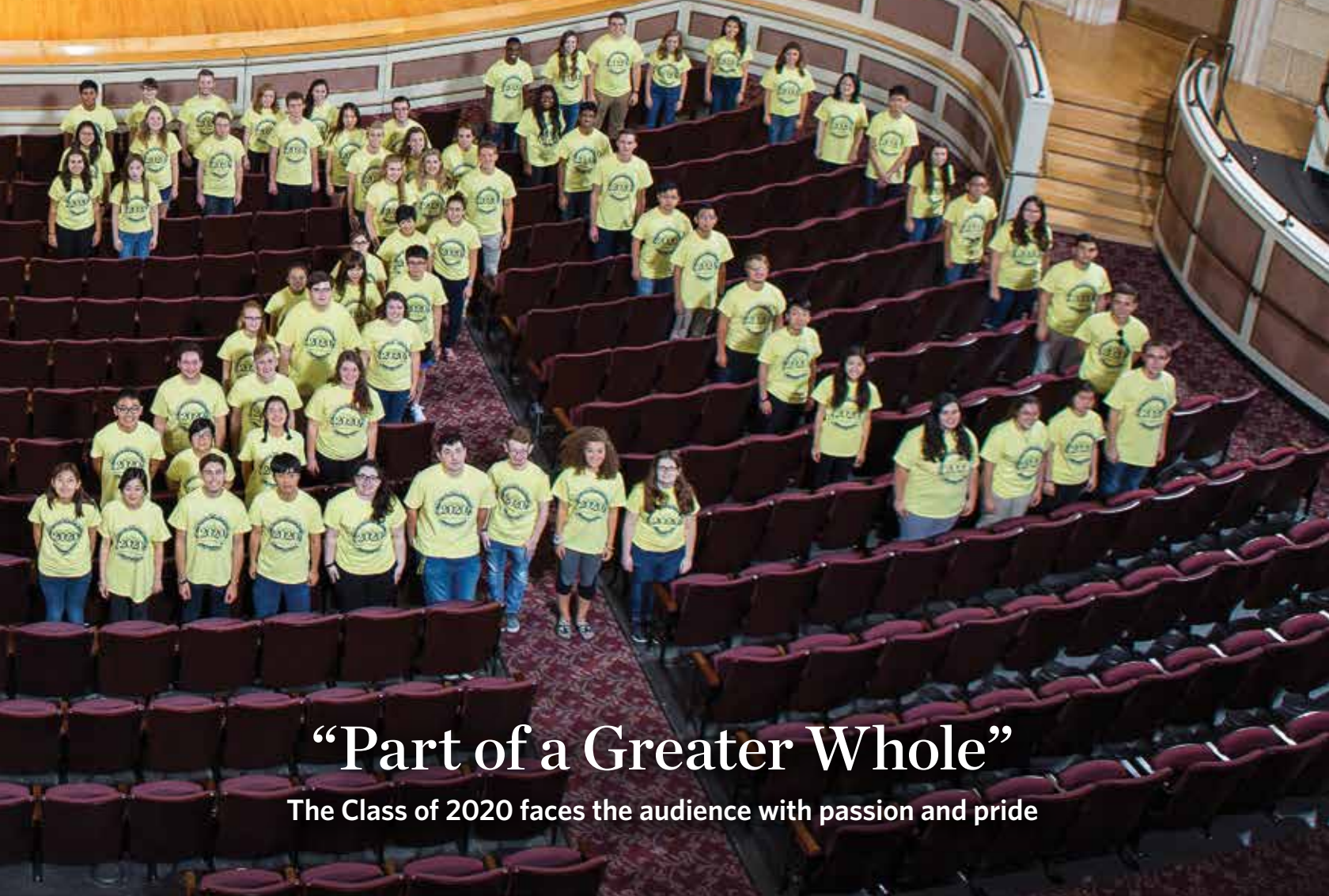


Special Section: Eastman Class of 2020

EASTMAN

NOTES

SUMMER 2020



“Part of a Greater Whole”

The Class of 2020 faces the audience with passion and pride



The music
continues with

EASTMAN CONNECTS

Enjoy the music of Eastman students,
faculty, alumni, and community ...
or create and share your own!

#eastmanconnects

esm.rochester.edu/eastman-connects



Among Eastman's many beloved traditions, the annual Holiday Sing was definitely a favorite memory for the Class of 2020. Meet them and read about more of their cherished Eastman memories on page 6.

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Special Section: The Class of 2020

They began their Eastman years with Freshman Orientation; they ended them with lessons and classes on Zoom, with plenty of wonderful experiences in between. *Eastman Notes* salutes the brilliant, resilient, infinitely promising Class of 2020.

ON THE COVER: In Fall 2016, Eastman's freshman Class of 2020 gathered in Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre for a panoramic photograph with a dramatic view. PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SCHLIA

NOTES

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Andrew Bockman
Jacob Buhler
Jessica Kaufman
Jeremy Lopez
Katey Padden
David Raymond

STUDENT BLOGGERS

Andrew Bockman
Jacob Buhler

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Kurt Brownell
Michelle Martorell
John Schlia
Matt Wittmeyer

*Additional student portraits
and photos submitted by
members of the Class of 2020*

DESIGN

Steve Boerner Design

PRINTING

Canfield & Tack

Office of Communications

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Jessica Kaufman

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

David Raymond

SENIOR CREATIVE AND DESIGN MANAGER

Michelle Martorell

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Katey Padden

GRAPHIC AND WEB DESIGN ASSISTANT

Courtney Morton

SECRETARY

Olga Malavet

Published twice a year by the Office of Communications, Eastman School of Music, 26 Gibbs Street, Rochester, NY 14604, (585) 274-1050.

Eastman-Notes@
esm.rochester.edu



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Facing Challenges, Advancing Music Forward

Dear Friends,

On Friday, March 6, the Eastman-Rochester Chorus, the Eastman Chorale, and the Eastman Philharmonia presented a riveting performance of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*. With more than 700 attendees of the American Choral Directors Association in attendance, Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre was filled with the tremendous energy and profound emotion that is uniquely experienced in a live, collective environment. You can read about this remarkable event on page 28.

What a difference one week made. This spring, the world faced a challenge unlike any that we have faced in our lifetimes, and it impacted virtually every person and

graduating students have the versatility, ingenuity and talent to thrive. Kelly Hall-Tompkins '93E encouraged our graduates in a video salute, saying, "Graduation calls upon every single generation to find who you are and to find the rhythm and resonance of your time . . . Know that your Eastman education, your creativity, your music, who you are, the world needs you now more than ever."

I am proud of the creativity, adaptability, resiliency, and grit demonstrated by the Eastman community in handling this crisis. Throughout this pandemic, we have all experienced a heightened awareness of what builds community and provides value to life. We have witnessed individuals turning to music, even singing together from their balconies, for solace and connectivity with humani-

Even though the world is full of unknowns, we are confident that our graduating students have the versatility, ingenuity and talent to thrive.

uprooted all that we take for granted. By Friday, March 13, Eastman and the University of Rochester, along with nearly every other college and university in the country, was preparing to teach the second half of the semester remotely. As social distancing practices were adopted, students were asked to return to their permanent residences, and all classes shifted to online models. 240 performances were cancelled, including concerts, degree recitals, and the spring opera production, leaving Hatch Hall, Kilbourn Hall, and Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre quiet and dark.

Eastman's traditional Commencement ceremony also was disrupted. Instead of walking across the Kodak Hall stage to the sonorous sound of the trombone choir, Eastman's Class of 2020 celebrated their achievements virtually. To that end, we are dedicating this issue of *Eastman Notes* to this remarkable class. Even though the world is full of unknowns, we are confident that our

ty. While we were apart, our students, alumni and faculty found inventive ways to keep advancing music forward. This perseverance and talent is showcased beautifully in our *Eastman Connects* project, reflecting throughout social media that music continues, even virtually.

Music binds us together, and Eastman remains forever committed to enriching the world through our music. Meliora, Class of 2020, and all our Eastman alumni and friends.

Jamal J. Rossi
Joan and Martin Messinger Dean

To the Class of 2020: Uncertainty is the Catalyst

By Sophie Volpe '20E

During our time in school, we have seen a lot of change: change in the world, change in politics, change in each other and change in ourselves. We have organized as a student body to enact change in what we want the Eastman Community to be, where we travel, or who we invite to perform with us. We have connected through performances, classes, sitting on the benches on Gibbs Street and of course those theory papers we should have started at least a week ago. We have seen that throughout turbulent times, our strength is in diversity, coming together on topics of gender equity and international travel. We have banded together in small ways and in big ways, forming friendships stronger than we ever imagined.

It is said that the people we meet in college will be our lifelong friends. I can say without a doubt that through all the ups and downs, I have met some of my own lifelong friends here. But what about the friends we made sitting in our practice rooms? We may know them by the names of musicality, intonation, rhythm, or tone color. And what about the friends we have made when our belief that we would get through challenges was brought to question? We may know them by the names of conviction, self-care, meditation, and kindness. These friends were not made easily, but with their help we can continue to inspire great change in the world. Moving forward, I urge you to stay fiercely and joyfully committed to the friends you have made here, in all forms.

These friends, though some are physically far away, are still with us. The people we have become, the challenges conquered and the musical development we have worked so hard for are not lost. Now, this is not how I imagined I would deliver this address to you. I know that

idea that we could get through Eastman and live to tell the tale, that we could be good enough to surpass some of our greatest challenges...that we could graduate. What I have come to learn, and mostly in hindsight, is that the diploma I will soon get in the mail signifying my accomplishments at Eastman is not going to be my most cherished possession – my memories, photographs and recordings from my time here, my time with you all, is what I will cherish most. We have been sprinting to the finish line for years and today we get to sit calmly, knowing that the years we spent in the race were not for nothing.

As we look forward, into what may feel at times like a great, dark abyss, I believe that uncertainty is not the counterpart to fear of the unknown. Uncertainty can be the catalyst for the limitless possibility each of our futures hold. We have been trained and conditioned by brilliant musical minds at Eastman and *we are prepared*. The greatest gift we can give ourselves in this moment is to commit, without fault, to the journey in front of us. Let this journey be what we hold closest to our hearts moving forward, especially during this uncertain time. Let this journey bring out our kindness, generosity of spirit, and creativity and allow it to inspire newness within our passion for music.

Class of 2020, we are now alumni of the Eastman School of Music. Cloaked in musical ability, great resilience, and kindness, we have the opportunity to inspire



Sophie Volpe '20E received her Bachelor of Music degree in Trombone in May.

I want to take this opportunity to remind you that the last eight weeks, our time spent apart, with all its loss and pain, is only a part of our Class of 2020 story. This uncertain time is a part of a greater whole, one that we are still creating.

this is not how we imagined our final weeks of some of the most formative years of our lives. I want to take this opportunity to remind you that the last eight weeks, our time spent apart, with all its loss and pain, is only a part of our Class of 2020 story. This uncertain time is a part of a greater whole, one that we are still creating. How our time at Eastman is ending is not indicative of the time we spent here.

We have worked towards this moment, towards the

audiences to laugh, cry, dance, feel, unify, and trust in the immense power of humankind to overcome adversity.

Class of 2020, we have accomplished what we set out to do, and we have done so with the great help of our families, friends, and faculty. Congratulations—we did it!

You can see Sophie deliver her address and best wishes to the Class of 2020 on Eastman's website and YouTube channel.

Eastman Traditions

Another special Eastman memory for students is the Candlelight Ceremony, held in the courtyard of the Student Living Center on the very first night students arrive to campus their first year.



Class of 2020



EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Class of 2020

210 students approach the double bar at the end of their years at Eastman, and carry the spirit of Meliora out into the world

If an Eastman-trained composer writes a “Class of 2020” Symphony, it will have a bright, hopeful introduction, a succession of thematically inventive movements (occasionally reaching a frantic Presto molto), and an abrupt, unexpected finale ... with a brief reprise of the hopeful strains before the double bar.

