jazz improvisation, and composition.

Ashton Rapp is a baritone from Lawrence, Kansas, studying Vocal Performance at the Eastman School of Music. During his time at Eastman, he has developed his passion for singing and arts administration, with aspirations to continue working in the arts in any way. He currently serves as a Head Usher and Resident Advisor on the Eastman campus, and recently completed 2 years of musical leadership for The YellowJackets, an a cappella group at the University of Rochester. Ashton is looking forward to beginning his studies at Carnegie Mellon University for a Master's degree in Vocal Performance this coming fall.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Zheng Xie was born in Jilin, China, and began her piano studies at the age of six. She is currently pursuing the Master of Music degree in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music with Dr. Andrew Harley at the Eastman School of Music, where she holds a graduate assistantship in vocal and instrumental accompaniment. Furthermore, she received a Master's degree in Collaborative Piano from Shanghai Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor's degree in financial management from Central South University. In addition, she was admitted to SongFest with a full scholarship, the Collaborative Piano Institute, and the Brevard Music Center in 2026. Additionally, as a recipient of first-class scholarships, she was nominated for the Outstanding Graduate of SHCM in 2025.

Soprano **Marlena St. Jean** is an emerging artist from Owings, Maryland, with a passion for singing and a good cup of coffee. She obtained her Bachelor of Music at Temple University and is about to complete her Master of Music at the Eastman School of Music. At Eastman, Marlena has been seen as Silvio in *Twenty-Four*, or *The Cure for Love*, and Ida in Johann Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*. She has also performed as a soloist in Eastman's Bach Cantata Series and as a soprano soloist in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Eastman Philharmonia. Her upcoming operatic engagements include a summer of music making at the Seagle Festival.

Derek Hamersly is from Santa Cruz, California. Graduating from Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) in 2019, he received a B.F.A. in Piano Performance and a B.S. in Physics. His former instructors include Susan Bruckner, Hanna Wu Li, Dimitri Papadimitriou, and Christopher Taylor. In 2020, Derek briefly continued with graduate physics at University of California Santa Cruz, but in 2022 he chose instead to pursue collaborative piano as a primary career. At Eastman, he currently studies with Dr. Andrew Harley and holds graduate assistantships in vocal and instrumental accompanying and orchestral keyboard.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Hannah Yan is a mezzo-soprano based in NYC. She is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Music in Voice Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music (ESM) under Nicole Cabell. Her current engagement in the 2025-26 season is being featured as a concert soloist for Ravel's *Shéhérazade* at ESM after winning their annual Concerto Competition. Previously, she played the role of the 'Doctor' in the winter production of *Evidence of Things Not Seen* by Ned Rorem, as well as being the alto soloist in Bach's Cantata *Christum wir sollen loben schon* at ESM. She was also a finalist in the 2025 Friends of Eastman Opera Competition.

Zhouyi Zuo was born in Hubei Province, China, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music, where he studies with Dr. Andrew Harley and holds a graduate assistantship in vocal and instrumental accompanying. He previously earned his Master's degree in Piano Performance from the University of Kansas under Dr. Yi-Yang Chen, and studied collaborative piano with Dr. Ellen Sommer and Professor Ted Taylor. He completed his undergraduate studies at the Soochow University School of Music, studying with Dr. Yingying Su and Dr. Lo-An Lin.

Nicole Khouzami is a Lebanese-American soprano from Johnstown, Pennsylvania. This spring, she sang as Adele in *Die Fledermaus* and as the Soprano Soloist in Haydn's *Requiem in C minor* at Eastman, as well as the Soprano Soloist in Carmina Burana with the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra. At Eastman, she also performed as *The Plaintiff in Trial by Jury* and in a masterclass with Barbara Hannigan. Nicole recently won an Encouragement Award in the Camille Coloratura Competition, and was selected to be a Semi-Finalist in the Houston Saengerbund and Annapolis Opera Competitions. This summer, she joins Finger Lakes Opera as an apprentice artist.

MEET THE ADJUDICATOR

Pianist **Cameron Stowe** is internationally recognized as one of today's leading specialists in song recital repertoire, celebrated for performances that place poetry, voice, and piano in vivid dialogue. Guided by a passion for text and storytelling, he has received widespread critical acclaim for his artistry, described by *The New York Times* as “strong, precise, supple and sensitive,” and praised by *The Washington Post* for “his subtlety, his knack of supporting the voice and engaging it in dialogue, his powers of mood painting.”

Stowe has appeared in major concert venues and festivals throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, South America, and the Far East, collaborating with many of the most distinguished singers of his generation. His work is marked by a rare combination of technical command, stylistic insight, and an unwavering commitment to song as a living, evolving art form.

Grounded in the traditional art song canon, Stowe approaches both performance and teaching with a deep respect for the repertoire's history and craft. He is equally dedicated to creating new work, collaborating with established and emerging composers and championing new songs.

