



University
of Rochester
Eastman School of Music

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

MARK KELLOGG, BASS TROMBONE

Sunday, November 1, 2026
Hatch Recital Hall
7:30 PM

PROGRAM

When Words Leave Off, Music Begins (2023-26)

Prelude

Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening
Miles To Go

Optimistic Mornings

Why I Wake Early

Alone

A Mellow Croon

Shared Stories

Waltzing Together

I Hear America Singing

Kind of a National Emblem?

Hearing

Consolation

Mark Kellogg
(b. 1964)

Robert Frost

Mary Oliver
Maya Angelou

Mark Kellogg

Walt Whitman

Mark Kellogg

Rondeau in 5 Parts (2019)

Ethan Cypress
(b. 1993)

Priscilla Yuen, piano

Five Duets for Low Brass (2026)

Chant

Buoyant Waltz

Point Counterpoint

Quinto

Ballade

Mark Kellogg

Justin Benavidez, tuba

America 250

Chester

William Billings
(1746-1800)

Beautiful Dreamer

Stephen Foster
(1826-1864)

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

Traditional
arr. Donald Hunsberger

At the River

Charles Ives
(1874-1954)

Church Bell at Night from *Hermit Songs, Op. 29* (1953)

Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)

The Girls of Summer (1956)

Stephen Sondheim
(1930-2021)

Priscilla Yuen, piano

The Seasons

I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm (1937)

Irving Berlin
(1888-1989)

Here's That Rainy Day (1953)

Jimmy Van Heusen
(1913-1990)

Summer in Central Park (1972)

Horace Silver
(1928-2014)

Autumn in New York (1934)

Vernon Duke
(1903-1969)

Christopher Azzara, piano
Kyle Vock, bass
Eric Schmitz, drum set



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.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Mark Kellogg has embraced a wide range of musical roles throughout his career as a performer, teacher, conductor, and administrator. Whether it's taken the form of appearing as a concerto soloist, playing in a variety of chamber ensembles, performing as an orchestral musician or as a jazz player, teaching students of all ages, or overseeing artistic programs or festivals, he has been most fortunate to explore a rich array of musical opportunities. In addition to holding the position of Professor of Trombone and Coordinator of the Brass Chamber Music Program at the Eastman School of Music, Mr. Kellogg holds affiliate faculty appointments in the school's departments of Music Teaching and Learning and Chamber Music. He also serves as Co-Conductor of the Eastman Trombone Choir and Conductor of the Eastman Brass Guild and leads the school's Advanced Diploma Colloquium.



An Eastman faculty member since 1991, Mr. Kellogg's past duties have included teaching euphonium and jazz trombone, leading the school's audience development program Eastman To Go, chairing two of Eastman's performance departments, and creating and teaching a course under auspices of Eastman's Arts Leadership Program called Parallels Between Acting and Musical Performance. This course was inspired by the work of his son, Rob B. Kellogg, a professional actor in New York City.

In January of 2025, Mr. Kellogg assumed a new role as conductor of the Perinton Concert Band. This ensemble enjoys a rich history as one of the northeastern United States' most highly regarded community bands.

Mr. Kellogg performed for twenty-eight years as a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, occupying the Austin Hildebrandt Principal Trombone position. He appeared as soloist with the RPO on many occasions, performing the concerti of Tomasi, Albrechtsberger, Larsson, Shilkret and Jeff Tyzik (commissioned by the RPO in celebration of the orchestra's 80th anniversary); works by Elliott Carter and Fred Sturm; and numerous jazz and euphonium solos on the orchestra's Pops series. Prior to his appointment in the Rochester Philharmonic, Mr. Kellogg performed as a member of the San Francisco Symphony and the National Repertory Orchestra.

Mr. Kellogg has been a frequent guest with the Eastman Wind Ensemble, appearing as soloist in the Eastman Theatre and on tours to Japan and Carnegie Hall with Donald Hunsberger and Mark Davis Scatterday. He has also performed as a soloist with the Hartford Symphony, the US Army Orchestra, the Youngstown Symphony, the Penfield Symphony, the Hamilton New Music Ensemble, Brazil's Orquestra Sinfonica do Theatro da Paz, and Argentina's Camerata Eleuthera Chamber Orchestra.

