



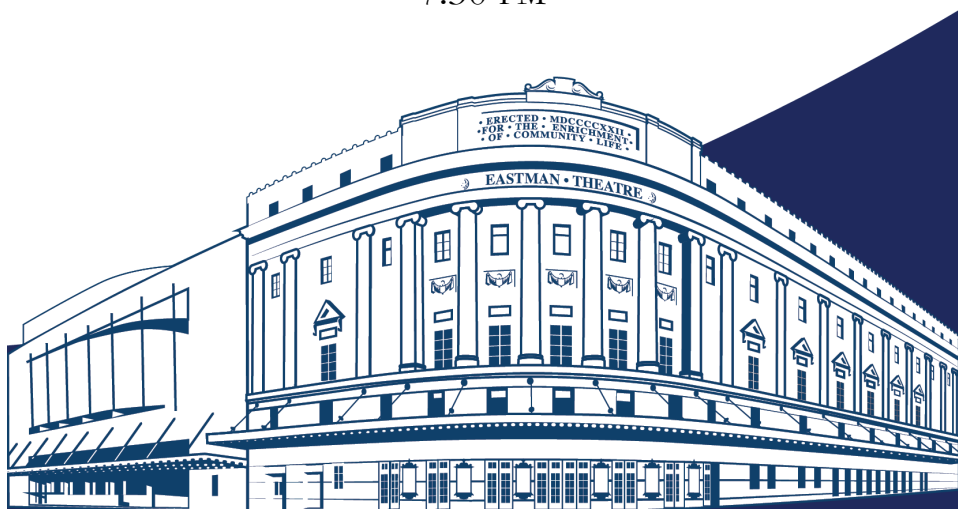
PRESENTS

BLUESHIFT

Monday, December 1, 2025

Kilbourn Hall

7:30 PM



Eastman School of Music

PROGRAM

Constellations (2018)

Emma O'Halloran
(b. 1985)

Jessie Miller, soprano
Meghna Thumri, violin
Satoshi Kamei, cello
Kaja Hammerschmidt, flute
Jay Kline, clarinet
Yimei Liang, piano
Kai Gray, percussion
Matthew Lam, electronics
Andrew Kim, conductor

Gobi Gloria (2006)

Lei Liang
(b. 1972)

Chen-Ti Hung and Irene Huang, violins
Keon Sagara, viola
Mario Domingo Aguado, cello

INTERMISSION

les jours heureux... (2022)

Tristan Murail
(b. 1947)

Benjamin Jackson, violin
Ash Mach, viola
Nicholas Chi-Wai Zhang, clarinet
Nicholas Culver, horn
Taya Promreuk, piano
Caleb McCree, percussion
Zach Griffin, conductor

Slingshot (2024)

Anna Webber
(b. 1984)

Lane Hansen, tenor saxophone
Andrew Yuska, piano
Braden Jones, drum set

PROGRAM NOTES

Constellations (2018)

Emma O'Halloran

As a largely self-taught female composer, I've spent a great deal of time reflecting on my place and identity in relation to a long tradition of music produced mostly by white male composers. I wrote the lyrics for *Constellations* about this experience, and I also draw inspiration from a National Geographic article which discusses the discovery that handprints in ancient cave art most often belonged to women. This piece is about finding your voice and making the art that you want to make.

— Emma O'Halloran

Gobi Gloria (2006)

Lei Liang

Gobi Gloria belongs to a series of compositions that grew out of my admiration for Mongolian music. The series include *Feng* (for cello solo, written for Feng Hew), *Gobi Polyphony* (for erhu and cello, written for Xu Ke), *Gobi Canticle* (for violin and cello, written for Masuko Ushioda and Laurence Lesser), and *Serashi Fragments* (written for the Arditti Quartet).

The melody is played against its own inversion, retrograde and retrograde-inversion in an otherwise mostly heterophonic texture. The piece alludes to various genres of Mongolian music that include the long-chant, as well as the music of dance and shaman rituals. It concludes with a rendering of a folk song that I heard during my visit to Nei Monggol region in 1996.

Gobi Gloria was commissioned by and dedicated to the Ying Quartet who gave its world première at the University Hall at Harvard University on March 15, 2007.

— Lei Liang

les jours heureux... (2022)

Tristan Murail

Tristan Murail's *les jours heureux...* is an intimate work for a sparsely scored ensemble. The title, translated as "the happy days..." implies a metaphorical journey and longing for the past which, though not programmatic, utilizes distant sounds and individual timbres to create a blend of colors and shimmering harmonic fields implying a distorted and dreamlike recollection. The timbre of muted strings in conversation with the clarinet creates a hazy backdrop of color throughout the work. Sounds of a music box from the piano and glockenspiel often come to the fore while the cry of a lamenting horn is heard at a distance.

Perhaps the most alluring element of *les jours heureux...* is the juxtaposition of disparate musical gestures. Quasi-aleatoric moments emerge from ensemble sections, while at other times Murail layers different musical symbols atop one another. Given the atmosphere of the work, the

PROGRAM NOTES

carefree and pithy title seems ironic on face value. However, just as one yearns for the past with mixed and perhaps misremembered emotions, the work becomes a meditation on memory where fleeting joy and quiet melancholy drift together in a luminous and shifting light.

— Zach Griffin

Slingshot (2024)

Anna Webber

Slingshot is the opening track off of saxophonist, flutist, and composer Anna Webber's latest trio album - *simpletrio2000* - with her long-standing group consisting of pianist Matt Mitchell and John Hollenbeck. Like many of Anna Webber's compositions, *Slingshot* is based primarily on rhythmic and texture interplay between the tenor saxophone, piano, and drumset, freeing them from the traditional roles assigned to them in mainstream jazz.

The piece opens up dramatically with a solo 4:5 polyrhythm by the tenor saxophone that sets up the continuous forward drive present throughout. Consistent metric displacement and fragmented grooves bounced between the trio's three instruments, evolves throughout, furthering the tension with brief moments of clarity provided by single 5/4 measures backdropped against the overall 4/4 groove. While through-composed, Webber leaves significant room for solos by all three instruments, adding an improvisational flavor to what is an otherwise rhythmically strict composition. The result is a beautifully unique composition: flowing but strict, classically formatted but idiomatically jazz.

— Cyrus Kuester-Ha

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UPCOMING EASTMAN PRESENTS CONCERTS

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

EASTMAN PRESENTS - KODAK HALL SERIES

Bela Fleck and the Flecktones

Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Looking for something a little different this holiday season? Join us for *Jingle All the Way*, an extremely hip holiday show based on the GRAMMY-winning CD from Bela Fleck and the Flecktones and featuring Jeff Coffin & Alash. “*Jingle All the Way* does what all great Christmas records ought to: keep the essence of the underlying songs while bringing out something new and unexpected to make them fresh and worth another listen.” (*Associated Press*)

UPCOMING EASTMAN ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

All student performances are free unless otherwise noted.

Collegium Musicum

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

Eastman Wind Orchestra & Eastman Wind Ensemble

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Musica Nova

Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

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.



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