

EASTMAN SUMMER
Saxophone Institute Faculty Recital

*Sunday, July 12, 2026
Hatch Recital Hall
3:30 PM*

with Soojin Kang, piano

PROGRAM

Bolivar (2026)

Landon Chang
(b. 1999)

Landon Chang, soprano saxophone
Ben Small, alto saxophone

Fantasia (1948)

Heitor Villa-Lobos
(1887-1959)

Chien-Kwan Lin, soprano saxophone

Holly Roller (1997)

Libby Larsen
(b. 1950)

Landon Chang, alto saxophone

The Pawn (2013)

Steven Galante
(b. 1953)

Chien-Kwan Lin, alto saxophone
Anne Kunkle, alto saxophone



For the most up to date information on Eastman concerts and events, including faculty bios and program notes for this concert, scan this code to visit our online calendar.

We acknowledge with respect the Seneca Nation, known as the “Great Hill People” and “Keepers of the Western Door” of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We take this opportunity to thank the people whose ancestral lands the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester currently occupies in Rochester, New York.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Originally from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, **Landon Chang** is a saxophonist, composer, and educator dedicated to reshaping the landscape of contemporary music. A versatile force in both performance and pedagogy, he serves as Professor of Saxophone at the University at Buffalo and Roberts Wesleyan University, and is a faculty member at the Eastman Summer Saxophone Institute. Beyond the classroom, Chang is deeply dedicated to the development of chamber music, serving as Assistant Director and chief arranger of the internationally recognized Eastman Saxophone Project, Founder and Executive Director of the Project Nova saxophone sextet, and co-founder of duo 26/30 alongside Milwaukee Symphony clarinetist Besnik Abrashi.

As a creator, Chang bridges the gap between performance and composition. His original works have earned national recognition; his Sonata Idaho for soprano saxophone and piano was featured on the WQXR Young Artist Public Showcase, and he was named a national finalist in the 2026 MTNA Young Artist Composition Competition. As an arranger, his published transcriptions are performed by student and professional ensembles worldwide. This commitment to expanding the saxophone repertoire is driven by deep collaboration, having commissioned and premiered works by vital emerging voices like Kate Ragan, Isaac Boone, Marlies Hollevoet, and Roon Torka. On the stage, Chang has been featured as a soloist with the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" and the Spokane Symphony Orchestra, and has presented guest masterclasses and lectures at the University of Idaho, Eastern Washington University, Roberts Wesleyan University, and Nazareth University. An acclaimed competitor, he holds top prizes from the Yamaha Young Performing Artists, Vandoren Emerging Artist, North American Saxophone Alliance, MTNA Young Artist, Musicfest Northwest Young Artist, and U.S. Army Band Collegiate Solo competitions, in addition to competing globally at the 2023 Adolphe Sax International Competition in Dinant, Belgium.

Chang is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Eastman

School of Music with a related field in jazz, where he also earned his Master's degree and a Certificate in Arts Leadership. He graduated summa cum laude from the University of North Texas with dual Bachelor's degrees in Music Education and Saxophone Performance, receiving the Presser Undergraduate Scholar Award and the TMEA Collegiate Music Educator Award. As an educator, his teaching integrates classical rigor with jazz fluency to prepare students for today's evolving field. This interest in instructional methodology extends to a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certification, also allowing him to uniquely apply language-acquisition pedagogy to musical training. Away from the saxophone and teaching, he enjoys reading, learning languages, and exploring the outdoors across the greater Rochester Area.

Praised for her 'a passionate performer with captivating energy in variety of tones and musicality' (Kookje daily news and KyungNam press), Pianist **Soojin Kang** is a passionate performer and has various musical career as a soloist, collaborative pianist, chamber musician, coach and educator. She won her first piano competition at age 6, sparking a passionate interest in studying music.