Active as a jazz and chamber musician, Mr. Kellogg was a founding member of the brass and percussion ensemble Rhythm & Brass, touring the United States and Japan and making four recordings during his two years in the group. He has also performed with Clark Terry, Chris Vadala, Wynton Marsalis, Eddie Daniels, Mel Tormé, and the Dave Rivello Ensemble as a long-time member. His jazz recording with Eastman School faculty colleague pianist Tony Caramia, *Upstate Standards*, celebrates the music of upstate New York composers Harold Arlen, Alec Wilder, and Jimmy Van Heusen. Mr. Kellogg's most recent CD, *Impressions*, is a collection of French music for trombone and piano, featuring pianists Joseph Werner and Christopher Azzara. Since 2016, he has performed extensively with pianist Priscilla Yuen across the United States and South America.

A Conn Trombone performing artist, Mr. Kellogg has made appearances at numerous festivals and low brass symposia including the International Trombone Festival, the American Trombone Workshop, the Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival, the Northeast Regional Tuba-Euphonium Conference, the Asian Pacific Music Educators Conference, the New York Brass Conference, the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra's International Youth Orchestra Institute, the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, London's Royal College of Music, and the New World Symphony as well as at trombone festivals and master classes in Panama, Costa Rica, Argentina, Brazil, Japan, China, England, Denmark, and Germany.

In 2006, Mr. Kellogg founded Eastman's annual Summer Trombone Institute, a week-long workshop for high school, college, young professional, and adult amateur trombonists. He also served as the co-host of the International Trombone Festival, held at the Eastman School in 2014.

Mark Kellogg and his wife, Meghan, a professional pianist, organist, singer and choral director, live in Brighton with their two cats.

Pianist **Priscilla Yuen** enjoys a rich and varied career as a soloist, collaborator, teacher, and administrator. Currently a faculty member at the Eastman School of Music, Ms. Yuen regularly supports instrumentalists and vocalists from across the Eastman community as they prepare for recitals, competitions, and recordings. Additionally, she serves on the piano faculty at the Rochester Institute of Technology.



As a collaborative pianist, Ms. Yuen has performed at colleges and universities across the United States, as well as at venues such as the Kennedy Center and New York City's Yamaha Hall. Serving as Festival pianist at the International Trombone Festival, she has performed with Jörgen van Rijen (Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra), Norman Bolter (retired, Boston Symphony), Larry Zalkind (Eastman School of Music faculty), Jeremy Moeller (Chicago Lyric Opera), Ralph Sauer (retired, Los Angeles Philharmonic), Kenneth Thompkins (Detroit Symphony), Peter Steiner (Vienna Philharmonic), Matthew Guilford (National Symphony), Justin Clark (Bern Symphony), and Nico and Martin Schippers (Concertgebouw). Other musicians with whom she has collaborated include violinist Charles Castleman (Frost School of Music faculty), tubist Carol Jantsch (Philadelphia Orchestra), pianist Graham Johnson (Guildhall School of Music faculty), trumpeter David Bamonte (Oregon Symphony), and noted composer Steven Stucky (Cornell University faculty). Since 2016, Ms. Yuen has performed extensively across the country with Eastman faculty trombonist Mark Kellogg.

A native of St. Louis, Ms. Yuen received her undergraduate training at the University of Missouri, where she studied with Dr. Peter Miyamoto, and her Master of Music degree in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music from the Eastman School, studying with Dr. Jean Barr. As a graduate student, she was awarded first prize at the Jesse Kneisel Competition as well as the Barbara M.H. Koeng Award for her work with vocal accompanying.

Ms. Yuen served as staff pianist and arts/administrative coordinator at the New York State Music Festival for eleven summers. She also served as Director of Operations at the Odyssey Chamber Music Festival in Columbia, MO as well as a piano fellow for The Quartet Program.

Hailed by *Fanfare Magazine* as “a true virtuoso of his instrument”, **Justin Benavidez** is the newly appointed Associate Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at the Eastman School of Music. He previously held a similar faculty position at Florida State University. In the summer, he teaches and performs at the Round Top Summer Music Festival in Round Top, Texas.



Benavidez has performed across North America, Europe, and Japan. He has been featured numerous times on APM's *Performance Today* radio program. His debut solo album, *Emblems*, won Silver Medals in the Classical Album and Solo Instrumentalist categories of the Global Music Awards. *The International Tuba Euphonium Association Journal* described it as “an impressive and highly entertaining record” on which Benavidez “shreds with enthusiasm, exuberance, and precision.” His second album, *Storyteller*, also won Silver Medals in the Classical Album and Solo Instrumentalist categories of the Global Music Awards. *Fanfare Magazine* described it as “splendidly eloquent [...] a masterclass in expressiveness” with a sound that is “gloriously warm and comforting.”