“We did not finish our degree with commencement,” says SiHyun Uhm ’20E. “We did it with Zoom.” But she immediately adds, “Thank you for #EverBetter culmination of our hard work. #Meliora.”

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a spring semester where many anticipated performances were cancelled, as were many Eastman traditions for the Class of 2020. In its place, *Eastman Notes* pays tribute to each of them in this special feature. In the following pages you’ll see happy faces, and names you will undoubtedly hear in the future. You’ll also read their own eloquent and funny words about the experiences that made their time here unforgettable, marvel at their talent and industry, hear their hopes for the future ... and realize that even an abrupt, unexpected finale can end on a C major chord.



■ **Lucy Natasha Almada**

*Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Voice)*

“The spirit of her invincible heart guided her through the shadows”—Gabriel García Márquez



■ **Vidyasagar Anupindi**

*Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Oboe)*



■ **Leyly Bagherof**

*Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Voice)*



■ **Zehao Bai**

*Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Piano)*



■ **Stephanie Kate Bonk**

*Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Violin), with High Distinction*



■ **Noemi Carbonell Binag**

Master of Music, Conducting



■ **Claire Bradley**

*Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Horn)*

I will always remember the post-recital hug lines, horn parties, staircase pictures, wise words from PK and Holiday Sing. I'm so grateful for all the collaborative experiences, the friends I've made along the way, and as always, Meliora.



■ **Sarah K. Bobrow**

*Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Bassoon);
dual degree, Public Health*

I am so grateful to have been part of such a supportive community at Eastman. Learning and performing alongside my incredibly talented friends has been the absolute highlight of my time here. I'll especially miss my studio mates and all of our reed room shenanigans.



■ **Jacob Edison Buhler**

*Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Violin), with Distinction;
Arts Leadership Certificate*

I had many fond memories of Eastman but I think some of my favorite moments were simply hanging out with friends, whether it be sight reading chamber music or cooking meals together, I could always count on them to lift my spirits!

Class of 2020

*Forever grateful to Eastman for helping me cultivate my passion,
and even more grateful to those who pushed me to accept my progress
and myself exactly as they are.*

Reagan Elizabeth Casteel



■ **Emily Kristen Busby**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Double Bass); Music Education, with Distinction



■ **Ian Carle**
Bachelor of Music, Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media



■ **Reagan Elizabeth Casteel**
Bachelor of Music, Music Composition, with High Distinction
Forever grateful to Eastman for helping me cultivate my passion, and even more grateful to those who pushed me to accept my progress and myself exactly as they are.



■ **I-Hsiang Chao**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Piano); Music Composition, with Distinction



■ **Andrew C D Chen**
Bachelor of Music, Music Education; dual degree, Creative Writing
Eastman has certainly been something of a “fiery furnace” at times, but it has also been a place where I’ve enjoyed fantastic opportunities, mentors, and, of course, colleagues. This place is special. It will stay with me, as I suspect it will stay with all of us, forever. Meliora.



■ **Anduo Chen**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Piano)
“An honest ear is the most challenging skill to achieve—and to teach.”—Dr. Nelita True



■ **Jiaying Chen**
Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Piano)
“To send light into the darkness of men’s hearts—such is the duty of the artist.”—Robert Schumann



■ **Ruilin Chen**
Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Violin)
“Love every note you play.”



■ **Alison Chiang**
Doctor of Musical Arts, Performance and Literature (Piano)
Eastman has this wonderful magic of community and friendship that is unlike any other school. As a freshman, I never thought to stay past four years! But here I am, ten years later, finishing the final chapter of an amazing journey. Love and thanks to my family and teachers.



■ **Jacqueline Ching**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Violin)



■ **Ava Christina Conway**
Bachelor of Arts, Applied Music (Horn), with High Distinction; Performer’s Certificate; ASC in Film and Literature

My favorite part about Eastman was being able to take advantage of an extremely diverse array of courses in both Performance and Literature and academics: Baroque Chamber Music, Avant-Garde Film, Poetry, BCS classes, etc. This broad curriculum pushed me to explore and expand my creative drive.



■ **Brett Copeland**
Doctor of Musical Arts, Performance and Literature (Tuba); Arts Leadership Certificate
Always listen to Don Harry. He is the teller of truth.



■ **Gabrielle E. Cornish**
Doctor of Philosophy, Musicology



■ **Jordan Stoller Costa**
Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Voice)
I’ll never forget the friends I grew with, the teachers that fought for me, the FEO community that supported me, and the studio that made a home for me. I’m grateful for the privilege of having studied at Eastman.
“I think a life in music is a life beautifully spent”—Pavarotti

Special Section

Eastman has certainly been something of a “fiery furnace” at times, but it has also been a place where I’ve enjoyed fantastic opportunities, mentors, and, of course, colleagues. This place is special... Meliora.

Andrew C D Chen



■ **Bennett A. Coughlin**
Master of Arts, Music Leadership



■ **Sally Curran**
Bachelor of Arts, Applied Music (Voice)
There are no goodbyes, only see you laters.



■ **Lior David**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Piano)
My time at Eastman has truly been some of the most fulfilling time of my life. I have made so many friends through my four years here. My most meaningful times at Eastman were my wonderful lessons with Professor Alan Chow, and all the exciting and rigorous collaborations.



■ **Emiel Daniel De Jaegher**
Bachelor of Music, Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media
Great musicians and people that I will never forget.



■ **Adam Thomas DeSchriver**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Clarinet), with Distinction



■ **Henry Dean**
Bachelor of Music, Music Education, with Distinction; Take Five Scholar
I stayed a fifth year to study Chinese language and culture in the U of R's Take Five Scholars program. I'm graduating for real this time. To the Class of 2020, I'm so happy that I got to see you all experience your senior year and I'll cherish the memories I made with each of you!



■ **Alexandra Deitrich**
Bachelor of Music, Music Education—Major; Psychology—Minor, Arts Leadership Certificate
I will always remember the music my friends and I made at Eastman. There is so much beauty and love in this school, and I will cherish it. Thank you especially to the Music Teaching and Learning Department. I can't wait to begin my career as an Elementary Music Teacher this fall!



■ **Elizabeth Easley**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Horn); Musical Arts, with Highest Distinction



■ **John Richard Egan**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Viola)—Major; French—Minor
To every single person I met during my time at the Eastman School: Thank you for being amazing, inspiring and for helping me to grow as an individual and as a musician. Prof. Rostad was right: we will always be able to “try again” and succeed no matter what the world throws at us.



■ **Clancy Ellis**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Saxophone), with High Distinction; German—Minor
My favorite memories include Secret Santa with my studio before the Holidays, speaking German with friends and professors over coffee during our weekly Deutschtsch, and conducting a concert of Tchaikovsky and Barber with an orchestra comprised of fellow students.



■ **David Raymond Fournie**
Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Voice)
To all of my fellow graduates during this time: “Keep on keeping on!” Meliora!



■ **Grace Meredith Frarey**
Bachelor of Music, Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media; Music Education; Arts Leadership Certificate



■ **Edo Shmuel Frenkel**
Doctor of Musical Arts, Conducting
One of the most important things I learned at Eastman that echoes within me frequently is the following advice: “Don’t wait to become the artist you want to be. Be it now. If every day, that version of you shows up, there’s no guessing; your future makes itself.”

Class of 2020



■ **Anna R. Gasanova**

*Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Viola)*

There are so many memories that I will cherish. One of my favorites was being part of the opera pit with Maestro Tim Long for *Don Giovanni*. We had four amazing shows where we gave it our all. Maestro Long expected the best from us and I will never forget that special journey!



■ **Antony Goon**

*Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Violin)*

Attending Eastman was one of the highlights of my life. I've been able to meet and befriend such incredible people, and I'm sure we will be connected for the rest of our lives. I've learned so much, and I feel like I've truly developed and matured as a person during my time here.



■ **Thomas Gaynor**

*Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature
(Organ); Performer's Certificate;
Artist's Certificate*



■ **Emma Catherine Gierszal**

*Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Percussion);
Arts Leadership Certificate*

"Paradiddles will prevail!"—
Prof. John Beck, 2020



■ **Gene Patrick Graham III**

*Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Voice)*

What has made Eastman so special is the relationships I've built with my peers and the world class faculty. I will be forever grateful for the investment that people like Professor Katherine Ciesinski, Dr. Russell Miller, and Professor Tim Long have made in my life and career.

Eastman Trends Among Friends

We asked the Class of 2020 to list their "top trends" during their time at the school. Their responses provide quick snapshots of the Eastman Experience: from audition days to Lowry Hall applause after a concert; from Theory 101 to Graduate Conducting Orchestra; from Bach cantatas to jazz in Miller Center courtyard.

At the top of the list—by far—was:

Java's on Gibbs Street

Spot Coffee, Orange Glory, Fuego, and other downtown Rochester coffee shops made the list, but Java's, which has been in business for more than 20 years, was the favorite hang. A number of its unique drinks—Kinky Reggae, A Shot in the Dark, and London Fog—will definitely be missed by Eastman students.

Eastman Favorites

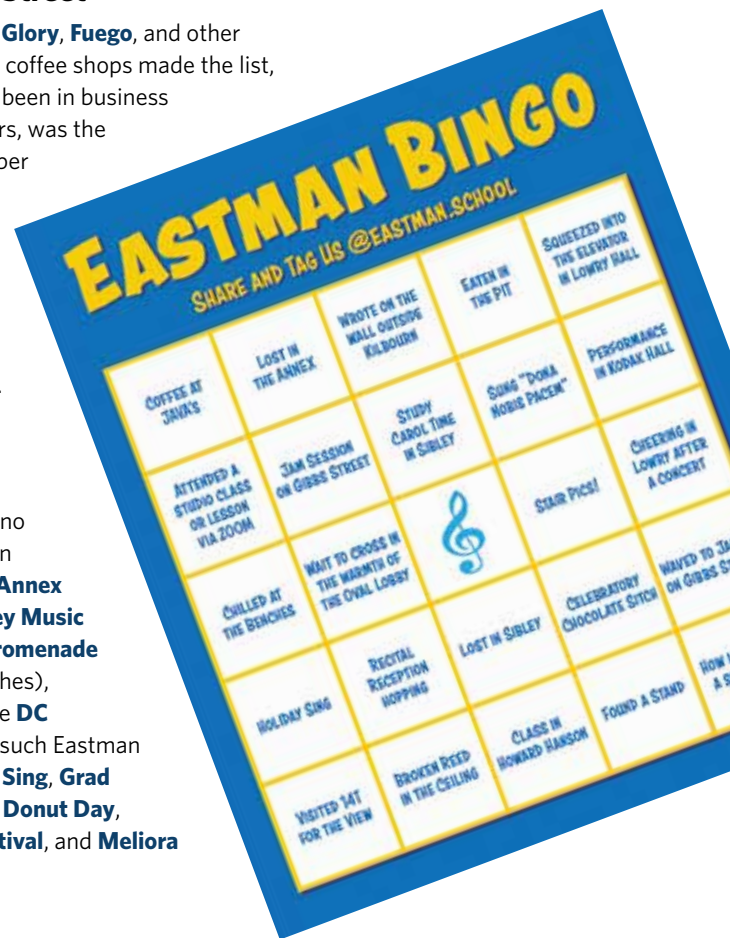
In second place, also no surprise, was Eastman itself: places like the **Annex practice rooms, Sibley Music Library, Cominsky Promenade** (specifically the couches), **Kilbourn Hall**, and the **DC** (Dining Center); and such Eastman traditions as **Holiday Sing, Grad Student Association Donut Day, Gateways Music Festival**, and **Meliora Weekend**.

