

SPECIAL GUEST RECITAL

CELEBRATE: OPUS 90 COMPLETED

Wednesday, October 14, 2026
Kilbourn Hall
7:30 PM



PROGRAM

Piano Trio No. 1 in E-flat Major,
Op. 1, No. 1
I. Allegro

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)
arr. Carl Burchard

Liu Liu, piano
Cahill Smith, piano
Alan Chow, piano
George Abraham, piano

Prologue ("The Angel") from
8 Mood Pictures, Op. 1

Nikolai Medtner
(1880-1951)

Primavera from *Forgotten Melodies II, Op. 39*

Cahill Smith, piano

Capriccio based on the theme of
"A Glass of Mellow Wine" (2016)

Wantong Jiang
(b. 1957)

Liu Liu, piano
Ruoyu Ni, piano

Barcarolle, Op. 60

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Alan Chow, piano

Two Pieces for Six Hands
Waltz
Romance

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

Cahill Smith, piano
Liu Liu, piano
Alan Chow, piano

INTERMISSION

PROGRAM

**Sonata for Two Pianos
in D Major, K. 448**

I. Allegro con spirito

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Alan Chow, piano
Liu Liu, piano

Libertango (1974)

Astor Piazzolla
(1921-1992)
arr. Pablo Ziegler

Liu Liu, piano
Cahill Smith, piano

Scaramouche, Op. 165 (1937)

Vif
Modéré
Braziliera

Darius Milhaud
(1892-1974)

Cahill Smith, piano
Alan Chow, piano

**Eight Hands in Unison — Birthday
and Kindred Spirits**

Jia Yue
(b. 1983)

Cahill Smith, piano
Liu Liu, piano
Alan Chow, piano
George Abraham, piano

Piano Sonata No. 27 in E Minor, Op. 90

II. Nicht zu geschwind und sehr
singbar vorgetragen

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

George Abraham, piano

*In lieu of tickets for this performance, please consider celebrating this special
milestone with a gift in George Abraham's honor to
the Eastman School of Music or Wilmot Cancer Institute*

MEET THE ARTISTS

A native of Geneva, NY, **George Abraham** graduated from Hobart College in 1959 with a bachelor of science degree in mathematics and chemistry, and received the MS (mathematics) in 1961, and M.D. degrees at the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1963.



He received clinical and research training at the University of California San Francisco where he published his first research report, the University of Illinois, Chicago, and the University of Rochester. He remained at the University of Rochester where he has served as the Associate Dean of Research, and in a variety of other leadership positions including Directorships of the Center on Aging, the James P. Wilmot Cancer Center and the Medical Scientist Training (MD/PhD) Program all of which were funded by the National Institutes of Health. He is currently Medical Center Professor Emeritus of Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology, and Pediatrics, and a member of the Cancer Center's Honorary Board. He is an author on more than 100 scientific publications, a contributor to 3 books, and has procured 3 patents. Among many of his laboratory's achievements are identification of an incipient gene mutation causing benign lymphocytes to morph into malignant hematologic tumors, development of methods to genetically modify a patient's tumor cells to target and kill the patient's cancer (suicide gene) and fostering the development of an antibody that is widely used to isolate and purify human stem-cell populations for wide clinical and therapeutic uses.

Nationally, he has served as a member of the Director's Advisory Committee (Board of Trustees) of the National Institutes of Health, as Chair of the steering committee of the Advisory Council to the Director and then as Chair of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Institute on Aging, as Acting Deputy Director of the Allergy, Immunology and Transplantation Division of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and Chair and member of grant review committees and panels for the National Institutes of Health. His honors include an Arthritis Foundation Research Award, and an Allergic Diseases Academic Award from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a MERIT research grant award from the National Institute on Aging, of the NIH, the Buswell award of the University of Rochester, and the President's

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Medal from Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Other academic appointments have included time as a visiting Investigator at the NY University Medical Center, and as a Visiting and Adjunct Professor of Pathology at Tulane University Medical School.

