

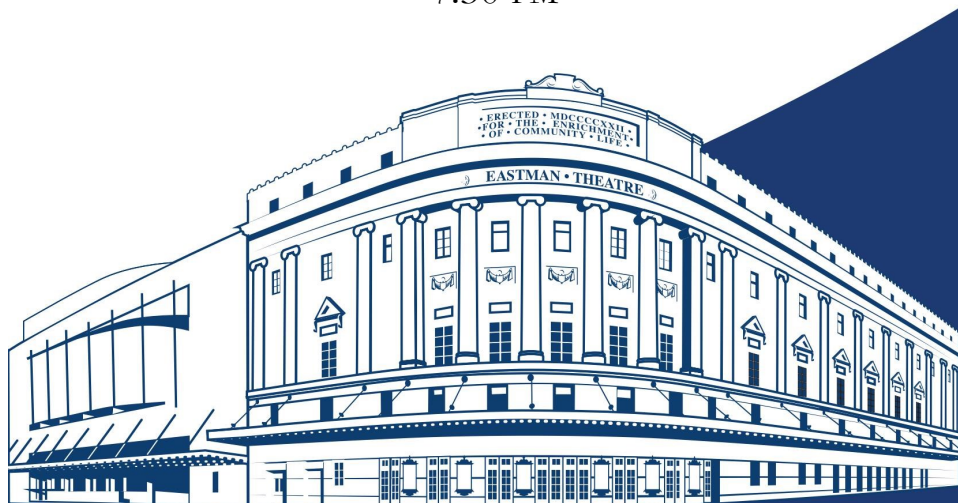
FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

JAZZ STUDIES AND CONTEMPORARY MEDIA SHOWCASE

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Kilbourn Hall

7:30 PM



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

PROGRAM

Selections to be announced from the stage

Charles Pillow and Christine Jensen, saxophone
Clay Jenkins, trumpet
Marshall Gilkes, trombone
Bob Sneider, guitar
Dariusz Terefenko, piano
Jeff Campbell, bass
Otis Brown III, drum set
Sara Gazarek, vocals

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 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.

MEET THE ARTISTS

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

MEET THE ARTISTS

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 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

MEET THE ARTISTS

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.

Over the course of the past 20 years, **Marshall Gilkes** has established himself as one of the world's preeminent trombonists. A nonpareil artist at the forefront of brass playing, his virtuosic command of the instrument, marked by a warm and enveloping tone, Herculean chops, astounding flexibility and awe-inspiring range, place him in a league of his own.



With an incredible work ethic focused and shaped through his Juilliard training, Gilkes quickly became a force to be reckoned with, earning serious praise when he arrived on the scene near the dawn of the millennium. His debut leader date—2004's *Edenderry*—was an instant head-turner, presenting ear-catching compositions showcasing dexterous slide work and an appreciation for high-level interplay. Released on the heels of his appearance as a finalist in the 2003 Thelonious Monk Institute International Trombone Competition, it served as a clear indicator of Gilkes' emerging artistry. Broadening the scope of his imagination, he then looked toward the quintet format for 2008's *Lost Words* and 2012's *Sound Stories*.

Underscoring Gilkes' many and varied strengths on trombone, each of those early releases also highlighted his work as a composer. But it was a pair of sequential albums with Germany's WDR Big Band—an outgrowth of the trombonist's four-year tenure with that ensemble (from 2010 to 2014)—that took things to the next level. 2015's *Köln*, offering a 360-degree look at Gilkes as a writer, arranger, conductor and soloist, was a triumph of epic proportions, earning rave reviews and two Grammy nominations. An equally impressive follow-up—2018's *Always Forward*—served as a compelling companion piece, cementing his status as one of the great big band composers of the modern era.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Shifting gears after establishing his authority in the large ensemble domain, Gilkes furthered his unique musical outlook while fulfilling long-held ambitions of two very different sorts: 2020's *Waiting to Continue*, recorded when studios first reopened shortly after the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, revealed the height, depth and breadth of his powers in the piano-less trio format; and 2022's *Cyclic Journey*, uniting an all-star brass octet with a blue-chip jazz combo to present an original suite built to represent daily life in all its grounding glory, spoke to a boundless artistry.

In 2023, Gilkes and trumpeter Brandon Ridenour joined forces as co-leaders and delivered the eponymous debut from Brassology, a beyond-category brass ensemble eliminating jazz-classical divides and pushing boundaries with its art. And several months after that album arrived, in early 2024, Gilkes released *LifeSongs*, his third thrilling outing with the WDR Big Band. A breathtaking collection of material tied directly to our times, it channels the present moment both in the trombonist's personal sphere and the greater whole we all inhabit.

Through those albums, Gilkes has carved out his place as a leader of note. And with his work as a first-call sideman, in parallel to those efforts, he's demonstrated incomparable might and adaptability. Gilkes has made his mark performing and/or recording with bassist Carlos Henriquez, harpist Edmar Castañeda, the New York Philharmonic, the Brass Band of Battle Creek, Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Slide Monsters, bassist Richard Bona, pianist Makoto Ozone and numerous other top-tier musicians and outfits. And through his work with the WDR Big Band and as a longtime member of the Maria Schneider Orchestra, he's played himself into the rich history of large ensemble music.

A marvel of musicality sought after and highly respected in both the jazz and classical worlds, Gilkes has earned his rightful place in the upper echelon of both realms. Not surprisingly, his vast experience and genre-straddling skills have made him an in-demand educator. At various points in his career, Gilkes has served on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music, Berklee College of Music and New England Conservatory of Music. In addition, he's shared his knowledge and skills through master classes, clinics, guest appearances and teaching at other venerable institutions including the Banff Center, University of North Texas, the Brubeck Institute, Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music and the

MEET THE ARTISTS

New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music. An S. E. Shires Artist, Gilkes performs on his signature model trombone—an instrument as versatile as its inspiration.