Trends of 2020

Some typical early 21st-century amusements made the list as well: **video games, binge watching, Netflix, Spotify**.

And mentions of **Letchworth State Park, Ontario Beach State Park**, and movie trips prove that the Class of 2020 did occasionally leave their practice rooms and the library.

The Class of 2020 entered many other fond details online in our "Eastman Bingo" and "This or That" games. Check the special "Class of 2020 Celebration" website, and our social media accounts, for more!



Coffee shops, classes, concerts, and the city of Rochester: all are happy memories for students, and they've also become squares in "Eastman Bingo," to be found on the school's Celebrating the Class of 2020 website.

Class of 2020 Memories





Two years of beautiful music, collaborations,
and friendships. Thank you!

Maggie Hinchliffe

Special Section

If there's anything I've learned from my time at Eastman, it is to believe in yourself, be brave, and be willing to take a risk. Chances are the results will far surpass your wildest dreams.

Danielle Guina



■ **Jess Frances Green**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Trumpet); Music Education, with Distinction

My favorite memory has to be late-night video game sessions with friends in the SLC basement TV room. We would sit in front of the TV in the dark, playing horror games into the wee hours with a tableful of snacks—some of the best nights of my four years at ESM!



■ **Miles Greenberg**

Master of Arts, Musicology



■ **Jessica Yi Gu**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Voice)

Embrace failure because it is your greatest friend.



■ **Danielle Guina**

Master of Music, Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music

Eastman wouldn't have been the same without my ACM family. If there's anything I've learned from my time at Eastman, it is to believe in yourself, be brave, and be willing to take a risk. Chances are the results will far surpass your wildest dreams.



■ **Paul David Halberstadt**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Violin)

Dear Class of 2020, Let's keep in touch at a socially-acceptable-distanced length and when we meet again let's hang and pass around a few Corona lite . . . I'm excited to meet again in the future. God Bless!



■ **Andrew Hammond**

Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Voice)

Don't stop asking questions.



■ **Xu Han**

Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Piano)

ESM is a magical place that gives me passion, faith, and inspiration through music. I'm so thrilled that I get the opportunity to stay and live in Rochester. Thanks to everyone who encourages me, supports me, and sends love to me. Wish we will all be the very best. Meliora :)



■ **Dalanie Marie Harris**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Double Bass)

"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."—Shirley Chisholm



■ **Joseph Lewin Harris**

Master of Music, Early Music



■ **Micah Steven Harrow**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Percussion), with High Distinction; Performer's Certificate

Thank you to Professor Burritt for dropping dimes in studio football and to my whole studio for being incredibly fun, supportive, and inspirational. Here's to MJB, the percussion studio, and catching your shadows!



■ **Joshua Charles Hart**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Piano)

One of the things I will miss most about Eastman is being able to just spontaneously sight read or improvise with people who are both great musicians and great people to hang out with.



■ **Abigail Marie Hawthorne**

Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Oboe)

One of my favorite Eastman traditions is singing "Dona Nobis Pacem" at the end of each season's Holiday Sing. It was so special to gather as a school and sing together—only at Eastman!



■ **Derrick Hegeman**

Master of Music, Contemporary Media and Film Composition

Live music to picture is one of the greatest ways to experience art at the fullest!



■ **Benjamin David Henderson**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Organ); Performer's Certificate

Class of 2020



■ **Luisa Hidalgo**

*Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Voice)*

My most cherished memory is the day I met my voice teacher, Ruth Hennessy. After the first lesson, I knew that I was in the right place at the right time. Eastman put me in the hands of someone that I trust with my whole heart, and for that, I am forever grateful.



■ **Gabriella Renee Higgins**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Voice)—Major; German—Minor, with Distinction



■ **Maggie Hinchliffe**

*Master of Music, Piano
Accompanying and Chamber Music*

Two years of beautiful music, collaborations, and friendships. Thank you!



■ **Timothy A. Hommowun**

*Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Oboe)*

People who take advantage of everything Eastman has to offer will excel on whatever path they choose to follow. Time is precious, and it's gone before you know it.



■ **Alexandra Rose Hotz**

Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Voice)

Two years later and I still don't fully understand sonata form, but that's okay because I have a few more years to nail it! Endlessly grateful for everything these past two years have meant, and truly excited to continue in the DMA program. All my love to my graduating friends.



■ **Garri Hovsepyan**

*Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Violoncello);
Bachelor of Arts in Business*

Your life your choice!



■ **Peiqi Huang**

Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Voice)



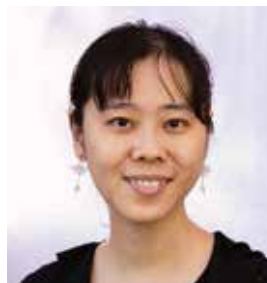
■ **Yixin Huang**

*Master of Music, Contemporary
Media and Film Composition*



■ **Natalia Hulse**

*Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Voice)*



■ **Chiao-Ju (Cherry) Hung**

*Master of Music, Piano
Accompanying and Chamber Music*

A precious and fruitful journey! I believe the years at ESM will become one of the most memorable times in my life. I am starting to miss it already ...



■ **Adrienne Polly Hyde**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Violoncello), with High Distinction; Performance Practice Certificate

Thank you to all my wonderful teachers who have believed in me and trusted in me. Thank you to Eastman for giving me a home in which I could blossom and belong, and cherished friendships. Thank you to my parents for always supporting me. I hope I will make all of you proud.



■ **Letitia Yu-ching Jap**

*Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature (Violin)*

One of the things I will miss most about Eastman is being able to just spontaneously sight read or improvise with people who are both great musicians and great people to hang out with.

Joshua Charles Hart

Special Section

One of my favorite Eastman traditions is singing “Dona Nobis Pacem” at the end of each season’s Holiday Sing. It was so special to gather as a school and sing together—only at Eastman!

Abigail Marie Hawthorne



■ **James Kealey**
Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Organ)



■ **Kelly Kelso**
Master of Music, Jazz Studies
and Contemporary Media
My two years at Eastman
were a significant mark on
who I’ve become today.
It’s an inspirational place
full of some of the most
incredible musicians I know.
I look forward to seeing the
accomplishments of my
colleagues. Let’s be a strong,
positive voice for the world.



■ **Rose Kearin**
Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Voice)

Eastman was a place I got to
work with some of my favorite
people daily. I am grateful for
the perspective it has given
me and leave thankful for my
teacher’s wisdom and for the
collaborations I was afforded.



■ **David Andrew Keep**
Doctor of Philosophy, Music Theory
“Let your intimate friends
be chosen from such as
are better informed than
yourself.”—Robert Schumann



■ **Jenna Kent**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Clarinet), with High Distinction;
dual degree, Political Science;
Performer’s Certificate

Some of my favorite Eastman
memories were on the
Severance Hall trip last May,
including leaving an Eastman
shout out in the Cleveland
Public Library, throwing
together a clarinet pizza night,
and studying for our finals
in the Rock and Roll Hall of
Fame cafeteria.



■ **Daniel Marcel Ketter**
Doctor of Philosophy, Music Theory
“There are many things in
music which, not fully heard,
must be imagined . . .”—C.P.E.
Bach, *Versuch über die wahre
Art das Clavier zu spielen*, II, 1, 8



■ **Jaein Kim**
Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Flute)



■ **Joanna Hyunji Kim**
Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature (Voice)
My nine years of Master’s
and Doctorate studies at
Eastman changed my life as
a musician. This place taught
me endurance, excellency, and
professionalism. The most
treasurable gift was the people
I met here to make music,
overflowing support towards
colleagues. *Soli Deo Gloria*.



■ **Rose Kim**
Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Clarinet);
Performer’s Certificate

Very grateful to have had
the experience to study with
Mr. Grant and Mr. Wayne,
to collaborate and perform
alongside inspiring faculty
and colleagues, and to have
met some very special friends,
especially Chanse and Maya.
Thank you for a very special
time, Eastman!



■ **Soo Yeon Kim**
Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature
(Violin)

At Eastman, I met beautiful
minds—especially the
professors and colleagues—
who often went out of their
way and taught me how to
think and gather my thoughts
on music using a scholarly
approach—their guidance
helped me truly appreciate
music and be joyful being
a violinist!



■ **Kyle Christopher King**
Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Voice)

I’m glad to have spent two
years at Eastman. It was a
place where I was able to hone
my craft and meet plenty of
new friends and collaborators.
The highlights of my time here
would have to be performing
the fall double-bill and
Don Giovanni with Eastman
Opera Theatre.

Class of 2020



■ **Kaitlyn Chase Knudsvig**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Violin), with Distinction;
Arts Leadership Certificate



■ **Rachel Leigh Kobernick**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Voice)—Major; Italian—Minor, with High Distinction;
Arts Leadership Certificate

I was unpacking after moving home this semester and found a program from a Renée Fleming masterclass from freshman year. On the front I had written some notes, one of which was the quote: "Oh my god, I'm singing!" Four years later, I can finally quote her with some accuracy.



■ **Denin Michael Koch**
Master of Music, Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media, Arts Leadership Certificate

I don't think I'll ever forget all of Bob Sneider's corny one-liners. "It pays in exposure? You can die from exposure!"



■ **Nina Laube**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Bassoon); Performer's Certificate
"A flower blossoms for its own joy."—Oscar Wilde



■ **Aaron John Lee**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Clarinet)
"SUSTAAAAAIIIIIIIIIN!"—Mr. Grant



■ **Anna Lee**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Violin)
I'll be back



■ **Sunwoo Lee**
Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Viola)



■ **Yujin Lee**
Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Violin)



■ **Linzi Li**
Master of Music, Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music
These years at Eastman are so precious and unforgettable. The hectic lifestyle as a pianist attending lessons, classes, rehearsals, competitions, shapes who I am. It is like you spread seeds in the rich community and then harvest in the spring.



■ **Yue Li**
Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Double Bass)
Never stop learning!!



■ **Lo-An Lin**
Doctor of Musical Arts, Performance and Literature (Piano)
I will never forget my time at Eastman. I am especially grateful for my dear professor Dr. Nelita True and piano pedagogy advisor Professor Caramia. I also would like to thank Dr. Humphreys for all the help he gave me after Ms. True retired. Meliora!



■ **Francesca Lionetta**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Voice), with High Distinction, Arts Leadership Certificate
I will never forget the lessons I learned at Eastman and the wonderful people who have become my Eastman family. Thanks especially to Professor Cowdrick for teaching me to be brave and to Professor Carr for encouraging me to always trust myself.

*People who take advantage of everything
Eastman has to offer will excel on whatever path
they choose to follow.*

Timothy A. Hommowun

Class of 2020 Memories





I will always remember the music my friends
and I made at Eastman. There is so much beauty and love
in this school, and I will cherish it.

Alexandra Deitrich



Special Section

*This place taught me endurance, excellency, and professionalism.
The most treasurable gift was the people I met here to make music,
overflowing support towards colleagues.*

Joanna Hyunji Kim



■ **Maya Ana Loncar**

Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Guitar), Performer's Certificate



■ **Robert James MacPartland**

Master of Music, Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media



■ **Kathleen Marie Krummel McFarland**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Viola)



■ **Makana Kai Noah Medeiros**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Percussion); Arts Leadership Certificate; Performer's Certificate



■ **Chan Mi Na**

Doctor of Musical Arts, Performance and Literature (Viola)



■ **Jeremy Luis Lopez**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Voice)—Major; Italian—Minor, with High Distinction; Arts Leadership Certificate

"I will always be as difficult as necessary to achieve the best"—Maria Callas



■ **Michael Curtis Matthews**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Saxophone)—Major; Legal Studies—Minor

I want to thank every single one of you for making my time here so meaningful in ways big and small. Whether we were best friends or we only made eye contact outside of a rehearsal once, I appreciated your presence, artistry, and kindness.



