

## ABOUT THE SISTER CITIES PROGRAM

The Sister Cities Program was developed in 1956 to enlist hundreds of thousands of volunteer citizen-diplomats in a quest for world peace. President Dwight David Eisenhower initiated this "people-to-people" program to encourage Americans to communicate with people around the globe and for communities to bond together by engaging in projects that are mutually beneficial.

Given the diversity of ethnic origins of its population, and its strong international business ties, the City of Rochester was one of the first to develop closer ties with its counterparts abroad when Mayor Peter Barry signed its initial Sister City agreement with Rennes, France, in 1958. International Sister Cities of Rochester and its sister city committees organize and carry out Rochester's Sister Cities Program. Relying on the support of volunteers from throughout the Rochester region, ISCOR promotes international understanding, cooperation, and development through a variety of dynamic exchanges with its sister cities around the globe. ISCOR supports projects which link the sister cities, and serves as an international gateway for municipal, economic, cultural, educational, medical, and governmental exchanges between Rochester and its sister cities.

The organization is governed by its Board of Trustees and the Mayor serves as the honorary chair. The Board includes the chairpersons of each sister city committee, elected officials, and other individuals who are active in the international arena. International Sister Cities of Rochester is also a member of the national organization, Sister Cities International, located in Washington, D.C.

If you would like to support ECMS, you may do so online using the QR code:



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 on whose ancestral lands the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester currently occupies in Rochester, New York.

### Audience Guidelines

Out of respect for all the performers, we ask audience members to stay until the end of the recital. If an exception must be made (for example, small children may be unable to sit through a long program quietly), please enter and leave the hall only between performers.

Please ensure that children are quiet and remain seated.

[www.esm.rochester.edu/community](http://www.esm.rochester.edu/community)

# International Sister Cities of Rochester Friendship Concert

*Forty-Sixth Recital of the 2025-2026 School Year*

Saturday, January 10, 2026

7:30 pm

Kilbourn Hall



University  
of Rochester  
Eastman School of Music

Eastman Community Music School

## PROGRAM

### Alytus, Lithuania

#### Sonata for Trumpet and Piano

II.  
III.

Demian Spindler, *trumpet*  
Howard Spindler, *piano*

Jonas Tamulionis

**Demian Spindler** is a trumpet soloist and chamber musician originally from Rochester, NY. Demian played his solo debut with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra at age 16, and he earned the Diploma with Honors from the Eastman Community Music School in 2010. Now based in the Philadelphia area, Demian is an active freelancer and is a founding member of the contemporary trumpet trio, “something something trumpet.”

**Howard Spindler**, a native Rochesterian and a graduate of Eastman’s Preparatory Department, joined the ECMS faculty almost half a century ago! A versatile performer and teacher, he has excelled as a pianist, chamber musician, and accompanist; he has served in various leadership roles at Eastman over the years.

### Nocturne in F Minor, Op. 55, No. 1

Oscar Bernfield, *piano*

Frédéric Chopin

### Nocturne in G Minor, Op. 37, No. 1

Mitchell Weinstein, *piano*

F. Chopin

**Mitchell Lazore Weinstein** is currently in 10th grade, and he has been a student at Eastman Community Music School for four years. Mitchell studies classical piano under Howard Spindler, jazz piano under Paul Hofmann, and is a member of the Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra, conducted by Herb Smith.

A native of Rochester, **Nathaniel Ying** serves as co-principal trumpet of the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra; he also plays in the ECMS Honors Brass Quintet. He studies trumpet with Wes Nance and he plays basketball for Brighton High School.

### Veliky Novgorod, Russia

#### Do not sing, my beauty, to me

At night in my garden

The Twelve Brigands

The Wide Steppe

Kalinka

Sergei Rachmaninov

S. Rachmaninov

Folk Song

Folk Song

Folk Song

**Albert Zhang** is a senior at Honeoye Falls-Lima High School, and he studies piano at ECMS with Howard Spindler. He grew up in California and moved to Rochester about six years ago. As he contemplates college, Albert plans to focus on another artistic passion: creative writing.

Joseph Finetti, *bass-baritone*

X’zaya Ivy, *soprano*

Alla Kuznetsov & Howard Spindler, *piano*

### Prelude in C-sharp Minor, Op. 3, No. 2

S. Rachmaninov

Albert Zhang, *piano*

### Concert Etude, Op. 49

Alexander Goedicke

Nathaniel Ying, *trumpet*  
Julie Runion, *piano*

## MEET THE ARTISTS

**Oscar Bernfield** is a senior at The Harley School and a piano student of Lorenzo Medel. He is currently pursuing an Advanced Diploma in Piano at ECMS.

**Joe Finetti**, Baritone, despite knowing no Russian, and auditioning with repertoire from the Schirmer book of Italian songs and arias, was accepted into a collegiate Russian chorus as an undergrad, lured by the promise of travel with the group to Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, and the Baltic countries in the waning years of the Soviet Union. Joe eventually came to Rochester for a medical residency program and serendipitously found his way after a night on call at Highland Hospital into the ECMS voice studio of the late Jane Gunter-McCoy, with whom he studied for a number of years. Currently a member of the local chamber choirs Madrigalia and Musica Spei, Joe also serves on the alumni board of his undergraduate chorus and plans to join them in a singing tour of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in spring 2027.

