

EASTMAN PRESENTS –  
RANLET SERIES

**YING QUARTET**  
WITH CHIAO-WEN CHENG,  
PIANO

Sunday, October 5, 2025  
Kilbourn Hall  
3:00 PM



**EASTMAN**  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

## PROGRAM

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**String Quartet No. 16 in E-flat Major, K. 428**      Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Allegro non troppo      (1756-1791)  
Andante con moto  
Menuetto. Allegro – Trio  
Allegro vivace

**String Quartet No. 2 (“Awakening”)** (2012)      Billy Childs  
Wake Up Call      (b. 1957)  
The White Room  
Song of Healing

## INTERMISSION

**Piano Quintet in F-sharp Minor, Op. 67**      Amy Beach  
Adagio – Allegro moderato      (1867-1944)  
Adagio espressivo  
Allegro agitato – Adagio come prima – Presto

Chiao-Wen Cheng, piano

**YING QUARTET**  
Robin Scott, violin  
Janet Ying, violin  
Phillip Ying, viola  
David Ying, cello

## MEET THE ARTISTS

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The Grammy Award-winning **Ying Quartet** occupies a position of unique prominence in the classical music world, combining brilliantly communicative performances with a fearlessly imaginative view of chamber music in today's world. The Quartet has established itself as an ensemble of the highest musical qualifications. Their performances regularly take place in many of the world's most important concert halls, from Carnegie Hall to the Sydney Opera House; at the same time, the Quartet's belief that concert music can also be a meaningful part of everyday life has also drawn the foursome to perform in settings as diverse as the workplace, schools, juvenile prisons, and the White House. In fact, the Ying Quartet's constant quest to explore the creative possibilities of the string quartet has led it to an unusually diverse array of musical projects and interests.



The Ying's *LifeMusic* commissioning project, created in response to their commitment to expanding the rich string quartet repertoire, has achieved an impressive history. Supported by the Institute for American Music, the Yings commission both established and emerging composers to create music that reflects contemporary American life. Their third recording of these commissions, titled *LifeMusic 3*, features works by Lowell Liebermann, Sebastian Currier, Paul Moravec, and Pierre Jalbert. Other recent works include Billy Childs' *Awakening*, Kenji Bunch's *String Quartet No. 2*, "Concussion Theory," and Lera Auerbach's *Sylvia's Diary*.

In addition to appearing in conventional concert situations, the Ying Quartet is also known for its wide-ranging and unusual performance projects. For several years, the Quartet presented a series called "No Boundaries" at Symphony Space in New York City that sought to reimagine the concert experience. Collaborations with actors, dancers, electronics, a host of non-classical musicians, a magician and even a Chinese noodle chef gave new and thoughtful context to a wide variety of both traditional and contemporary string quartet music. They have also worked with composer Tod Machover and the MIT Media lab in the use of Hyperscore, an innovative musical composition software. Other musical partners have ranged from pianists Menahem Pressler and Leon

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Fleisher and cellist Paul Katz to the jazz pianist Billy Childs and his Sextet and the Turtle Island Quartet.

The Ying Quartet's recordings reflect many of the group's wide-ranging musical interests and have generated consistent, enthusiastic acclaim. Some of their noteworthy recordings include a Telarc release of the three Tchaikovsky Quartets and the *Souvenir de Florence* (with James Dunham and Paul Katz), which was nominated for a Grammy Award in the Best Chamber Music Performance category. In addition, their much-heralded collaboration with the Turtle Island Quartet, *Four + 4*, explored the common ground between the classic string quartet tradition and jazz and other American vernacular styles, and won a Grammy Award. Other recordings include *American Anthem* (Sono Luminus)—music of Samuel Barber, Howard Hanson, and Randall Thompson—and the complete string quartets of Robert Schumann (Sono Luminus). *Dim Sum* (Telarc), features music by Chinese-American composers that merges the Western string quartet with the aural world of traditional Chinese music. Released by Quartz, *The Ying Quartet play LifeMusic* was named Editor's Choice by *Gramophone* magazine.