Active in many community projects, a few include service as a member and Board Chair of Garth Fagan Dance, the Board of Directors of the Geneva Arts Development Council and the Board of Managers and Art Acquisitions Committee of the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester NY, He is a current member of the Photographic acquisition committee of the George Eastman House International Museum of Photography, the National Advisory Council of the Eastman School of Music, and the Board of the Arthur Dove Tribute Group and Project in Geneva, NY.

Among many philanthropic activities he has provided for the acquisition and preservation of art in the collection of Hobart and William Smith Colleges; has established the Taubman Dean's lectureship at the University of Rochester medical Center; and has provided for a named scholarship to honor the exceptional and innovative leadership of the current Eastman School of Music Dean Jamal Rossi and his beloved wife, Pamela.

Alan Chow has won First Prize in the Concert Artists Guild International Competition, the UCLA International Piano Competition, and the Palm Beach Invitational International Piano Competition. Winner of the Silver Medal and Audience Favorite Prize at the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, he was also a prizewinner in the William Kapell International Piano Competition.



A Steinway artist, Mr. Chow has performed in recital and in concert with orchestras in nearly all 50 states. His recitals have brought him to the major music centers including New York (Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall, Steinway Hall), Boston, Los Angeles, Chicago (Symphony Center and Ravinia), Washington, D.C., Cleveland, Seattle, Atlanta, New Orleans, and Miami. Concerto performances include appearances with the National Symphony, Utah Symphony, Oakland Symphony, Tulsa Philharmonic, Kansas City

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Symphony, and Omaha Symphony. Mr. Chow regularly tours Asia with performances in China, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore, including performances with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, Shanghai Philharmonic, and the Pan-Asia Symphony. An avid chamber musician, he has collaborated with the American, Pacifica, Miami, and Escher String Quartets and has been guest artist at the Grand Canyon Chamber Music Festival, Juneau Jazz and Classics, San Juan Islands Chamber Music Festival, Kent Blossom Music Festival, Texas Music Festival, Music Festival of Arkansas, and Music Mountain. In addition, he appears in joint recital engagements in the Cheng-Chow Trio with pianists Angela Cheng and Alvin Chow.

Mr. Chow has given master classes throughout North America and Asia at conservatories, universities and summer festivals including, Indiana University, Bowdoin Music Festival, New Orleans International Piano Festival, Gina Bachauer International Piano Festival, Las Vegas Piano Festival, Tunghai International Piano Festival (Taiwan), Classical Music Festival (Austria), and in Singapore. Appointed guest professor at the Central Conservatory in Beijing and honored visiting professor at the Shenyang Conservatory, he has also presented recitals, master classes, and lectures in China at the conservatories in Shanghai, Chengdu, Xian, and Wuhan. An adjudicator at national and international competitions, he currently serves as the permanent Chair of Jury at the New Orleans International Piano Competition.

Mr. Chow studied with Nelita True at the University of Maryland where he graduated co-valedictorian with his twin brother Alvin, and received the Charles Manning Prize in the Creative and Performing Arts given to the outstanding graduate; with Sascha Gorodnitzki at The Juilliard School where he was awarded the Victor Herbert Prize in Piano; and with Menahem Pressler at Indiana University where he was the recipient of the Joseph Battista Memorial Scholarship. He also studied at the Mozarteum Sommerakademie with Carlo Zecchi.

Previously having served on the faculty of the University of Arkansas and Northwestern University, Mr. Chow is currently Professor of Piano and Chair of the Piano Department at the Eastman School of Music.

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As a pianist and music educator, **Liu Liu** completed all of her higher education at the prestigious Eastman School of Music in the United States, where she obtained a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance, a Master of Music in Piano Performance and Music Education, and a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance in sequence. Her studies at Eastman were supervised by Professor Douglas Humphreys and Professor Fernando Lares.