■ **Tierney E. McLean**

Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Trumpet); Arts Leadership Certificate



■ **Stephen Laurence Morris**

Master of Music, Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media

Never be afraid to ask questions, never be afraid to collaborate with anyone, never be afraid to fail.



■ **Nozomi Grace Murayama**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Violin); dual degree, Psychology

I will truly miss my time at Eastman, which has become my second home. I am thankful for being able to study with Professor Kopelman. I am especially grateful for my class of violins. We were supportive as fellow students, musicians, and most of all, friends. Go Class of 2020!



■ **Naomi Geena Nakanishi**

Bachelor of Music, Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media; Arts Leadership Certificate

The best memories were at Fuego with a cup of their freshly brewed, Ethiopian Roast. It was the "hang," or at least my version of it, since they're hard to come by in a department of 60 men to 5 women. Thanks to Luisa Hidalgo and Olivia Galante for making my last year so special.



■ **Lizhu Lu**

Bachelor of Music, Music Education, with Distinction

Thank you very much to my primary teacher, advisors, professors, TAs, classmates, friends, and every single one of you who had played a role in my experience at Eastman. I'm very grateful for this journey.



■ **Rudolph David Mayrhofer**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Clarinet)—Major; Mathematics—Minor, with High Distinction



■ **Conner John McWhirter**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Voice)

Class of 2020



■ Amy Nam

Master of Music, Music Composition

"If it quacks like a duck but has a blue mark on it, I don't want to invent a new category for a duck with a pen that exploded in its pocket."—Professor Seth Monahan



■ Alexandria Marguerite Ott

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Violin) with Highest Distinction; Performance Practice Certificate

An older studio-mate once advised me: "People think being good at something means finding it easy, but that's not true! Anything good that's worth doing is hard." Eastman wasn't easy, but I'm eternally grateful for what I learned and for those who shared it with me.



■ Melissa Palfey

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Horn)



■ Natalie Pang

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Piano); Music Theory, with High Distinction

Eastman taught me love for music like no other. "I unceasingly affirm love, within myself, as a value. Though I listen to all the arguments which the most divergent systems employ to demystify, to limit ... to depreciate love, I persist: I know, but all the same."—Roland Barthes



■ Alexis Noelle Peart

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Voice); Music Education, with Distinction

Treat every performance like it's your last, because you might wake up one day and realize that moment already passed.



■ Varun Rangaswamy

Bachelor of Music, Music Composition; Bachelor of Music, Bassoon Performance and Literature



■ Rachel Marian Rice

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Violoncello)

Eastman is a wonderful place, and our time here is often filled with highs and lows. I will always remember this quote from class by Rilke, and how it speaks to the musician I have become: "Let everything happen to you / Beauty and terror / Just keep going / No feeling is final."



■ Elizabeth Morgan Ojeda

Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Harp)

"DuckRabbit"—Gestalt



■ Gwen Paker

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Voice)

Thank you all so much for such amazing memories! Thank you especially to Professor Webber and Professor Swensen for teaching me so much. I can't wait to see you all again ... this time as coworkers!



■ Yoon Bin Park

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Violin)



■ Siobhan J. Plouffe

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Saxophone); dual degree, Audio Engineering

The education and experiences I have gained at Eastman have been incredible, but it is the people here, especially my studio, that have made my undergraduate experience so unforgettable. My studio has become my second family and I couldn't be more grateful. #espoointense



■ Stephaniea Alexandra Jane Romaniuk

Master of Arts, Music Education; Arts Leadership Certificate

I was unpacking after moving home ... and found a program from a Renée Fleming masterclass from freshman year. On the front I had written some notes, one of which was the quote: "Oh my god, I'm singing!"

Rachel Leigh Kobernick

Special Section

An older studio-mate once advised me: "... Anything good that's worth doing is hard." Eastman wasn't easy, but I'm eternally grateful for what I learned and for those who shared it with me.

Alexandria Marguerite Ott



■ **Danielle Romano**
Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Voice)



■ **Gaia Saetermoe-Howard**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Oboe), with Distinction; Bachelor
of Arts, Archaeology, Technology,
and Historical Structures

"Fear is not an appropriate
color."—Richard Killmer



■ **Lev Roshal**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Violin); Music Theory,
with Distinction; dual degree,
Mathematics

Please be aware that while
a string quartet can fit in the
Eastman Theater elevator, it
does not necessarily mean
that a string quartet should
fit in the Eastman Theater
elevator. Best of luck to
everyone going on to the next
stages of their careers!



■ **Angela Riccardo Salcedo**
Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature (Organ)

How fun it was to host
William Bolcom for the ERO!
Festival 2013! A degree at
Eastman is about developing
one's artistry and immersing
ourselves in music, inspired
by the astounding performers
and teachers that surround us
throughout our daily studies.



■ **Daniel J. Sawler**
Master of Arts, Pedagogy
of Music Theory

Working towards these
two degrees for the past six
years at Eastman has been a
blessing and a privilege. Being
given the opportunity to teach
with the theory faculty and to
work with the undergraduate
class has been an invaluable
experience and I will cherish
these memories forever!



■ **Claudia Anita Scalzetti**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Double Bass); dual degree,
Business

"You'll get there" ... Thank you
for believing in me.



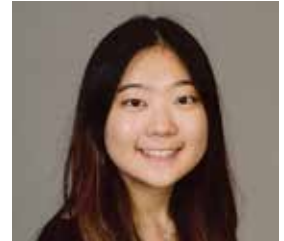
■ **Tasha Schapiro**
Bachelor of Arts, Applied Music
(Horn); dual degree, Physics



■ **Brian George Schoettler**
Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature (Organ)



■ **So Jeong Shim**
Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Harp)
I am so happy that we were
able to share such an exciting
moment together. I learned
a lot from Eastman I will
always remember, and I will
miss Rochester too! Thanks
everyone!



■ **Jennifer Shin**
Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Organ)



■ **Aaron Siebert-Castaneira**
Master of Music, Contemporary
Media and Film Composition



■ **Ian Silverman**
Master of Music, Opera—
Stage Directing; Arts Leadership
Certificate

"It's not about the destination,
it's about the journey." Thanks
for an unforgettable journey.
Can't wait to see what we all
do next.

Class of 2020



■ **Clara Hope Simpson**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Violoncello)—Major; French—Minor; dual degree, Chemistry
 I'm going to miss you all so much.



■ **Kendra Marie Sobania**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Violin)



■ **Fiona Stout**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Horn); Concentration in Film Studies
 Cheers to COVID Class of 2020! Meliora and Memeiora to you all! Go Eastman Bees! Meliora being used as a verb—“Dang! Did you hear X play? They really meliora-d!”



■ **Koki Tanaka**
Doctor of Musical Arts, Performance and Literature (Violin)
 Eastman gave me a chance to rediscover my musicality.



■ **Mark Terentiev**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Violin); dual degree, Business
 Some of the best times here at Eastman have been spending time with other musicians, laughing, sight-reading, and getting away from the stresses of student life. I will miss everyone very much and wish everyone good luck with whatever future plans you all have! We can do it!



■ **Uday Singh**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Saxophone), with Distinction
 Have an open mind and be willing put yourself in new, uncomfortable situations; the possibilities for growth are literally endless. Now is the time to make things happen. #shakeyourbooty #espsointense



■ **Tara Danae Sola**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Viola)



■ **Corey James Talford**
Master of Music, Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media



■ **RongLu Tang**
Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Piano)



■ **Christine Teng**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Piano)—Major; French—Minor
 Although Eastman has been filled with lots of stress, I have met the greatest people here that I am glad to call friends. I've enjoyed being able to collaborate with such wonderful musicians that have constantly inspired me. I'm glad I got an ECMS graduation though.



■ **Sophie Thompson**
Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Voice)
 “Be brave”—Kathryn Cowdrick



■ **Joseph Chi-Sing Siu**
Doctor of Philosophy, Music Theory



■ **Holly Lyn Spangenberg**
Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Violin)

*“It’s not about the destination, it’s about the journey.”
 Thanks for an unforgettable journey. Can’t wait
 to see what we all do next.*

Ian Silverman

Class of 2020 Memories



I hope that when we see each other again it will feel like running into each other in Lowry Hall!

Sophie Volpe





Special Section

I got rejected a lot. I questioned all my dreams. I ate too many Pop-tarts. I worked three jobs to pay rent.... I missed Canada. I realized I wasn't special. And through it all, I found my voice. I wouldn't change a thing.

McKenzie Elizabeth Fossgreen Warriner



■ **Esther Zhuo Ying Ting**

Master of Music, Conducting
"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." (Matthew 5:14-16) Let your light shine before others!



■ **SiHyun Uhm**

Bachelor of Music, Music Composition—Major; Audio & Music Engineering—Minor, with Distinction; Arts Leadership Certificate; World Music Certificate
We did not finish our degree with Commencement. We did it with Zoom. Thank you for #EverBetter culmination of our hard work. #Meliora



■ **Sophie Volpe**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Trombone); Music Education, with Distinction; Performer's Certificate
I hope that when we see each other again it will feel like running into each other in Lowry Hall!



■ **Michelle Ingrid Walker**

Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Viola); Music Education



■ **Madison Annabelle Warren**

Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Horn); Performer's Certificate
The community at Eastman is supportive, talented, and endlessly excited to create music. It has inspired me every day, and I am so thankful to be part of it.



■ **Abigail Unn-Shuan Tsai**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Violin); Performer's Certificate
Whether it is, to the horror of the diners, a swarm of world-class violinists invading Chick-fil-A on a Sunday afternoon, or sleep-deprived musicians coaxed awake by the 2 a.m. fire alarm due to burnt brownies, the Eastman Class of 2020 will always hold a special place in my heart.



■ **Bradley Vogel**

Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Organ)
I couldn't be more grateful for my experience at Eastman. Professors Higgs, Laube, and Porter of the organ department truly embody the spirit of "Meliora." The opportunity to play historic instruments like the Craighead-Saunders organ or Italian Baroque organ has been invaluable.



■ **Malinda Wagstaff**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music (Voice), with High Distinction; Arts Leadership Certificate; ASC—Languages of the Repertoire
"In all of living have much fun and laughter. Life is to be enjoyed, not just endured."
—Gordon B. Hinckley



■ **Ke'er Coco Wang**

Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Piano)
"A winner is a dreamer who never gives up."—Nelson Mandela



■ **Peiyao Wang**

Master of Music, Contemporary Media and Film Composition
Eastman makes me love music more!!



■ **McKenzie Elizabeth Fossgreen Warriner**

Master of Music, Performance and Literature (Voice); Arts Leadership Certificate
Grad school was hard. I got rejected a lot. I questioned all my dreams. I ate too many Pop-tarts. I worked three jobs to pay rent. I had to take Bibliography. I missed Canada. I realized I wasn't special. And through it all, I found my voice. I wouldn't change a thing.

Class of 2020



■ **Nicholas Wilbur**
Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Viola)



■ **Adrienne Noel Williams**
Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Violin)
Thank you to all the
professors, friends, and
family who have made my
experience at Eastman so
special. You have all taught
me so much about becoming a
better musician and person.



■ **Kitty Xiao**
Master of Music, Music
Composition

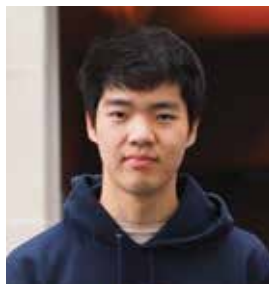


■ **Oliver Xu**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Percussion), with Distinction; dual
degree, Computer Science

I'm grateful to have been a
part of such a supportive,
talented, and fun studio at
Eastman. I know that I'll
treasure my memories from
studio class, percussion
ensemble concerts, and DC
hangs long after I graduate!