Throughout his career, Stowe has been a tireless advocate for art song—as performer, curator, creator of collaborative projects, and mentor to emerging artists. He serves as Chair of Collaborative Piano at New England Conservatory and Director of the Collaborative Piano Program at the Aspen Music Festival, where he designs innovative performance initiatives that foster deep engagement with poetry, repertoire, and artistic partnership. Recent projects include the creation of the Song Lab at NEC and the curation and direction of song recital series in Boston and Aspen. This summer he joins that faculty at Tanglewood Music Center to work with pianists and singers in the Tanglewood fellowship program.

Previously, Stowe served for fifteen years on the faculty of The Juilliard School and was the founding Chair of the Collaborative Piano Program at the University of Toronto. A sought-after teacher and speaker, he has given masterclasses and residencies across the United States and internationally, including appearances at the Vancouver International Song Institute, Peabody Conservatory, Toronto Summer Music, and National Taiwan Normal University. He also served as keynote speaker and artist-

MEET THE ADJUDICATOR

teacher at the first Chinese National Conference on Collaborative Piano, working with faculty from China's leading conservatories to help shape national curricula in collaborative piano studies.

Central to Stowe's artistic vision is his longstanding collaboration with musicologist Benjamin Binder. Together, they have created interdisciplinary workshops and courses that bring performers into dialogue with musicologists, theorists, and literary scholars. They co-directed the Scholarship in Song Performance summer festival at the University of British Columbia for four years, assembling internationally renowned artists and scholars to explore cross-disciplinary approaches to song—an ethos that continues to shape Stowe's work as a performer, educator, and curator.

Stowe holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Juilliard School, with additional degrees from Peabody Conservatory, Oberlin Conservatory, and the North Carolina School of the Arts.

THE JESSIE KNEISEL LIEDER COMPETITION

Dr. Jessie Kneisel, a Rochester native, enjoyed a forty-year career as professor of German language, literature, and diction at the Eastman School of Music from 1936 until 1976. Her passion for German culture began early in life. During her high school years, the works of Eduard Mörike and the song settings of his poems by Hugo Wolf kindled her interest in German lieder. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in history and German from the University of Rochester in 1928 and 1930. An elected member of Phi Beta Kappa, Dr. Kneisel studied at the University of Bonn, Germany, and received her doctorate from Columbia University in 1947. Her doctoral thesis on Wolf's Mörike settings established her as a leading authority in a hitherto neglected field of research. In the early 1960s, Dr. Kneisel spent a sabbatical year studying opera in Germany and Austria; upon her return to Eastman, she established a course on German opera libretti. She was an inspired teacher whose personality and scholarship made a deep impression on her students. After her retirement in 1976 she remained deeply invested in the affairs of the Eastman School; she and her husband Karl often spent summers in Europe, visiting former students who had gone abroad to make a career as opera singers in Austria and Germany.



The Jessie Kneisel Lieder Competition

With the establishment of the Jessie Kneisel Prize in 1981, Eastman began a tradition of celebrating Dr. Kneisel's rich contributions to the school and her life-long love of German and Austrian culture. An annual competition determines the winners of the Kneisel Prize for an outstanding performance of German lieder by a singer and collaborative pianist, and was made possible through a gift from former Kneisel student George T. McWhorter.

THE JESSIE KNEISEL LIEDER COMPETITION

Ann Clark Fehn was associate professor of German and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies at the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Rochester until her untimely death at age 44 in 1989. She was a scholar as well as a musician, having earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in piano from the Oberlin College-Conservatory, where she studied with John Perry. She actively performed throughout her career, and was particularly interested in German lieder. In the 1980s she team-taught doctoral seminars at Eastman with Jürgen Thym, professor of musicology, and co-authored articles with him and Rufus Hallmark of the City University of New York on text music relations in the German lied. Fehn was a distinguished teacher and scholar of 20th-century German literature, German lyric poetry, and the relationship between music and literature.



The Ann Clark Fehn Memorial Award

Established in 1997, the Ann Clark Fehn Memorial Award recognizes excellence in the accompaniment of German lieder. The recipient is chosen during the annual Jessie Kneisel Lieder Competition, and the award is supported in part by a gift from Fehn's mother, Mrs. Margaret V. Clark.

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 VOICE CONCERTS

Jessie Kneisel Lieder Competition Winners Concert

Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

UPCOMING EASTMAN SERIES CONCERTS

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

EASTMAN PRESENTS – KILBOURN CONCERT SERIES

Joshua Conyers, Kiera Duffy, Nicole Cabell, & Friends

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

EASTMAN PRESENTS – EASTMAN-RANLET SERIES

Mivos Quartet

Sunday, September 20, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Kilbourn Hall

EASTMAN PRESENTS – KODAK HALL SERIES

Alarm Will Sound

Friday, October 2, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

EASTMAN PRESENTS – KILBOURN CONCERT SERIES

Kobrin, Jang, & Ying

Friday, October 9, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Thursday, January 28, 2027 at 7:30 PM

Friday, April 23, 2027 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall



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



University
of Rochester
Eastman School of Music