Before joining the Eastman faculty in late 1997, **Bob Sneider** toured for several years with two-time Grammy Award winner Chuck Mangione. Other notable performers with whom Sneider has performed, toured or recorded include: Nat Adderley, Joe Locke, Don Menza, Lou Donaldson, Joey DeFrancesco, Pat Bianchi, Gary Versace, Pat Labarbara, Grant Stewart, Ken Peplowski, Gerry Niewood, Chris Potter, Roy McCurdy, Eric Alexander, David Hazeltine, Frank Strazzeri, Jon Faddis, Keeter Betts and frequent appearances with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Pops(guitar/banjo). Sneider has performed in major festivals, concert halls and jazz clubs throughout South America, Central America, North America and Europe. Sneider is a graduate of the University of Rochester where he studied with Bill Dobbins and Ramon Ricker. Growing up in Brockton, MA, Sneider's mentor and teacher was Chet Kruley – a veteran of the Fletcher Henderson, and Nat Pierce bands.



Sneider has several solo and co-led cd projects that have received rave reviews and international airplay: *Introducing Bob Sneider* (self produced), *Out of the Darkness* (Sonsofsound), duo projects with pianist Paul Hofmann – *Interconnection* (Sonsofsound) and *Escapade* (Sonsofsound) and *Serve & Volley* (Origin), The Bob Sneider/Joe Locke Film Noir Project – *Fallen Angel* (Sonsofsound) and *Nocturne for Ava* (Origin), *All Through The Night* (RIJF). Several of his students have won major jazz competitions and attended renowned institutes: YoungArts, DownBeat, Grammy National Band, The Brubeck Institute, Kennedy Center / Jazz Ahead.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Dariusz Terefenko is Associate Professor at the prestigious Eastman School of Music (Rochester, NY, USA) where he holds a joint appointment in two departments: Jazz Studies & Contemporary Media, and Music Theory. In addition, Terefenko is also the Coordinator for the Advanced Certificate in the Art of Improvisation. His books *Jazz Theory – From Basic to Advanced Study* (Routledge, 2017), *Jazz Theory Workbook* (Routledge, 2019), *Jazz Voicings for Piano – The Complete Linear Approach, Volumes I and II* (Advance Music, 2018) have been adopted as a textbook at music universities and colleges around the world. *Jazz Theory – From Basic to Advanced Study* and *Jazz Theory Workbook* are translated into the Polish and Chinese languages and adopted as a college course pack. Terefenko is an active performer and clinician giving piano recitals and masterclasses in USA, Canada, Europe, China, and Brazil. His recordings *Evidence* and *Crossing Paths* feature a mixture of standard tunes and original compositions.



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 Wojciechowski, 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,



MEET THE ARTISTS

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 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 bassist 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.

The son of music educators turned high school principals, Grammy nominated drummer **Otis Brown III** is committed to honoring tradition while pushing the boundaries of genre. Having grown up in Newark, N.J. to the sounds of gospel, funk, rhythm and blues, and jazz, Otis believes music is a vessel for spiritual catharsis, storytelling, and advocacy. In his stellar career as a first call musician he has performed and/or recorded with the likes of artists such as Herbie Hancock, Somi, Joe Lovano, Esperanza Spalding, Terence Blanchard, Robert Glasper, Gretchen Parlato, Regina Carter, and many



MEET THE ARTISTS

others. Having played with a literal “Who’s Who” in the music world, he has also been a frequent collaborator in the world of modern dance. He has collaborated with MacArthur fellow and Doris Duke Artist Award winner Kyle Abraham and his company A.I.M., and has most recently collaborated with choreographer Hope Boykin and the Alvin Ailey American Dance theater for the premiere of a new work titled *Finding Free*. As a bandleader, Otis has also toured extensively worldwide and released his critically acclaimed debut album *The Thought Of You* on the Revive Music/Blue Note record label. The highly anticipated follow-up will be released in 2025.

Graced with an “impeccable” voice (*Winnipeg Free Press*) and hailed as an artist who “may well turn out to be the next important jazz singer” by the *LA Times*, two-time GRAMMY Award® winning jazz vocalist **Sara Gazarek** has been one of the leading lights of an impressive generation of jazz vocalists since her brilliant emergence at age 20. While her subsequent career has been the picture of success – highlighted by five critically acclaimed albums, numerous world tours, an ardent fanbase, enthusiastic reviews, and collaborations with such luminaries as Kurt Elling, Fred Hersch, and Billy Childs, it is with her latest double-GRAMMY® nominated album, *Thirsty Ghost*, and most recent four-song EP, *Vanity*, that Gazarek brings her musical expression stunningly into phase with her emotional maturity. Gazarek currently works as an Associate Professor of Jazz Voice at the Eastman School of music (where she was hired to design the brand-new jazz voice degree), is a founding member of the all-female, GRAMMY® winning vocal ensemble, *säje*, and currently serves as a National Trustee of the Recording Academy.



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

Morning Chamber Music

Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 11:30 AM

Hatch Recital Hall

*Free, tickets not required

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

Eastman Virtuosi

Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

Ran Dank, piano

Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 3:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

Alexander Kobrin, piano

Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

UPCOMING STUDENT ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

All student performances are free unless otherwise noted.

Eastman Philharmonia

Monday, September 22, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Eastman School Symphony Orchestra

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

EMuSE

Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Hatch Recital Hall



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



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

UNIVERSITY *of* ROCHESTER