■ **Sarah Jane Yaden**
Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Voice)



■ **Seiji Yamashita**
Bachelor of Music, Jazz Studies and
Contemporary Media; dual degree,
International Relations



■ **Zhongsan Yang**
Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Piano)



■ **Huiming Ye**
Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Piano)
My favourite moments of the
amazing four years in Eastman
are collaborating with other
amazing musicians in the
school. I enjoyed playing
chamber music with my
"Vento" Trio, and Mozart's
Piano Concerto in D Minor
with Maestro Varon and
Eastman Philharmonia in
Kodak Hall!



■ **Peiying Ye**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Piano)



■ **Qisheng Ye**
Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Piano)
Two years of experience at
Eastman was so meaningful
for me, and I learned how to
be a more comprehensive
musician. Thanks to all
the people I met here, the
Eastman School will be a
home to me forever.



■ **Haotian Yu**
Bachelor of Music, Music
Composition, with Highest
Distinction



■ **Yan Yue**
Bachelor of Music, Music
Composition, with High Distinction



■ **Alyssa Maki Yuge**
Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Viola); Music Education

*The happiest time in Eastman
was when I found a practice room on the sixth floor
of the Annex after class.*

Qianshan Yun

Special Section

“Eat, Sleep, Music!” I feel especially lucky to be a student at Eastman. The experience of studying here for two years is unforgettable. I love Eastman!

Linyao Zhang



■ **Qianshan Yun**

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Piano)

The happiest time in Eastman was when I found a practice room on the sixth floor of the Annex after class.



■ **Matthew John Zatzko**

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Voice)



■ **Dailin Zeng**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Piano), with Distinction

“An honest ear is the most challenging skill to achieve and to teach.”—Nelita True



■ **Linyao Zhang**

Master of Music, Contemporary
Media and Film Composition

“Eat, Sleep, Music!” I feel especially lucky to be a student at Eastman. The experience of studying here for two years is unforgettable. I love Eastman!



■ **Meng Zhang**

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Clarinet)

Victory Loves Preparation



■ **Ruxin Zhao**

Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature (Piano)

“Some people come into our lives, leave footprints in our hearts, and we’re never the same.”

Also in the Class of 2020

Several graduating students did not supply photographs, but we include their names and degrees on these pages.

■ **Aoife Shanthi Balaji**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Violoncello), with Distinction

■ **Aylssa M. Barna**

Doctor of Philosophy, Music Theory

■ **Nathaniel Barak Bear**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Voice)

■ **Julie Beauregard**

Master of Arts, Ethnomusicology

■ **Isaac Berglind**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Violoncello)

■ **Christian Mark Birkness**

Master of Arts, Music Theory

■ **Ryan Blakeley**

Master of Arts, Musicology

■ **Ryan Brasley**

Bachelor of Music, Jazz Studies
and Contemporary Media

■ **Chandler Jacob Brown**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Percussion)

■ **Matthew David Campisi**

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Voice)

■ **Henry Alden Carpender**

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Trombone)

■ **Ryan Cheng**

Bachelor of Music, Applied
Music (Violin), with Distinction;
Arts Leadership Certificate;
Performance Practice Certificate

■ **Jung Choi**

Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature (Oboe)

■ **Hugo Christensen**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Voice); Arts Leadership Certificate

■ **Sohee Chung**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Piano), with Distinction

■ **Raelynn S. Clare**

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Organ)

■ **Maurice Cohn**

Master of Music, Conducting;
Arts Leadership Certificate

■ **Daniel Oliver Conant**

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Guitar);
Performer's Certificate

■ **Elizabeth Marie Coster**

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Voice)

■ **Chloe de Souza**

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Piano)

■ **Emily Dobmeier**

Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature
(Clarinet)

■ **Sean Doohan**

Bachelor of Music, Applied
Music (Guitar), with Distinction;
Performer's Certificate

■ **Connor Walter Doran**

Master of Music, Conducting

■ **Zachary Arthur Duell**

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Organ)

■ **Matthew Eeuwes**

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Viola)

■ **Jonathan Andrew Eng**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Violin)

■ **Matthew Ricardo Eng**

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Piano)

■ **Gloria Choyoung Engle**

Doctor of Musical Arts, Piano
Accompanying and Chamber
Music

■ **Raleigh P. Fagerhaug**

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Saxophone);
Performer's Certificate

■ **Matthew Stephen Figel**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Piano)/Musical Arts, with Highest
Distinction

■ **Drew Flieder**

Bachelor of Music, Musical
Composition/Musical Arts

■ **Ashley Fong**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Harp); Arts Leadership Certificate

■ **Brian Jacob Fowler**

Master of Music, Performance and
Literature (Bassoon)

■ **David Fraser**

Master of Music, Music Education

■ **Katelyn Caroline
Fridmann**

Master of Arts, Music Education

■ **Joshua Placide Gagnon**

Master of Music, Jazz Studies
and Contemporary Media; Arts
Leadership Certificate

■ **Olivia Galante**

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Clarinet)

■ **Carl Francis Galland**

Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature
(Clarinet)

■ **Chase Gasko**

Master of Music, Performance and
Literature (Trombone); Performer's
Certificate

■ **Alessio Giacobone**

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Organ)

Class of 2020

■ Erik Henry Gibelyou

Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature
(Guitar)

■ Andrew Gomez-Ramirez

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Guitar);
Performer's Certificate

■ Julian James Graef

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Viola)

■ Jesse Uwe Griese

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Guitar); Performer's Certificate

■ Marissa Lynn Guarriello

Master of Arts, Music Education

■ Ryan M. Hardcastle

Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature (Viola)

■ Domenica Harding

Master of Arts, Music Leadership

■ Margaret C. Harrigan

Master of Arts, Music Education

■ Shoghi Devyn Hayes

Master of Music, Contemporary
Media and Film Composition;
Arts Leadership Certificate

■ Xin He

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Horn)

■ Christopher Kobayashi Herz

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Violin);
Arts Leadership Certificate

■ Nathan A. Holzberg

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Percussion)

■ Nicholas Im

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Violoncello)

■ Matthew Incontro

Bachelor of Music, Jazz and
Contemporary Media

■ Lauren Irschick

Master of Arts, Music Theory

■ Benjamin Thomas Johns

Doctor of Musical Arts, Conducting

■ Evan Thomas Jones III

Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature (Voice)

■ Aric Kline

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Trumpet)

■ Janette LaBarre

Master of Arts, Music Leadership

■ Anthony Paul LaLena

Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature
(Guitar)

■ Justin Eric Lamb

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Percussion);
Arts Leadership Certificate;
Performer's Certificate

■ Mason Scott Lambert

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Voice)

■ Dominic Seunghyun Lee

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Violoncello);
Performer's Certificate

■ Ye Ji Lee

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Voice)

■ Isaac Jin-Ray Li

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Viola)

■ Che-Hong Liu

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Violin)

■ Yi-Ning Lo

Master of Music,
Music Composition

■ Salvador Lopez Portillo

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Voice)

■ Bernardo Marcondes Rodrigues

Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature
(Guitar)

■ James McCarthy

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Voice)

■ Bronwen Kerry McVeigh

Master of Arts, Musicology

■ Max Koster Meza

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Double Bass)

■ Georgia Markakis Mills

Master of Arts, Music Leadership

■ Philip Milman

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Bassoon); dual degree, Biology

■ Jacob Michael Montgomery

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Organ)

■ Rayvon Talib Jacques Moore

Doctor of Musical Arts, Conducting

■ Chanse Manuel Morris

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Clarinet)

■ Collin Murtaugh

Master of Music, Jazz Studies
and Contemporary Media

■ Rachel Anne Neece

Master of Arts, Musicology

■ Dale Nickell

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Organ)

■ Isaiah Obey

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Flute)

■ Melissa Ann O'Hara

Master of Arts, Music Leadership

■ Zhe Pan

Master of Music, Contemporary
Media and Film Composition

■ Hannah Marie Pearson

Master of Arts, Music Leadership

■ Kirk Edwin Peterson

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Bassoon)

■ Christopher L. Reed

Doctor of Musical Arts,
Piano Accompanying and
Chamber Music

■ Jonathan Pierce Rhodes

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Voice)

■ Jakub Rompczyk

Master of Music, Conducting

■ Parker Scinta

Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature
(Guitar)

■ Corey Silberstein

Master of Arts,
Pedagogy of Music Theory

■ Grace Yehyun Song

Bachelor of Music,
Applied Music (Violin)

■ Daniel Benjamin Spink

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Viola)

■ William Talley III

Doctor of Musical Arts, Conducting

■ Paul William Tingley

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Trumpet)

■ Tik Yan Joyce Tseng

Master of Music, Performance
and Literature (Viola)

■ Ethan Daniel Urtz

Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature
(Trumpet)

■ D'Jean Michaël Vasciannie

Master of Arts, Music Leadership;
Arts Leadership Certificate

■ Drew Alexander Viavattine

Master of Music, Music Education

■ Kennedy Da'Lon Wallace

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Flute)

■ Andrew Watkins Alcocer

Master of Music, Jazz Studies
and Contemporary Media

■ Clinton J. Weaver

Master of Arts, Music Education

■ Kelly Marie Whitesell

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Voice); Music Education, with
Distinction

■ Gerta Grimci Wiemer

Doctor of Musical Arts, Piano
Accompanying and Chamber
Music

■ Alden Daniel Wright

Bachelor of Music, Applied Music
(Organ), with Highest Distinction;
Performer's Certificate

■ Austin Yee

Bachelor of Music, Jazz Studies
and Contemporary Media; Music
Education

■ Wenzhuo Zhang

Master of Arts, Ethnomusicology

■ Zachary Dean Zwahlen

Doctor of Musical Arts,
Performance and Literature
(Organ)

*Heartfelt gratitude to my teachers for challenging and inspiring me
as I traveled the road less taken, and to my colleagues
for their support and encouragement.*

Raelynn S. Clare

{ ALUMNI NOTES }

1970s

Oboist and English Hornist **Carol Rothrock** '79E (MA) joined singer **Walter DuMelle** '93E (MM) in the San Diego premiere of William Grant Still's choral cantata *And They Lynched Him on a Tree* on February 22 and 23. The performance featured the M.L.K. Jr. Community Choir, contralto soloist Judith Malone, and members of the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, conducted by David Chase and produced by Bodhi Tree Concerts, founded by Walter and his wife Diana.



1980s

1 Bassist-composer **Gregg August** '87E has just released *Dialogues on Race, Volume 1* (Iacussa Records). This ambitious twelve-movement suite explores the issue of race relations in an artful blend of instrumental and vocals, inspired by poetry of Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, Cornelius Eady, and other writers. Premiered in 2009, *Dialogues on Race* has been in the making for more than a decade.

The Society for Music presented a rare public performance of Philip Glass' all-percussion composition *Madeira River* in their program *Minimalism & the Sound of Our Times*. The performance included **Marc Mellits** '88E, **Robert Bridge** '98E (DMA), and **Laura Enslin** '01E (MM).

Steven Scheschareg '88E, '90E (MM), **Joe Trafton**



1 Gregg August '87E

'02E (MM), and **Betsy Pilon** '15E performed Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffman* in Hagen, Germany during the holiday season. In January and February, Steve performed in a recital at Wake Forest (NC) University celebrating Beethoven's 200th birthday and Including the American premiere of Helmut Schmidinger's *Mein Engel, mein Alles, mein Ich*, a song cycle based on Beethoven's "Immortal Beloved" letter. He also gave several recitals of songs by 20th-century Viennese composers in several cities in Florida.

Grammy-winning composer **Maria Schneider** '85E

(MM) was recently elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In the 2020 class, Maria joins 275 other artists, scholars, scientists, and leaders in the public, non-profit, and private sectors including Joan Baez, Eric Holder, Ann Patchett, and UR President Sarah Mangelsdorf.

