

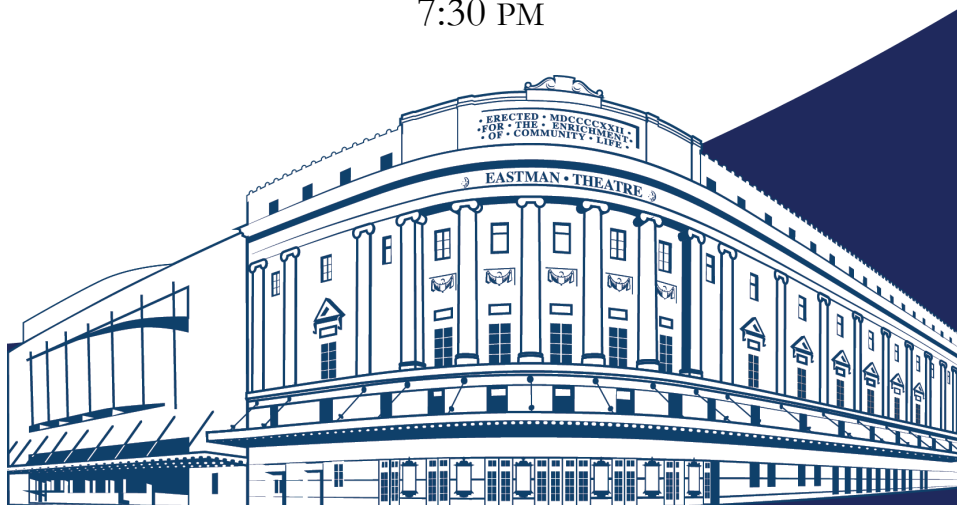
**JESSIE KNEISEL
LIEDER COMPETITION
WINNERS CONCERT**

NICOLE KHOUZAMI, SOPRANO
1ST PLACE

MARLENA ST. JEAN, SOPRANO
2ND PLACE

DEREK HAMERSLY, PIANO
ANN CLARK FEHN MEMORIAL PRIZE

Thursday, May 14, 2026
Kilbourn Hall
7:30 PM



Eastman School of Music

PROGRAM

- 6 Lieder, Op. 68** (Brentano) Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)
II. Ich wollt ein Sträußlein binden
V. Amor
- Und gestern hat er mir Rosen gebracht** (Lingen) Joseph Marx
(1882-1964)
- Hat dich die Liebe berührt** (Heyse)
- 3 Lieder, Op. 22** (1930) Erich Korngold
(1897-1957)
I. Was du mir bist? (Straten)
III. Welt ist stille eingeschlafen (Kobald)
- Dass sie hier gewesen, D. 775** (Rückert) Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)
- Bedeckt mich mit Blumen** (Geibel) Hugo Wolf
(1860-1903)
from *Spanisches Liederbuch*
- Ich hab in Penna einen Liebsten wohnen** (Heyse)
from *Italienisches Liederbuch*

Nicole Khouzami, soprano
Derek Hamersly, piano

BRIEF PAUSE

PROGRAM

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

Marlena St. Jean, soprano
Derek Hamersly, piano

MEET THE ARTISTS

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.

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.

To view text & translations,
scan this code.



JESSIE KNEISEL LIEDER COMPETITION

Dr. Jessie Kneisel (1904-1992)

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 Dr. Kneisel student George T. McWhorter.

JESSIE KNEISEL LIEDER COMPETITION

Ann Clark Fehn (1945-1989)

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 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

EASTMAN PRESENTS – KILBOURN CONCERT SERIES

Chanticleer

Sunday, October 25, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Kilbourn Hall

EASTMAN PRESENTS – EASTMAN-RANLET SERIES

Ying Quartet

Sunday, November 8, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Hatch Recital 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