Violinist **Qiyue He** and pianist **Kevin Wang** form a dynamic wife and husband duo with a wide-ranging performing career. Qiyue is a UR graduate who went on to earn her MM in violin performance at University of Toronto. She is now a member of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra and continues her studies with Wilfredo Deglans at ECMS. Kevin is a graduate of ESM and serves as a staff accompanist at ECMS. Aiming to bridge the classical, jazz, and K-pop worlds, Kevin is a founding member of the YouTube channel ReacttotheK, which has attracted almost a million followers worldwide.

The **ECMS Klezmer Ensemble** was founded by Director Jonathan Allentoff in 2023. Comprised of accomplished local performers, the ensemble celebrates the rich musical traditions of Ashkenazi Jews of Central and Eastern Europe and promotes the joy and comradery of performing Klezmer music together with others. The ECMS Klezmer Ensemble performs throughout the year at Eastman and across the Greater Rochester community.

**Alla Kuznetsov** received her musical education in Minsk, Belarus, and she served as a faculty member of the Minsk Central Music School before emigrating to the USA in 1990. She joined the ECMS faculty in 1992 and has enjoyed an active performing career in the Rochester area.

### Rehovot, Israel

**Mayim, Mayim**  
**Baym Rebn's Tish**  
**Dem Tsadeks Zemer**  
**Nakhes fun Kinder**

Emanuel Amiran  
Belf  
Dave Tarras  
Belf

ECMS Klezmer Ensemble  
Jonathan Allentoff, *director*

Michael Allentoff, Jack Oster, Barbara Russell, Jenny Tran, *violin*  
Jeff Feldman, *piano*  
Mario Boessl, *mandolin*  
Martin Lustick, *banjo*  
Jay Schildkraut, *clarinet*  
Jody Cooper, *flute*

### Xianyang, Shaanxi Province, China

**思乡曲 (Longing for Home)**  
**苗岭的早晨 (Morning on Miao Mountain)**

Sicong Ma  
Chengren Bai  
arr. Gang Chen

Qiyue He, *violin*  
Kevin Wang, *piano*

*This concert is dedicated to the memory of Lee Johnson. Lee and his wife Maurine were founding members of the Hamamatsu and Puerto Plata committees and Lee, as ISCOR President (2001-2009), helped establish our relationships with Xianyang, China, and Alytus, Lithuania. After his presidency he served as an ex officio member of our board and Executive Committee. He made our program better and stronger.*

## Translations of Russian Song Texts

### Do not sing, my beauty, to me

Alexander Pushkin

Do not sing, my beauty, to me  
your sad songs of Georgia;  
they remind me  
of that other life and distant shore.

Alas, They remind me,  
your cruel melodies,  
of the steppe, the night and moonlit  
features of a poor, distant maiden!

That sweet and fateful apparition  
I forget when you appear;  
but you sing, and before me  
I picture that image anew.

Do not sing, my beauty, to me  
your sad songs of Georgia;  
they remind me  
of that other life and distant shore.

### At night in my garden

Alexander Blok

At night in my garden  
the weeping willow weeps,  
and she is inconsolable,  
This dear Willow, mournful willow tree.

Early morning flashes;  
The gentle maiden Dawn  
From dear Willow, weeping bitterly,  
Wipes away the tears with her curls.

### The Twelve Brigands

1.  
To the Lord God let us pray,  
Let us proclaim the ancient legend!  
As told to us in the Solovetskii monastery  
By the honest monk Pitirim.

2.

Once there lived twelve brigands,  
And their headman, Kudear.  
The brigands spilled the blood  
of many an honest Christian!

3.  
By day he dallied with his paramour,  
By night he went out on raids.  
Suddenly, the ferocious brigand's  
Conscience was awakened by the Lord.

4.  
He cast off his comrades,  
He stopped his raiding;  
Kudear entered a monastery  
To serve God and man!  
5.  
To the Lord God let us pray,  
Let us proclaim the ancient legend!  
As told to us in the Solovetskii monastery  
By Pitirim [who was himself the former  
brigand] Kudear.

### The Wide Steppe

1.

O you steppe, you steppe  
so wide, so spacious!  
O you, Mother-Volga,  
Volga so free!

2.

Ah, that is not a steppe eagle  
that is ascending,  
It is the barge hauler  
who is running free.

3.

Eagle, do not fly  
low, near the ground,  
Barge hauler, do not wander  
too close to the riverbank.

4.

O you steppe, you steppe  
so wide, so spacious!  
O you, Mother-Volga,  
Volga so free!

### Kalinka (Snowball Tree=Viburnum)

(Refrain)

Oh, my snowball tree,  
And my raspberries in the garden!

1.

Beneath the pine tree, beneath the green one,  
Lay me down to sleep.

(Refrain)

2.

My beautiful one, my fair one,  
Give me your love!

(Refrain)

3.

Dear pine tree, you green one,  
Do not rustle above me!

(Refrain)

4.

My beauty, my darling maiden,  
Give me your love!