1990s

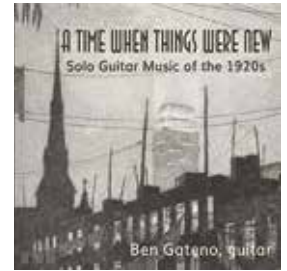
Kelly Hall-Tompkins '93E was selected by WQXR, New York City's classical radio station, as one of *20 Artists to Watch in 2020*. She also made her Baltimore Symphony solo debut, performing Beethoven's *Romance* in F major and the Chevalier

de St. Georges' Violin Concerto, Opus 5, no. 1. Music Kitchen—Food for the Soul, which Kelly founded, will premiere a commissioned project, *Forgotten Voices*, in association with Carnegie Hall.

Susan Sievert Messersmith '92E recently published *Heavenly Descants on 118 Hymn Tunes*. Cross-referenced with the harmonies of hymnals from several denominations, it is available in editions for Bb trumpet and C trumpet (or other C instruments). Susan's addendum, for the Presbyterian Church-USA hymnal *Glory to God*, is available as a free digital

download with the purchase of *Heavenly Descants*. Susan is the trumpet instructor at Charleston (SC) Southern University and a former full-time member of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra.

reSOUND Collective presented *The World is Aflame*, a 2006 work by **Christopher Theofanidis** '92E (MM), on January 15 at the Victoria Concert Hall, performed by violinist Igor Yuzefovich and cellist Ng Pei-Sian.



2000s

Ben Gateno '02E (MM), '05E (DMA) has released a solo guitar CD entitled *A Time When Things Were New*, which features solo guitar music from the 1920s, from jazz tunes to works by Debussy and Falla.

Connor Bogart O'Brien '01E is the new Artistic Director of "Shining Star," an annual Vocal Competition for high school students in Cleveland, Ohio, that offers more than \$20,000 in scholarships. As a vocalist specializing in Symphony Pops, Connor has performed with more than 30 orchestras to date, as well as multiple big band concerts in China and Japan.

Daniel Pesca '05E '16E (DMA) is a member of Constellations Chamber Concerts in Washington, D.C. This series draws together world-class artists in intense, thought-provoking



2 Tamar Greene '12E (MM)

programs that engage audiences with a dynamic interweaving of music from all eras and genres.

Edward Tan '07E is a founding member of the Concordia Quartet, which is Singapore's first full-time quartet to appear in 28 years. Edward is also one of the conductors of the Musicians' Collective, and he participated in a master class by Eastman Professor Neil Varon during his visit in November 2019.

Christopher Thibdeau '07E is the new Artistic Director of Project STEP, a string training education program for talented young musicians from communities that are historically underrepresented in classical music. Christopher studied cello with Alan Harris and orchestral conducting with Neil Varon.

When *There is Peace*, the latest album of music by **Zachary Wadsworth '05E**, was nominated for a JUNO Award (Canada's equivalent of a Grammy) for "Album of

the Year: Vocal or Choral." Zachary is assistant professor of music at William College.

2010s

Edo Frenkel '12E, '16E (MM), '20E (DMA) has been appointed Assistant Conductor of the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. As a Jette Parker Young Artist, in addition to working closely with the Ballet and its Music Director, Koen Kessels, Edo will work on occasion with the Royal Opera and its Music Director, Sir Antonio Pappano.

2 In 2015, when **Tamar Greene '12E (MM)** saw previews of the musical *Hamilton*, he knew he had to be a part of it. On January 5, he wrapped up 17 months of playing George Washington in the Chicago production of *Hamilton* ... shortly followed by his Broadway debut in the same role at the Richard Rodgers Theatre.



3 Sun-Ly Pierce '16E

Several Eastman alumni have released *Songs for A Day*, a new album of art songs composed by **Aristea Mellos '17E (DMA)**, performed by soprano **Helen Zhibing Huang '13E** and pianist **Ada Arumeh Kim Lowery '10E, '13E (MM)**, and produced and engineered by **Josinaldo Costa '15E (DMA)**.

Gregory Millar '10E (DMA) made his acting debut in the film *In the Shadow of The Moon*, released in 2019 and currently streaming on Netflix. He appears during the opening sequence of the film in a dramatic role as a concert pianist whose recital takes a horrifying

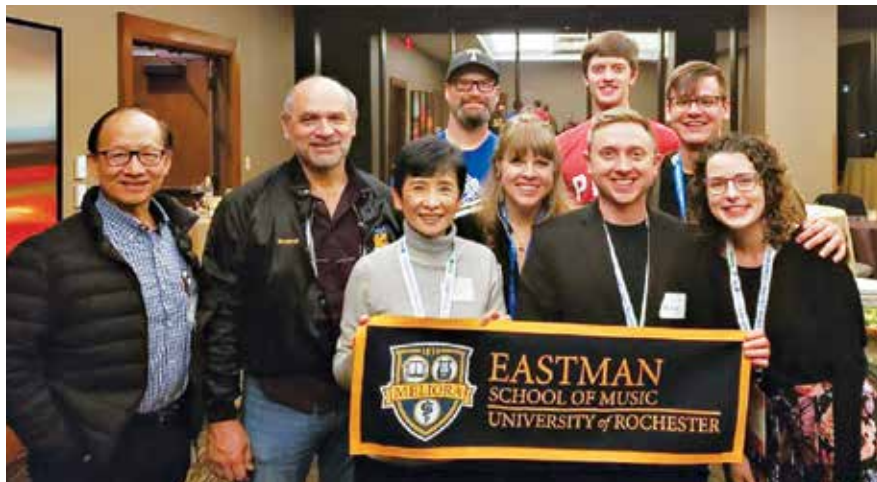


4 Mark Powell '19E (DMA)

turn! The scene features Gregory's actual performance of a haunting solo piece by Jeff Grace. The film was shot in Toronto, where Gregory lives with his wife, Lisa Raposa.

Luke Norris '17E has just released his debut recording, *Northernsong*, which he calls "a musical reflection of my years spent living in Western NY, including my time at Eastman. It features all original music for jazz quartet and includes fellow alums Daniel Sunshine and Tyrone Allen (both '17E). It was recorded in Ithaca, and we briefly toured throughout the upstate area."

3 Mezzo-soprano **Sun-Ly Pierce '16E** took first place in the Houston Grand Opera 2020 Concert of Arias, winning \$10,000. Sun-Ly studied with Kathryn Cowdrick and Jan Oplach.



5 Eastman alumni at TMEA Community Conference

{ ALUMNI NOTES }

4 Mark Powell '19E (DMA) is Associate Professor and Director of Orchestral Studies at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, and recently completed recording music of Nielsen, Segerstam, Sibelius, Abrahamsen, and Nørgård for a Centaur Recordings CD titled *From the North*. It is the first commercial recording for the Queens College Orchestra.

2020s

Maurice Cohn '20E (MM) received a 20th Anniversary Career Assistance Award from the Georg Solti Foundation. Maurice will return to Eastman for DMA studies.

Gabrielle Cornish '20E (PhD), who completed her



6 Eastman reunion at Louisiana State University

dissertation on sound and modernity in Soviet Russia under the supervision of Lisa Jakelski, has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Musicology at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music.

Rayvon Moore '20E (DMA) has been appointed Director of Choral Activities at Friends University in Wichita, KS, and **Will Talley**, also '20E (DMA), has been appointed Director of Bands at Ohio University.

Eastman Alumni Together

5 Eastman alumni came together for a reception following this year's Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA)

Community Conference in Austin, Texas.

Front Row (left to right): **Ellie Lin '86E, '88E** (MM), **Andrew Fuhrman '09E**, **Danielle Arnold '18W**

Second Row (left to right): Benjamin Beall, **Roland Muzquiz '80E**, **Bronwyn Wyatt Higgins '07E**

Back Row (Left to Right): **Noel Wallace '02E**, Guest of Nick German, **Nick German '15**

6 A mini-reunion dinner of Eastman alumni took place at Louisiana State University earlier this year. Pictured (left to right):

Bill Grimes '82E (MM), '88E (DMA), Jan Grimes, **Todd Queen '97E** (MM), '00E (DMA), **Rachel Roberts '03E**, **Doug Stone '13E** (MM), **Lin He '09E** (DMA)

{ FACULTY NOTES }



Three Eastman faculty members appear on recently released recordings. Associate Professor of Collaborative Piano **Andrew Harley**, with violinist **John Fatial '89E** (MM) is the pianist on a CD of Brahms Violin Sonatas on the Centaur label. And two appear on the Deutsche Grammophon label: Professor of Voice **Anthony Dean Griffey '01E** (MM) is one of the soloists in Mahler's Eighth Symphony, with the Philadelphia Orchestra under Yannick Nezet-Séguin; and a short

piece by Musica Nova director **Brad Lubman** is included in *Diabelli 2020* by pianist Rudolf Buchbinder. (Read more from Brad about this recording below.)

Eastman's Diversity Award was presented this year to Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology **Anaer Desai-Stephens** for her work in furthering equity, inclusivity, and accessibility with her classes and beyond.

Donna Brink Fox, Senior Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs, was a finalist for the Aethena International Award. Donna joined an elite group of women who were recognized at a ceremony for their outstanding professional achievements, contributions to the community, and actively assisting other women in the attainment of professional excellence.

Nicholas Goluses, Professor of Guitar, was recently named by the Fulbright Program as Fulbright Specialist for the next three years, scheduled to perform as artist-in-residence at universities and conservatories throughout Latin America, Europe, and Canada.

Musica Nova director **Brad Lubman** was in Vienna this winter for the premiere of a short piano work of his by Rudolf Buchbinder. Brad explains, "It's part of a project by Buchbinder called *Diabelli 2020*. He commissioned eleven composers to write a short variation on the Diabelli waltz tune that Beethoven used for his own *Diabelli Variations*." As part of a team of conductors and soloists and the WDR Sinfonieorchester Cologne, Brad also won the Deutschen

Schallplattenkritik prize for a recent recording of works by Luciano Berio, including *Recit* for saxophone and orchestra. Brad won this prize in 2007 for a Helmut Lachenmann CD with Ensemble Modern.

Professor of Organ **William Porter** was honored earlier this year with a lifetime membership in the Rochester Theater Organ Society. Bill has organized the Society's annual "Eastman Bunch" concert, and has coached its performers, for many years. The RTSO has a long history as Eastman's partner in creating a new generation of theatre organists.

Senior Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Professor of Theory **Marie Rolf** hosted a presentation of three vocal works by Achille-Claude Debussy in

January in Hatch Recital Hall, including the North American premiere of a one-act opera, *Hymnis*, and the world premiere of a cantata, *Daniel*. (Read more about these works, and an interview with Marie, in our previous *Eastman Notes*.) The recital featured faculty members **Anthony Dean Griffey '01E** (MM) and **Timothy Long '92E** (MM), Eastman alumnus **Randall Scarlata '92E**, and current graduate student **Susannah Stewart**.

The 2020 recipient of Eastman's coveted Eisenhart Award for Excellence of Teaching is Professor **Mark Scatterday**, director of the Eastman Wind Ensemble. "I am fortunate to have had many great teachers and mentors in my life," says Mark; "It has been, and always will be, the highest privilege to be a teacher."

{ STUDENT NOTES }

Even when Eastman students were no longer together on our campus, they continued to win prestigious national awards. Two student ensembles represented Eastman admirably at the National MTNA Chamber Music Competition. **The Magnolia Quartet**—junior **Christophe Koenig** and sophomore **Nick Shaefer**, violinists; sophomore **Jacob Rollins '22E**, violist; and junior **Shirley Kim**—was awarded second place in the strings division, and the **Sequoia Reed Quintet**—oboist **Gwen Goodman**, clarinetist **Michael Miller**, saxophonist **Trevor Chu**, bass clarinetist **Lucas Slavin**, and bassoonist **Harrison Short**, all sophomores—was awarded second prize in the wind division.