Professor Liu returned to China in 2012, and is currently Professor and Doctoral Supervisor at the Piano Department of the China Conservatory of Music. Prior to this appointment, she served as Professor, Doctoral Supervisor, and Deputy Chair of the Music Department at the School of Arts, Renmin University of China, as well as Secretary-General of the Aesthetic Education Research Association of the Beijing Society of Higher Education. In 2017, she was awarded the title of "Beijing Outstanding Young Talents" in recognition of her remarkable professional achievements and contributions to the field.

As an awardee of numerous national and international piano competitions, Professor Liu has performed at many prestigious venues around the world, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing Concert Hall, etc. In recent years, she has dedicated herself to promoting contemporary Chinese music. Upholding the vision of "telling Chinese stories through musical language", she has collaborated with outstanding musicians and ensembles from both China and abroad, and premiered and recorded a large number of contemporary Chinese piano works. The orchestras she has collaborated with include Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra, Tianjin Symphony Orchestra, Changsha Symphony Orchestra, Wuhan Philharmonic Orchestra, Chengdu Symphony Orchestra, Harbin Symphony Orchestra, Jilin Symphony Orchestra, Changying Film Orchestra, Tianjin Song and Dance Theatre Symphony Orchestra, and Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestra (USA).

Professor Liu has also earned remarkable achievements in academic research. Since returning to China to take up a teaching position in 2012, she has published three academic monographs and six CD albums. She has

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secured approval for and presided over five national research projects, compiled and translated more than 20 piano textbooks, and authored over 20 high-level papers published in core academic journals. Her work has appeared in the *Journal of the Central Conservatory of Music*, the *Journal of Renmin University of China*, *Archives Study*, *People's Music*, as well as *People's Daily* and *Guangming Daily*. In particular, her 2015 paper was accepted for publication in *Psychology of Music*, the world's leading journal in the field of music psychology, marking a historic breakthrough: she is the first Chinese scholar to publish in this journal as the first author. By integrating artistic performance with academic inquiry, she continues to expand the global influence of Chinese music research.

Pianist **Cahill Smith** is an accomplished performer and devoted teacher. Actively concertizing as a soloist and chamber musician, Cahill has performed in major venues in the United States and abroad, including Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Royal Dublin Society's Concert Hall, Buffalo's Kleinhans Music Hall, and Birmingham's Alys Stephens Center. Internationally, Cahill has performed in eleven cities in China (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chongqing, Zhuhai, Wuhan, Donying, Qingdao, Xiamen, Hohhot, and Lanzhou), three cities in Taiwan (Taipei, Taichung, Taitung), Kiev, Ukraine, as well as London and Dublin.



He has been featured as a concerto soloist with the National Ukrainian Symphony Orchestra in Kyiv, the Mongolian Symphony Orchestra in Hohhot, China, the Eastman Philharmonia, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, the Chattanooga Symphony, the Butler Symphony Orchestra, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, and others. His live and studio recordings have been broadcast on WQXR, New York's Classical Music Radio Station, WCRB, *Classical Radio Boston*, and WSMC, Chattanooga Public Radio.

Cahill gave his first recital at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 2013 with a program dedicated entirely to works of Nikolai Medtner. In a review of his

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2015 solo recital in the same venue, *New York Concert Review* wrote, “in the piano music of Nikolai Medtner [...], Mr. Smith was in his element, revealing every twist and turn, every poignant repeat of the cyclic themes, with beautiful shimmering colors I haven’t heard since Gilels played the Sonata reminiscenza in Carnegie Hall in 1980.” Cahill has given recitals and lectures on Medtner’s music at Yale University, the International Medtner Festival in London, and others.

In January of 2019, Cahill’s debut album *Medtner: Forgotten Melodies* was featured as *Classical Radio Boston*’s “CD of the Week” for its “irresistible lyricism” and “a palpable sense of love – a real affinity for the directness and honesty in Medtner’s music, which goes straight to the heart.” Marc-André Hamelin, who reviewed the CD, also wrote: “It gives me great pleasure to endorse Cahill Smith as a sensitive, dedicated, and perceptive interpreter of the music of Nikolai Medtner. Unlike Rachmaninoff for instance (to whom he is often compared), Medtner rarely makes a strong first impression in careless hands, so he requires someone who will bring out the lyricism of the music to the fore, which necessitates a great deal of insight and care. Upon listening to Cahill’s disc, I found myself thinking repeatedly that his would be the kind of recording that offers the best chance for listeners to be taken into Medtner’s fascinating world from the very first hearing. It’s a remarkable accomplishment!”