As a solo pianist, Soojin has performed at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and had an invitation performance from Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Fenway center in Boston, and Jinju Philharmonic Orchestra. She was chosen for graduate assistant pianist during her doctoral study at MSU and an award-winning student at the Boston Conservatory. Dr. Kang is the recipient of numerous prizes, her honors include 1st prize in the Boston Conservatory Honors Competition, Golden Classical Music Awards International Competition, Salzburg Grand Prize Virtuoso International Competition, American Protégé International Competition, Baejae University's Competition, Gacheon Arts Festival, Jinhae Gunhang Festival, Kimhae Music Association's Competition, Haneol Competition, 2nd Prize at the Christine Bane Kefferstan Classical Piano competition, Woon Art hall competition, Daesin University competition, Changsin University competition and 3rd Prize at the West Virginia University competition. She

received master classes from renowned musicians, Julian Martin, Anton Nel, John O’Conor, and Peter Amstutz.

As a collaborative pianist, Soojin has performed for both vocalists and instrumentalists. She also performed many piano solo pieces in collaboration with Boston ballet communities, included works Alban Berg’s Piano Sonata, Op. 1 for “In Blue Orchids”, and J. S. Bach’s Partita 2 for “Bach to Bach”. She has appeared at Chamber Series Concerts, Fenway center in Boston as a winning trio group. She also presented in Classical Interlochen Public Radio and IPR featured numerous collaborative performances of her. In addition, She has many years of teaching experience and served as a coach/accompanist and an orchestral pianist.

Dr. Kang received a D.M.A in Piano Performance from Michigan State University, M.M. from Boston Conservatory, and B.M. from Hanyang University in Seoul, South Korea. Her musical mentors include Panayis Lyras, Alexander Korsantia, Daniel Epstein, Jungja Kim and Hyungkyu Kim. She recently served on the collaborative pianist of Interlochen Arts Center and Interlochen Arts Academy.

Anne Kunkle is an award-winning saxophonist, educator, and advocate for contemporary music based in Rochester, New York. She made her Chicago debut at the Chicago Cultural Center as the First Prize winner of the 2018 Musician’s Club of Women Competition. As soprano saxophonist of the Khroma Saxophone Quartet, she earned the Silver Medal at the 2019 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. An active soloist and chamber musician, Kunkle regularly collaborates with living composers and performs throughout the United States while remaining deeply committed to music education and community engagement.

Kunkle has appeared at some of the nation’s most distinguished venues, including Lincoln Center and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Her international performances include appearances at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing with the Eastman Saxophone Project and at Singapore’s Esplanade Theatre, where she performed and recorded

an album of Shostakovich's music with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Andrew Litton.

A dedicated educator, Kunkle serves as Instructor of Saxophone at Syracuse University's Setnor School of Music and Nazareth University, and as Adjunct Professor of Saxophone at Houghton University. In recognition of her teaching excellence, she received the Jack L. Frank Award from the Eastman Community Music School.

Kunkle holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Saxophone Performance and Literature, with a minor in Music Theory, from the Eastman School of Music. During her doctoral studies, she performed with the Eastman Wind Ensemble and served as Assistant Director and chief arranger of the Eastman Saxophone Project. She also earned both a Bachelor of Music, with High Distinction, in Saxophone Performance and Music Education from Eastman and a Master of Music from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Her academic achievements include induction into Pi Kappa Lambda, the national music honor society, and completion of the Eastman Arts Leadership Program certificate. Her principal teachers include Chien-Kwan Lin and Debra Richtmeyer. Anne Kunkle is a Selmer Artist and performs on Selmer Paris saxophones.

Chien-Kwan Lin (b. 1972, Singapore) has appeared as soloist and guest artist with the United States Navy Band, Eastman Wind Ensemble, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Tanglewood Festival Orchestra, New World Symphony, Beijing Symphony, Singapore Symphony, Boston Philharmonic, Sichuan Philharmonic, Thailand Philharmonic, and Rochester Chamber orchestra.