The **Scio Saxophone Quartet** was awarded the Bronze Medal in the Senior Winds Division at the 47th Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. The members of the quartet are seniors **Uday Singh**, **Siobhan Plouffe**, **Clancy Ellis**, and **Michael Matthews**, who write, “Thanks are in order to our professor and coach, Dr. Chien-Kwan Lin, for his guidance over these past four years. We are looking forward to seeing what the future holds!”

The flute studio of **Bonnie Boyd** had an outstanding year, with six students winning or placing in competitions: **Michael Huerta** (First Prize, Cordancia Concerto Competition); **Jarrett May** (Second Prize, Flute Society of Greater Philadelphia Collegiate Competition); **Yidi Song** (finalist, Young Artist Competition); **Emily Bieker** (finalist, Chicago Flute Society Young Artist Competition); **Jaein Kim** (winner, Chappaqua Orchestra Concerto



1 Sequoia Reed Quintet (top) and Magnolia Quartet

Competition); and DMA student **Yi Xiang**, who won First Prize in the Texas Flute Society’s International Myrna Brown Flute Competition and the prize for the best performance of the Competition’s commissioned work, *Hxó* by Sungji Hong.

First-year student **Justice Freeman** was awarded this year’s Billy Strayhorn Scholarship for his passion and devotion to the study and performance of jazz, offered by the Chicago

Institute of Music in memory of the great composer and arranger.

Catrina Kim, PhD candidate in Music Theory, was hired as an Assistant Professor (tenure-track) by the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

Delvan Lin and **Angeni Wang** placed first in the MTNA Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competition. Delvan and Angeni are students of Alan Chow and

were coached by Sylvie Beaudette.

Doctoral student **John Robertson** was an accompanist in Carnegie Hall’s SongStudio, participating in several days of classes and recitals hosted by Renée Fleming ’83E. Also taking part was Natalie Buickians ’18E.

PhD composition student **Keane Southard** was one of six young composers attending the American Composers Orchestra’s Underwood New Music Readings on March 12 and 13. The ACO will play the first movement of Keane’s Symphony No. 2.

Jane Sylvester was awarded a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship for 2020–21. Her “Spectacles of Sensational Science: Locating the ‘Real’ Bodies of Verismo Opera, 1880–1926,” explores how *verismo* opera and contemporary science worked together as powerful forces of nation-building in the decades following Italian Unification. Her adviser is Melina Esse.

Second-year Master’s student **Gary Wang** won the Van Alexander Scholarship

for instrumental arranging (\$1,000) from the American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers, as well as a Herb Alpert Young Composer Award of \$2,000 from ASCAP; first-year Master’s student **Jueun Seok** was awarded a Herb Alpert Young Composer Award of \$1,500.

Soprano **McKenzie Warriener**, a master’s student from the studio of Katie Cowdick, won first prize in the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association’s Gordon C. Wallis Opera Competition, consisting of a \$5000 prize and two performances with the Saskatchewan Symphony Orchestra.

In March, the Beal Institute for Film Music and Contemporary Media, and its director **Mark Watters**, took Eastman students **Darren Huang**, **Joe Hagen**, **Shoghi Hayes**, **Aaron Siebert-Castinera**, **Linyao Zhang**, and **Walter Murphy** to Los Angeles to meet with active film, TV, and video game composers, including a recording session for Fox’s *Family Guy* with composer Walter Murphy, and visits to Disney’s Vice President of Feature Animation Music, Tom MacDougall, and to Beal Institute founder **Jeff Beal**’s home and studio.

Winners of the 2020 Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition were **Michael Aiello** (Honorable Mention), **Patrick Graham** (Third Place), **Sophie Thompson** (Second Place), and **Ye Ji Lee** (First Place). Eighteen Eastman voice students were featured with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in a February performance of Virgil Thomson’s opera *The Mother of Us All*, a collaboration between the RPO and Eastman Opera Theatre. **Gloria Engle** ’20E (MM) prepared the students for the performance.



The concert program for Eastman's performance of Britten's *War Requiem*, "the greatest choral work of the last century."

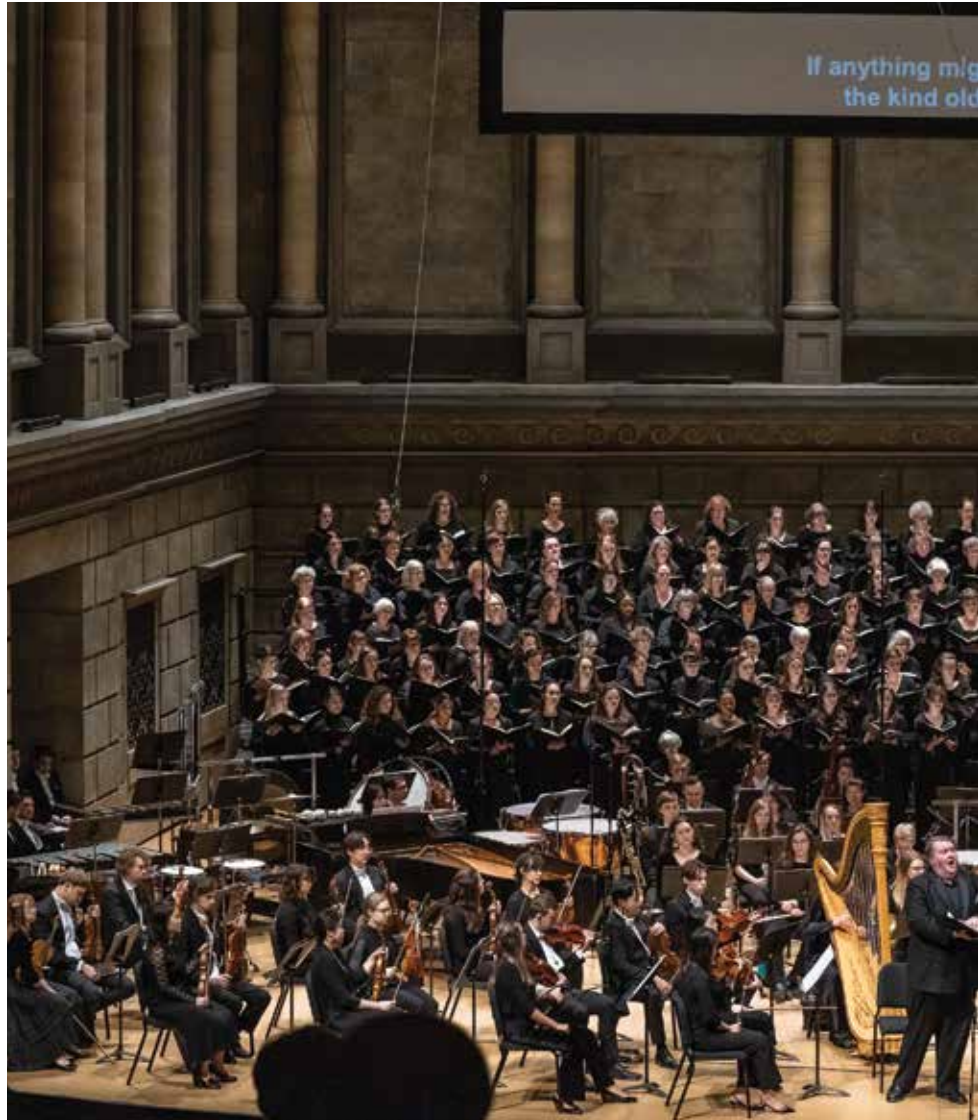
"A symbol of peace and reconciliation"

On Friday, March 6 in Kodak Hall, Eastman presented a powerful performance of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*. More than 300 musicians crowded Kodak Hall's stage (and spilled over into the balcony): the Eastman-Rochester Chorus, Eastman Chorale, Eastman Philharmonia, the Bach Children's Chorus of Nazareth College, and Genesee Valley Children's Choir, all conducted by Professor William Weinert. Featured soloists were soprano Tami Petty '96E (MM), '06E (DMA); current Professor of Voice Anthony Dean Griffey '01E (MM), tenor; and baritone Malcolm J. Merriweather '10E (MM).

This massive concert took place during the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Eastern Region Conference, which Rochester hosted from March 4 to March 7. I talked with Dr. Weinert about this work, which was last done at Eastman in 2013, the year of Benjamin Britten's centenary.

Britten's *War Requiem* has served as a symbol of peace and reconciliation since its composition after World War II. [It was first performed in 1962 at Coventry Cathedral.] Do you think its meaning holds true in today's world?

Although the piece reflects specifically on the two 20th-century World Wars, horrible wars are raging now over the world. Atrocities against civilians continue. As we began rehearsals in January it looked very much like



300-plus singers and instrumentalists brought Britten's *War Requiem* to life, including soloists Anthony Dean Griffey, Malcolm Merriweather, and Tami Petti with the Eastman-Rochester Chorus (above) and two children's choruses (left).

our country would be at war with Iran; last year it was North Korea. Not to mention the factions in our country that behave as if they are at war with each other, and frequently show this through violence. *War Requiem* is much more about reconciliation than about war itself. Reconciliation at both a political level, and at a very personal level, between individuals, especially at the close of the work.

How do the interwoven English texts by Wilfred Owen add to the message given by the traditional Latin "Mass for the Dead"?



Owen's poetry comes out of World War I—he was killed a week before the end of the war. The poetry is deeply ironic, and lays bare the deceptions that led to so many deaths. War was a glorious adventure—until you were in a trench for months, if you lived that long. The deception of “glory” was offered wholesale by the institutions of religion: churches. England and Germany especially were full of preachers urging boys to sign up to defend their country and their “civilization,” as if war and civilization could have anything to do with each other.

Britten glues the church liturgy, which asks for “rest” and “peace” for the dead to Owen's words, which make clear the responsibility and guilt of the church itself for supporting so much killing, in the “Great War” in particular. But I think we would have to look hard to find a church or a religion in our own time that places world peace or reconciliation very high on its list of priorities. The vivid conflict between a liturgy of peace in a war-mongering church is central to the *War Requiem*.

With three soloists, a chorus, a boys' choir, and two orchestras, this piece is a feat of musical engineering. What have been the most challenging and rewarding aspects of putting together a performance of such a grand scale?

The idea that over 300 people of so many backgrounds, from all over the world, are coming together to present a message of peace is overwhelming to me. The ensemble

includes people from 8 to 80, from at least four continents; highly trained professionals, and people of various ages who have no formal musical training. Britten is the supreme master at blending sophisticated yet singable music for children with music that stretches volunteer choirs, but not to the breaking point, with demanding, expressive music for virtuoso professional singers and players. Everyone reaches a new level of concentration, yet to the audience the music sounds effortless. Truly no other composer even attempts to bring together such a variety of forces in so many works.

Why was Britten's *War Requiem* chosen for the ACDA conference?

These conferences often present a rarely heard masterwork from performers in the host city, and I suggested that we could present this piece. Although *War Requiem* is widely acclaimed as the greatest choral work of the last century, many of the professional conductors at the conference had never heard a live performance of it. In addition, choral music celebrates the idea of collaboration, inclusion, cooperation, and many people working toward a common peaceful goal—all of the principles behind this work.

—Jeremy Lopez '20E

Eastman Hosts Gender Equity Conference

In the University's new Vision and Values statement, the word “equity” has a prominent position as the “E” in “MELIORA”. Responding to the importance of this topic, Eastman presented its first conference addressing gender equity in the music profession, and helping participants learn skills necessary to address and change these inequities in their lives and future careers, on March 3, 2020.

The keynote speaker was Elizabeth Rowe, principal flute of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, who attracted international attention in 2018 when she filed an Equal Pay lawsuit against the orchestra, exposing a significant gender pay gap within the orchestral music industry.