Cahill joined the faculty of Utah State University’s Caine College of the Arts in 2019, where he serves as co-coordinator of the piano program, Director of Graduate Studies in Music, Director of the Wassermann Piano Series, and Director of the USU Summer Piano Festival, an intensive week of public concerts and an intensive training program for high school pianists. Cahill serves as a faculty advisor for USU’s nationally recognized Youth Conservatory (YC), advises the USU Youth Conservatory, which offers affordable piano lessons and group classes to around 200 pre-college students in the community. He also serves as an advisor for the MTNA Collegiate Chapter at USU, which won the “National Collegiate Chapter of the Year” from MTNA this year in 2022. Cahill was named Teacher of the Year” (2023) “Undergraduate Mentor of the Year” (2023) and “Graduate Mentor of the Year” (2021). Cahill teaches courses in applied piano performance, piano pedagogy, advanced keyboard skills, and special topics courses in piano.

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Cahill serves as Programming Chair of the Chamber Music Society of Logan, and previously served on the faculty of Lee University from 2014-2020, where he directed the International Piano Festival and Competition and coordinated the keyboard area. Cahill completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts at the Eastman School of Music, where he served as the teaching assistant to Natalya Antonova. At Eastman, Cahill was the inaugural recipient of the Douglas Lowry award for excellence in degree recital performance, won the Eastman Concerto Competition, received honors in chamber music, and was awarded the Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Cahill completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Alabama at Birmingham with Yakov Kasman and his master's degree at the University of Michigan with Arthur Greene.

In lieu of tickets, please consider celebrating this special milestone performance with a gift in George Abraham's honor to the Eastman School of Music, or the Wilmot Cancer Institute.



Scan here to donate to **Wilmot Cancer Institute**



Scan here to donate to the **Eastman School of Music**

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, NY.

UPCOMING EASTMAN SERIES CONCERTS

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

EASTMAN PRESENTS – KILBOURN CONCERT SERIES

Chanticleer: Our American Journey

Sunday, October 25, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Kilbourn Hall

The GRAMMY Award-winning male a capella ensemble **Chanticleer**, deemed “breathtaking in its accuracy of intonation, purity of blend, of color, and swagger of style” by *The Boston Globe*, celebrates 250 years of the United States with a program ranging from spirituals to *Shenandoah* and from Irving Berlin’s *Blue Skies* to bluegrass. A touchingly beautiful and thoroughly enjoyable choral voyage through American musical history.

EASTMAN PRESENTS – EASTMAN-RANLET SERIES

Ying Quartet: Billy Childs and String Quartet Creativity

Sunday, November 8, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Hatch Recital Hall

Eastman’s beloved quartet-in-residence, the **Ying Quartet**, returns to the Kilbourn stage with two programs designed to delight. Fall features jazz pianist Billy Childs’ *Variation on a Rondo* paired with Mozart’s *K. 465* and Brahms’ *String Quartet in C minor, Op. 51, No. 1*. Spring showcases masterpieces from Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Britten.

EASTMAN PRESENTS – KODAK HALL SERIES

Chris Thile and Aoife O’Donovan: Wassail!

Friday, December 4, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Celebrate the holiday season in bluegrass style with GRAMMY Award-winning singer-songwriter **Aoife O’Donovan**. (Crooked Still, I’m With Her, A Prairie Home Companion) and MacArthur Fellow and mandolinist **Chris Thile** (Punch Brothers, Nickel Creek, Live from Here) as they illuminate treasured holiday songs with spellbinding harmonies and joyful musicality. Featuring fresh arrangements of beloved classics, lively stories, and good cheer in abundance, *Wassail!* is a warm invitation to gather, sing, and revel in the glow of the holidays.



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