



**University
of Rochester**
Eastman School of Music

COMPOSERS CONCERT

*Tuesday, October 6, 2026
Kilbourn Hall
7:30 PM*

PROGRAM

children's games (2026)

Prologue
String Games
Interlude: shadow theater I
Tantrum
Water Games
Interlude: shadow theater II
Spelling/Spells

Sascha Burhop
(b. 2007)

Liliana Mann, voice
Sascha Burhop, violin
Edie Silker, viola
Keegan Zicko, flute & piccolo
Marty Bailey, oboe
Hudson Toler and Aidan Chase, percussion
Endong Li and Ty Taya Promreuk, piano
Peiwen Zou, conductor

Reminiscence (2026)

Ethan Resnik
(b. 2002)

Ethan Resnik, piano

Traces – Variations on a Theme from Don Giovanni (2026) Xinyi Lai (b. 2007)

Yige Liang, violin
Oooju Robinson, cello
Asher Koh, piano

Ten Dedications (2022)

Marina Lee

When my Sweetheart's Package Arrived in the Mail (b. 2001)
The Enemy on the Ramparts
A Town Aflame
The Flower No Bee Has Ever Dared Seek
Set Music Free!

Mary Reins, soprano
Marina Lee, piano

Free Improvisation (2026)

Calvin Rice
(b. 2004)

Calvin Rice, piano

Theme and Variations for Mixed Quintet (2026) Yankun (Gavin) Ge (b. 2007)

Asher Koh, violin
Aaron Seo, cello
Lucy Zeng, flute
Linda Xu, oboe
Yushu Ma, bass clarinet
Winter Wu, conductor



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

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.

TEXT

Ten Dedications (2022)

Marina Lee

When my Sweetheart's Package Arrived in the Mail

My sweetheart's package has arrived!
What joy!
I shall accept none else but from
That boy!

All wrapped in shining paper,
green and red,
Decked out as tissue-cozy
Like a bed.

My fingers slide. I lift the flaps.
But gently...
For inside the gift whispers,
"Set me free."

I break through seals and the surface.
What wonder lies ahead?
A new world, a new book, a tale
I have never read.

Though wrappings will fade on the wind of time,
A book is a gift to be savored over and over again.

The Enemy on the Ramparts

The night is breathing, the night is young.
The hills are silent, but song all around.
I stand as a sentry, a weapon in my hand,
And dream about sunlight, once a golden band.

The foe's fortress stands on the hill opposite.
From the hillside the fog begins to lift.
The moonlight reveals the lone canoe
Sink beneath the gloom the river through.

Why would a single soldier come alone?
Why would he risk being chilled to the bone
On this shining night? In the silver light
He looks like Angel Gabriel in disguise.

He comes alone. I know him. I planned
For to seize him, with my musket in my hand
But my strength fails. I know not why
I let the unused cartridge fly.

He's climbed the hill now and scaled the wall.
Slowly I reach out and let us fall.
My red for passion, his white for purity,
Two silhouettes under the moonlight born free.

Let's begin.

A Town Aflame

There is a tunnel of love
Made by trees in a forest
Where people stroll.

Fingers of light
With hands interlocked
Shed light over roaming wanderers.

Every autumn is lovely.
But some years
Fire breaks out in the woods.

And the birds fly,
The beasts run
But the lovers all stay.

For with your heart aflame
And your head awhirl,
Where do you turn?

The Flower No Bee Has Ever Dared Seek

All bees love flowers.
But certainly you've heard
Of the one they avoid
Like thunder's spoken word.

It lies deep in the woods
Enchanting and proud.
The size is not impressive,
The colors not loud.

But the fragrance lures many,
They've heard in their dreams.
And yet, upon closer travel
Not all is what it seems.

Curled in the pollen,
Drowning in the nectar, the bloom triumphs!
The wings cease to beat in rapturous sleep.

Set Music Free!

Set music free, wherever you are!
The pianist plays loud, a soldier's plume
Caresses the keys like they're flowers in bloom.
Let music ring, be it peace or war!

I sing in my pleasure, like a bird;
The chorus rises, organ's pipes
Singing that one beloved word.
To love, play your heart out to life!

Bows fly past the strings that purr,
Stroking till sound comes alive.
No matter how far he sings to her
All contact turns to joy that thrives.
Set music free, wherever you are!

PROGRAM NOTES

Ten Dedications (2022)

Marina Lee

Only the first half of this ten-song cycle, *Ten Dedications*, will be performed in this concert. This work explores the profound evolution of French classical music, specifically focusing on its historical trajectory from intricate harmonic structures to a sophisticated emphasis on timbre. This musical lineage is deeply intertwined with the French artistic preoccupation with Symbolism. Long before the definitive literary movements of Verlaine and Baudelaire, visual artists such as Greuze and Watteau relied heavily on classical mythology and allegorical topoi to convey narrative depth within static forms.

