

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

MANUEL VALERA,
GUEST JAZZ PIANO

Thursday, October 9, 2025
Hatch Recital Hall
7:30 PM



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

PROGRAM

Selections to be announced from the stage.

MEET THE ARTIST

Born and raised in Havana, Grammy nominated, Guggenheim Fellow, pianist and composer **Manuel Valera** since arriving in NYC has become well known in the modern jazz scene, garnering national reviews and lending his talents as a pianist and composer to such notable artists as Arturo Sandoval, Paquito D’Rivera, Brian Lynch, Dafnis Prieto, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Jeff “Tain” Watts, John Benitez, Samuel Torres, Yosvany Terry and classical violin virtuoso Joshua Bell among many others. In 2020 Valera joined Steve Smith’s legendary music group Vital Information.



This dynamic and prolific artist has recorded 18 CDs as a bandleader with touring projects ranging from his Grammy nominated group New Cuban Express to his modern contemporary trio, solo piano and the New Cuban Express Big Band. Valera is professor of Jazz Piano at New York University since the fall of 2022.

Valera is the recipient of many composition grants — most notably a 2019 Guggenheim Fellowship, Chamber Music America’s New Jazz Works three different times, the Dranoff International 2 Piano Foundation 2 times and the ASCAP Young Jazz Composer Award. He has travelled the world performing in more than 30 countries at some of the biggest international venues and festivals in the world.

UPCOMING EASTMAN PRESENTS CONCERTS

Tickets for all series concerts can be purchased at EastmanTheatre.org

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.

EASTMAN PRESENTS - KODAK HALL SERIES

Film Scores Live: The Movie Music of Terence Blanchard

Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kodak Hall

GRAMMY-winning, Oscar-nominated composer and esteemed jazz trumpeter Terence Blanchard will appear in person to perform highlights from his iconic film scores, such as Spike Lee’s *25th Hour*, *Malcolm X* and *BlacKkKlansman*. Performed by Blanchard, Gateways Festival Orchestra and Blanchard’s quintet, The E-Collective.

UPCOMING EASTMAN ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

All student performances are free unless otherwise noted.

Eastman Wind Orchestra

Friday, October 10, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Eastman School Symphony Orchestra

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

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.



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