As an orchestral musician, Benavidez has performed as tubist with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic, Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra, Sarasota Orchestra, and Utah Symphony. He was previously the principal tuba of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra.

Benavidez is a Melton Meinel Weston and Denis Wick performing artist.

Pianist, arranger, author, and educator **Christopher Azzara** has made important contributions to advancing the understanding of creativity and improvisation in the music learning process. An innovator in the art of music teaching and learning, Dr. Azzara is the Eisenhart Professor of Music Teaching & Learning and an Affiliate Faculty of Jazz Studies & Contemporary Media and Woodwinds, Brass & Percussion at the Eastman School of Music. Teaching and performing internationally, he is the author of numerous articles, arrangements, and books, including *Developing Musicianship Through Improvisation* and *Jump Right In: The Instrumental Series* (GIA). His arrangements for instrumental and vocal ensembles are available through Oxford University Press and GIA. His research and publications are concerned with meaningful relationships among listening, creating, improvising,



reading, composing, and analyzing music in vocal and instrumental settings. Dr. Azzara's work has appeared in journals such as the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, the *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, the *Music Educators Journal*, *Early Childhood Connections*, the *New Handbook of Research on Music Teaching and Learning* (MENC/Oxford), and *Oxford Handbooks Online*.

Azzara performs as a soloist and in various ensembles including the Chris Azzara Trio and has played on and produced many studio and educational recordings. In Rochester, he performs with freelance musicians, members of the Eastman School of Music faculty, and members of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

An active teacher and clinician, Azzara has taught and performed extensively throughout the United States and in Canada, the Caribbean, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, China, Japan, and Australia. He has presented clinics and workshops in a variety of settings, including *TEDxRochester*, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, and leading music schools in this country and abroad.

Christopher Azzara is a native of Virginia and attended public schools in Fairfax County. After receiving a Bachelor of Music degree from George Mason University (1981), he taught instrumental music in the Fairfax County Public Schools and performed as a pianist in the Washington D.C. area. He later received a Master of Music (1988) and a Ph.D. in Music Education (1992) from the Eastman School of Music. Prior to joining the Eastman faculty, Dr. Azzara was a professor at The Hartt School of Music, Dance, and Theatre of the University of Hartford, CT (1991-2002). Azzara joined the Eastman faculty in 2002 and was chair of the Music Teaching & Learning Department (then called the Music Education Department) from 2010-2018. In 2022, as an Eastman professor, Azzara received the University of Rochester's Edward Peck Curtis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, which recognizes a record of distinguished undergraduate teaching and a commitment to helping less experienced faculty colleagues and teaching assistants master their craft. In 2023, Christopher Azzara was named Eisenhart Professor of Music Teaching & Learning, the oldest endowed professorship at the Eastman School of Music.

Kyle Vock earned a Master's degree in Jazz Bass Performance from the Eastman School of Music in 2010. In 2008, he earned a Jazz Studies degree at SUNY New Paltz, where he founded the New Paltz Jazz Society. As president of the student-run club, Kyle brought workshops and performances to campus by world renowned jazz musicians such as Jack De Johnette and Rufus Reid. After graduating from Eastman, Kyle taught for three summers at the Performing Arts Institute of Wyoming Seminary, directing the jazz program in his final season.



Kyle performs extensively in the western New York area in many groups spanning a variety of Rock, Blues, Jazz and Contemporary styles.

A dedicated educator, Kyle is currently a full-time faculty member at the Rochester Institute of Technology. He has also taught at Nazareth College, SUNY Oswego and Hobart William Smith College.

Eric Schmitz is Professor of Jazz Studies at SUNY Oswego, where he directs the Oswego State Jazz Ensemble and Latin Jazz Ensemble, co-leads and performs with the Oswego Jazz Project (faculty jazz quartet), and teaches jazz and rock history, improvisation, jazz arranging, music theory and composition, and applied drum set.



He has lectured on music and given performances at universities throughout the United States as well as in Havana, Cuba; Kielce, Poland; and Cartagena, Colombia. Eric is an active composer and performer as well as a clinician at schools throughout New York state. Eric has a passion for Cuban music and has made frequent trips to the island since 2007, where he has studied with Cuban percussion legend Emilio Del Monte since 2012.

Eric's original compositions and arrangements for big band and chamber groups have been published by Really Good Music, LLC and Hip-Bone Music. Several of his original pieces are featured on *ACE Composers* and *ACE Composers II*, both released by Ravello Records.

Schmitz earned his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Northern Iowa and his MM and DMA in Jazz and Contemporary Media from the Eastman School of Music.