Ten Dedications translates this aesthetic into sonic narratives, each structured around the uniting theme of first love. Individual pieces explore symbolic vignettes, from the intimate anticipation of opening a token from a beloved, to the exhilaration of mastering a daring feat, to the physical act of performance. Song No. 5, “*Set Music Free*”, speaks directly to the tactile nature of music-making—an art form where string players embrace their instruments, pianists cultivate a precise “touch”, and wind players breathe life into their phrases.

Each composition in the cycle pairs the core thematic material with the distinct aesthetic of a definitive French composer. The poetic content and overarching moods draw direct inspiration from the stylistic signatures of Couperin, Ravel, and Gounod among others. Conceptually, the complete cycle traces the trajectory of youth transitioning into mature, enduring admiration—a narrative architecture that mirrors the emotional arc of Clara Schumann’s *Frauen-Liebe und Leben*.

While each song functions as a compact, self-contained narrative open to diverse interpretation, this evening’s performance guides the audience to the radiant midpoint of the cycle, concluding with “*Set Music Free*”.

MEET THE COMPOSERS

Sascha Burhop is a sophomore undergraduate student studying composition with Evis Sammoutis and violin performance with Juliana Athayde at the Eastman School of Music. Within his music, Burhop attempts to create a bridge between performance and daily life through explorations of spoken word, breath and body music, and theatrical gestures within his compositions. Throughout his career, Burhop has had many works performed by peers and professionals alike, working closely with musicians of the Virginia Symphony, members of the Zohn Collective, the Mostly Modern Ensemble, and composers such as Elizabeth Ogonek, Stephen Coxe, and Jessie Montgomery. Alongside composition, Burhop is also a prolific violinist who prioritizes learning and performing contemporary and avant-garde art music and has been a part of numerous premieres of contemporary repertoire both solo and as a frequent performer with the Eastman Music Nova ensemble.

Ethan Resnik is a composer and pianist who evokes personal stories, memories, and meaningful experiences through music, while using his synesthetic associations to add depth and color to his sound. Following his graduation from Juilliard Pre-College, he received a Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music and a Master of Music Degree from Rice University.

His music has recently been performed and recorded by ensembles including HYPERCUBE, Avanti! Chamber Orchestra, Four Corners Ensemble, Sandbox Percussion, Tacet(i), Rice Brass Ensemble, Transient Canvas, Eastman Horn Choir, Penn-State Horn Ensemble, and the Mettis Quartet.

As a pianist, he performed at the National Music Festival, Bowdoin, soundSCAPE, Brevard, Maine Chamber Music Seminar, and the Remix Ensemble Academy in Portugal. He was a soloist with the North Shore Symphony and a finalist in the Yonkers Philharmonic Concerto Competition. Ethan also enjoys playing chamber music, accompanying, and premiering new works.

Ethan is an avid roller coaster enthusiast and enjoys hiking, beaches, the French language, and world geography. Currently, he is trying to memorize the location and capital city of every country and territory in the world, all of which he hopes to visit someday.

Marina Lee started her musical journey after falling in love with Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. She writes multifaceted music that draws inspiration from folklore, military history, and astronomy. During recent years, her works have been performed by a variety of ensembles around the world including France (Paris), Russia (Moscow and St. Petersburg), Taiwan (Taipei), and the U.S. She has also been commissioned by the American Guild of Organists (AGO), premiering her work written in collaboration with organist Elena Baquerizo, *Helix Variations*, in 2021. In 2022, she directed her one-act opera *Maggie-Now*, based on the novel of the same name by Betty Smith. Her dance work *Unwhispered* has been premiered in November 2022 by the Juilliard ChoreoComp collective. Marina is currently a doctoral student in Theory at the Eastman School of Music, and studies composition with Dr. Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon.

Calvin Rice (b. 2004) is a composer, pianist, and clarinetist from Seattle, currently studying composition at the Eastman School of Music with Daniel Pesca and piano with Elinor Freer. His compositions range from the most meditative to the most ecstatic, incorporating a wide spectrum of colors and textures.

In 2026, he received a BMI composer award and an honorable mention in the Tribeca New Music YCC. In previous years, organizations such as the American Prize, the Sound Ensemble, Opus 7 Vocal Ensemble, and the Washington Sings Project have recognized him.

Rice has enjoyed collaborations with numerous professional artists and friends, including the Mivos Quartet, the Choral Arts Initiative, soprano Estelí Gomez, Chatter PDX, the Delgani String Quartet, clarinetist Wonkak Kim, and nonesuch.reedquintet.

Calvin graduated summa cum laude from the University of Oregon with a bachelor's degree in Music Composition, where he studied with Robert Kyr and David Crumb.