Eastman students (from left) Annie Chen, Reagan Casteel, and Lauren Case welcomed participants to the Gender Equity in Music Conference.



The conference, Eastman's first on this subject, included a presentation on "Women Mean Business" by Naomi Nakanishi along with Grant Le, Ryan Brasley, Lael Dratfield, Luisa Hidalgo, Rafael Enciso, and Stephanie Tateiwa.



Participants received colorful identification tags—and chose their preferred pronouns.

Rowe and the BSO successfully mediated the case; her actions continue to raise new questions within her field.

The session topics ranged widely, including discussions on power and consent and the bandstand with the women of Eastman's Jazz and Contemporary Media Department; safe spaces for LGBTQ+ individuals; the University's recent Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct; showcasing women composers on concert programs; and breaking gender molds in music leadership.

"This was the first event of its kind at Eastman, and we believe that everyone in our community has a stake in this conversation," says Donna Brink Fox, Senior Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs. "Our goals in creating this day-long event were to examine the impact of equity issues on the preparation and professional lives of musicians, and to collectively identify action steps we can take to make changes for the future."

Of the 40 conference presenters, 18 were students. Junior Emily Stone calls her experience on the planning committee "an incredible opportunity. We were passionate about making this event successful and accessible to the Eastman community. Hearing Elizabeth Rowe, Eastman professors and students, and artists from the Rochester community taking part was inspiring.

"Many students messaged me or spoke to me about how much they appreciated the conference," Emily continues. "I believe Eastman would benefit from this conference occurring regularly, and I am excited to see the ways Eastman will incorporate the conversation about gender equity into its daily musical life."

—David Raymond

Beal Institute and Empire Film and Media Ensemble Give Thrilling Performances

Earlier this year, The Beal Institute, under director Mark Watters and the Empire Film and Media Ensemble (EFaME), led by Artistic Director Grant O'Brien '19E, gave two outstanding presentations. On January 16 in Kilbourn Hall, Watters led original music by master's students Peiyao Wang, Shoghi Hayes, Aaron Seibert-Castiniera, Zhe Pan, Yixin Huang, Derrick Thomas Hegeman, and Linyao Zhang, performed live-to-picture by the 35-piece EFaME ensemble for *Visual Music 2*.

The evening's compositions showcased films from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) student filmmakers, and in the second half of the program, a new score composed for the gothic horror classic *Dracula*, starring Bela Lugosi.

"I am especially excited about what the students have done with *Dracula*," says Watters. "This 1931 film never had a musical score composed for it. I split the film into four sections and each composer conducted their own portion, but the film ran continuously."

On March 1, EFaME also traveled to the Strong Museum of Play to explore the magical worlds of three classic fantasies: *Alice in Wonderland*, *Peter Pan*, and *The Hobbit*—all narrated by Professor James VanDemark. Projection, lights, and the full orchestra gave life to these familiar stories. Conducted by the group's director Grant O'Brien, the performance also featured alumni Julia Fedor '19E, soprano.

—Katey Padden

Stephen Hartke: 2019-2020 Hanson Visiting Professor

From February 10 through 18, Eastman welcomed back composer Stephen Hartke for his second residency of the 2019-2020 academic year as Howard Hanson Visiting Professor of Composition. Hartke's professorship was a combined effort of Eastman's Composition, Chamber Music, and Conducting & Ensembles departments.

Besides giving master classes and other presentations, the Grammy-winning composer heard an Eastman Wind Ensemble concert featuring his *Willow Run* and *Pacific Rim* on February 17 and student chamber ensembles in his *Sons of Noah* and *Wulfstan at the Millennium* on February 18.

"I was thrilled to be this year's Howard Hanson Visiting Professor at Eastman," shared Hartke. "It's always an



Prizewinning composer Stephen Hartke was in residence twice at Eastman during 2019-2020.

honor to have my work performed, and to interact with students of such high caliber as Eastman's."

Said Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, Professor of Composition at Eastman. "Stephen Hartke's remarkable body of work scintillates with imagination and engages deeply with culture in myriad ways." Anne Harrow, Chair of the Chamber Music Department, added, "We are excited that some of our students had the opportunity to work with one of today's most important composers, and to perform his fascinating chamber music."

—Jessica Kaufman

New Faculty Members Appointed for Fall 2020

Nicole Cabell '01E has been appointed to the Eastman faculty as Assistant Professor of Voice. Cabell was previously Assistant Professor of Voice at DePaul University, and her career has taken her to the most important opera stages in the world, including Covent Garden, San

Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Metropolitan Opera, and Deutsche Oper Berlin. She has made several recordings, and she appeared as Musetta in a film of *La Bohème* with Anna Netrebko and Rolando Villazón.

Katherine Ciesinski, the Chair of Eastman's Voice, Opera, and Vocal Coaching Department, welcomes Nicole Cabell: "Her mastery of technique and its application in expressive communication will galvanize our students' growth at all levels. In addition, her desires to promote the performance of new works by diverse composers and to reach out into the greater Rochester community will bring inspiration and new voices to our concert halls."

YooJin Jang has been appointed Assistant Professor of Violin. She won the 2017 Concert Artists Guild and 2016 Sendai International Music Competitions and is a co-founder of The Kallaci String Quartet. Her creative work in chamber music was recognized with the 2011 Borromeo String Quartet Guest Artist Award, and the 2009 Schloss Weikersheim Scholarship in the London String Quartet Competition.

YooJin Jang holds a Bachelor of Music from The Korean National University of Arts, a Master of Music, Graduate Diploma, and Artist Diploma from New England Conservatory, where she is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts.

Phillip Ying, Co-Chair of the Strings, Harp and Guitar Department, adds, "Yoojin brings to Eastman a stellar combination of instrumental brilliance, dynamic artistry, and a passion for teaching. She will be an inspiring presence and a fantastic colleague."

The Music Theory Department has appointed Benjamin Baker and Sarah Marlowe as Assistant Professors.

Benjamin Baker is a University of Rochester Sproull Fellow in music theory, with degrees in music and mathematics from St. Olaf College and in jazz piano performance from New York University. His research focuses on intersections between jazz and popular music, intertextuality and improvisation in jazz performance, and analysis of music by jazz pianist Robert Glasper.

Sarah Marlowe '13E (PhD) comes back to Eastman from New York University, where she was an Assistant Professor and received the NYU Steinhardt Teaching Excellence Award. She holds degrees in piano performance and music theory from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and in music theory from Eastman. Sarah's research centers on fugue and counterpoint, Russian music theory, the music of J. S. Bach and Dmitri Shostakovich, and music theory and aural skills pedagogy.

While studying at Eastman, Ben and Sarah each received the Teaching Assistant Prize, and the University's Edward Peck Curtis Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student.

"Eastman Music Theory is delighted to announce the appointments of Benjamin Baker and Sarah Marlowe," says department chair Jonathan Dunsby, "Each will be a full-time, tenure-track Assistant Professor



Nicole Cabell



YooJin Jang



Benjamin Baker



Sarah Marlowe



Joseph Rackers

joining our vibrant, diverse team of internationally known expert teacher-researchers.”

Former Visiting Professor of Piano Joseph Rackers ’01E (MM), ’05E (DMA) has been appointed a full Professor of Piano. An International Steinway Artist, he serves on the artist faculty of the Perugia, Burgos, and Texas State International Piano Festivals and the Southeastern Piano Festival, and has performed widely with the Lomazov/Rackers Piano Duo. He has given master classes at several American universities, and at conservatories and music festivals across the United States, Europe, and Asia, and his students have won national and international competitions.

—David Raymond

Celebrating a Century of William Warfield

Since 1977, the William Warfield Scholarship Fund, Inc. has provided financial aid to more than 35 students at the Eastman School of Music, and spotlighted talented recipients in an annual benefit concert. This year’s Warfield Scholarship Benefit Concert was held January 12, and featured the 2019 recipient, tenor Jonathan Rhodes ’20E, who also received the honor in 2018.

This concert also honored George Shirley, the first black tenor and second African American male to sing leading roles with the Metropolitan Opera. Soprano Nicole Cabell ’01E, a former Warfield Scholarship recipient who was recently appointed to the Eastman faculty, also performed.



William Warfield (shown with the Philharmonia and Mendi Rodan), a famous exponent of opera, oratorio, and narration, won Grammys for his recordings of Gershwin and Copland.

This year’s concert celebrated the 100th birthday of its namesake, the great baritone William Warfield ’42E, ’46E (MM), who died in 2002 after a distinguished career. In 1950 Warfield gave a magnificent performance of “Old Man River” in MGM’s *Show Boat*. Warfield also pre-

miered Aaron Copland’s *Old American Songs*, with the composer at the piano. His recording of Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess* with Leontyne Price won a Grammy Award, and his narration of Copland’s *Lincoln Portrait*, with the Eastman Philharmonia, won a Grammy in the spoken word category.

This great American artist’s legacy at Eastman also includes the William Warfield Partnership Pathways Program between the Eastman

School’s Community Education Division and the Rochester City School District, which provides musical education opportunities for city youth.

—David Raymond

Bringing an “Emperor” to Eastman

2020 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig van Beethoven, and Eastman planned several concerts of Beethoven’s music during the spring 2020 semester, including Faculty Artist Series programs of violin sonatas by Professors Oleh Krysa and Barry Snyder, and cello works by Associate Professors Guy Johnston and Andrew Harley.

On February 5, Charles Berofsky ’22E performed Beethoven’s “Emperor” Piano Concerto with the Eastman School Symphony Orchestra (ESSO) under Neil Varon. Charles won the first Concerto Competition of 2020, after a rigorous round of auditions; before the concert, student Jacob Buhler ’20E interviewed Charles about this exciting piece.

Have you ever performed as a soloist with an orchestra before?

During high school, I performed with a couple of community orchestras and a University of Michigan student chamber orchestra—all of them around Ann Arbor, where I grew up. It’s always such an exciting experience to play with a large ensemble.

How do you go about preparing a concerto? Is it different from your other solo work preparation?

It’s difficult to say. The learning process isn’t so different initially, but as you get into the final stages of preparation for an audition or a performance, I think you have to get into a specific mindset for a concerto. In a way, a concerto performance is easier than a solo recital; typically, there are orchestral tutti sections which give the soloist a break, whereas playing a solo work requires constant focus from beginning to end. Yet there are, of course, great challenges with playing a concerto (as there are with chamber music). We pianists have to get out of our own world when we play with others, and as you start feeling more solid with a concerto it’s helpful to imagine your accompanist or the conductor to your left. You can never completely anticipate what it’ll feel like when you get up onstage and have all these people behind you playing—everything can change in an instant!

What do you like most about playing this concerto?

Beethoven is one of my favorite composers, and the Fifth Concerto is just so much fun to play. It’s prime “middle period” Beethoven, with everything one comes to expect and love about his music. The slow movement’s intimacy and radiance are unmatched in the repertoire. And the very opening of the piece is so unique with its bravado and grandeur; it’s like an explosion of pure joy. But to name a single favorite thing about playing this piece would be impossible for me.

How has your experience been preparing with ESSO?

It’s amazing to be able to play with friends; everyone in the orchestra is around my age and I spend time hanging out with many of them! We had plenty of rehearsal time together, and that helped me adjust my playing accordingly. Professor Varon knows this piece inside and out, of course. All in all, it’s a uniquely wonderful experience that I probably will never have in quite the same way again.

—Jacob Buhler ’20E

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I have been inspired over the years by my colleagues at the Eastman School of Music, where I teach piano and music theory. Many have supported student programs through their gift planning, leaving an indelible mark on our school and on so many lives.

We all share a wish to give back to what has given us so much, so I decided to include Eastman Community Music School in my will. Now my philanthropy will ensure young musicians will flourish in this remarkable place for generations to come.”

HOWARD SPINDLER '81E (MA)

Rochester, NY



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