Mr. Lin's performances have garnered excellent reviews by critics in New York and Boston. His critically-acclaimed Carnegie Hall recital prompted New York Concert Review to portray him as a performer "who has the passion and restraint and beautiful sense of line to take melody where

it wants to go, fully and generously,” while the Boston Globe has lauded him for “displaying chops,” and described his playing as “polished,” “charismatic,” and “appealing.” Mr. Lin’s recording of Lei Liang’s *Memories of Xiaoxiang* for Alto Saxophone & Tape (Mode) was selected among “Amazon.com: Best 20th/21st Century Classical of 2009,” and his recording of Liang’s *Xiaoxiang Concerto* with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project (BMOP/sound) was named a Pulitzer Prize Finalist in 2015.

Recent appearances by Mr. Lin have included the World Saxophone Congress, North American Saxophone Alliance, Asia Saxophone Congress, Vienna Sax Fest, Atlanta Saxophone Day, and the U.S. Navy Band International Saxophone Symposium. He has presented master classes across the U.S. and internationally, including the Paris Conservatory (CNSMDP), Manuel Castillo Conservatory of Seville (Spain), National Taipei University for the Arts, Mahidol University (Thailand), as well as major conservatories and universities across China.

Mr. Lin is currently Professor of Saxophone at the Eastman School of Music, where he is also founding director of the Eastman Saxophone Project (ESP), and recipient of the 2012-2013 Eisenhart Award for Excellence in Teaching. His students have won more than fifty major national and international prizes, including four First Prizes at the North American Saxophone Alliance Competition, four Gold Medals at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, twelve First Prizes at the Music Teachers National Association Competition, Grand Prizes at both the Coleman and Plowman Chamber Music Competitions, as well as top prizes at the Jean-Marie Londeix International Saxophone Competition. Mr. Lin’s former students hold collegiate teaching positions, and are members of premier military bands in Washington, D.C., including ‘The President’s Own’ U.S. Marine Band, the U.S. Navy Band, and the U.S. Army Band ‘Pershing’s Own’ Ceremonial and Concert Bands.

Chien-Kwan Lin is an artist and clinician for Selmer and Vandoren companies. He holds degrees from the New England Conservatory (BM, MM) and the Eastman School of Music (Performer’s Certificate, DMA). His teachers have included Ken Radnofsky and Ramon Ricker.

Benjamin Small (he/him) is a classical saxophonist, music theorist, arts leadership candidate, and a third year student at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY.

As a student at Eastman, Ben is currently learning under the tutelage of Prof. Chien-Kwan Lin. He has also had the opportunity to play in masterclasses with saxophonists such as professors Taimur Sullivan, Otis Murphy, Mariano Garcia, Kenneth Tse, Arno Bornkamp and Nicki Roman. Ben credits his fellow studiomates as a large portion of his inspiration, and strives every day to learn from them.

Ben has recently been inducted into the Catherine Filese Shouse Arts Leadership Program, where he has the chance to take numerous courses on career development and learn from two internships over his fourth year at Eastman.

Ensemble and chamber playing is extremely important to Ben, as he is a participant in a number of ensembles. He participates and performs with the Eastman Saxophone Project as a soprano/tenor saxophonist, the Eastman Wind Ensemble, Musica Nova, Symphony Orchestra, and OSSIA. He is also the saxophonist of the Petrichor Reed Quintet, and the previous soprano saxophonist of the BYTZ saxophone quartet. In Reading, PA, he participates as an on-call saxophonist with the Berks Sinfionetta, and sings tenor/bass with Vox Phelia, both being directed by Dr. David McConnell.

Within the realm of music theory, he primarily focuses on contemporary/avant-garde music, as well as music from the 18th century and before. He is currently working on a research and analysis project for his senior thesis on Edison Denisov's Sonata for alto saxophone and piano and its Improvisatory/Western tactics.

While in secondary school, Ben participated in Scouting BSA, and In 2023, for his Eagle Scout project, he collected 52 unused instruments for the Reading Musical Foundation's "Operation Replay". He set up a few days for people in the community to drop off their unwanted musical

instruments, where afterwards, he donated them to the fund. From there, the instruments get refurbished and proceed to be distributed across the county to kids in low-income homes.