The Ying Quartet first came to professional prominence in the early 1990s during their years as resident quartet of Jesup, Iowa, a farm town of 2000 people. Playing before audiences of six to six hundred in homes, schools, churches, and banks, the Quartet had its first opportunities to enable music and creative endeavor to become an integral part of community life. The Quartet considers its time in Jesup the foundation of its present musical life and goals. The residency, supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, was widely chronicled in the national media. Toward the end of the residency, the Quartet and several of the townspeople were invited to Capitol Hill to testify before Congress on behalf of the NEA.

During the summers, the Ying Quartet's activity is primarily centered at music festivals. They are the ensemble-in-residence at the Bowdoin International Music Festival; other festival appearances have been at Tanglewood, Aspen, Ravinia, Caramoor, San Miguel de Allende, Kneisel Hall, Norfolk, Skaneateles, Amelia Island, and Interlochen.

## MEET THE ARTISTS

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As quartet-in-residence at the renowned Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, the Ying Quartet teaches in the string department and leads a rigorous, sequentially designed chamber music program. One cornerstone of chamber music activity at Eastman is the noted “Music for All” program, in which all students have the opportunity to perform in community settings beyond the concert hall. From 2001-2008, the members of the Ying Quartet were the Blodgett Artists-in-Residence at Harvard University.

The Ying Quartet is represented by MKI.

A versatile musician and educator, Taiwanese pianist **Chiao-Wen Cheng** has performed as soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician in major venues throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Cheng has become a sought-after collaborative partner through her sensitive playing, vibrant sound colors, and detailed voicing. Cheng has performed with violinists Juliana Athayde, YooJin Jang, Renée Jolles, and Robin Scott, cellists Steve Doane, Guy Johnston, and Astrid Schween, and members of many major orchestras. She has also performed at the Aspen Music Festival, the Atlantic Music Festival, Bowdoin International Music Festival, the International Bass Convention, International Trombone Festival, International Viola Congress, society for Chamber Music in Rochester, Seattle Symphony Chamber Music Series, Seattle Trombone Workshop, and the Southeast Trombone Symposium. Since 2019, Cheng has been an Artist-Faculty Piano Collaborator at the Perlman Music Program. In 2022, she was hired as the Collaborative Pianist for the U.S. premiere of Tan Dun’s *Trombone Concerto*.



Cheng’s solo engagements include concerto performances with the Fort Worth Symphony, Greece Symphony, and Taiwan Shin-Min Orchestra, as well as solo recitals in major venues. Cheng has won numerous piano competitions and awards, including the Clara Ascherfeld Award in Excellence in Accompanying at Peabody Institute (2009); the Excellence in Accompanying Award at the Eastman School of Music (2010); and first

## MEET THE ARTISTS

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prizes in the Piano Texas International Academy and Festival Concerto Competition (2010) and the Schubert Club Competition (2012).

Cheng began piano lessons with her aunt at the age of four. She completed her bachelor's degree at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music as a student of Frank Weinstock, where she received a Van Cliburn Scholarship. She completed her master's degree at Peabody Institute, Johns Hopkins University as a student of Benjamin Pasternack, where she received a full scholarship. Cheng holds a doctoral degree from the Eastman School of Music, where she was a student and teaching assistant of Barry Snyder. At Eastman, Cheng was also the recipient of a graduate assistantship as a collaborative pianist and large ensemble pianist. Cheng is currently an Assistant Professor of Collaborative Piano at the Eastman School of Music. She joined the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra as a Principal Keyboard in 2022.

*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 PRESENTS CONCERTS

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Tickets for all series concerts can be purchased at [EastmanTheatre.org](http://EastmanTheatre.org)

### EASTMAN PRESENTS - RAY CONNIFF JAZZ SERIES

#### Eastman New Jazz Orchestra

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

\*Free, tickets not required

### EASTMAN PRESENTS - FERNANDO LAIRES PIANO SERIES

#### Stewart Goodyear

Friday, October 10, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

Proclaimed “a phenomenon” by the *Los Angeles Times* and “one of the best pianists of his generation” by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Stewart Goodyear is an accomplished concert pianist, improviser, and composer. Goodyear has performed with, and has been commissioned by, many of the major orchestras and chamber music organizations around the world.

## UPCOMING EASTMAN ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

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All student performances are free unless otherwise noted.

#### Eastman Jazz Orchestra

Monday, October 6, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

#### Composers Concert

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

#### OSSIA

Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

#### Eastman Wind Orchestra

Friday, October 10, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre



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