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Cleveland Plain Dealer (April 27)

Contestants chosen for 2009 Cleveland International Piano Competition

All hands on keyboards (and feet on pedals).

Thirty-five pianists from 14 countries will take part in the 2009 Cleveland International Piano Competition, Tuesday, July 28 to Sunday, Aug. 9 at the Cleveland Play House and Severance Hall.

The pianists were among 260 candidates who submitted applications for this year's competition. Half of those were chosen to audition in New York, Cleveland/Akron, Shanghai, Moscow, London or Munich.

The screening jury consisted of Paul Schenly, artistic director of the competition and chairman of the piano department at the Cleveland Institute of Music; Douglas Humpherys, professor of piano and chair of the piano department at the **Eastman School of Music**; and Dina Yoffe, professor at the Anton Rubinstein International Academy in Dusseldorf, Germany, who will serve on the competition jury this summer (as she did in 2007).

Democrat & Chronicle (April 28)

Violinist leaving quartet of siblings

The Ying Quartet's concert Sunday night at the Hochstein Performance Hall was bittersweet for the all-sibling ensemble. It was the first violinist Timothy Ying's final performance with the quartet in Rochester.

Timothy Ying, 43, will move with his wife and three kids, all under the age of 5, to Toronto to pursue a business opportunity.

Frank Huang, 30, will take his spot in the quartet and as a faculty member at the **Eastman School of Music**. Huang's career took off after he won the Hannover International and Naumburg Viliin Competitions in 2003 and 2000, respectively. Additionally, he was a member of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society Two and currently performs with orchestras and music festivals around the world. *(Also reported by City)*

The Daily News (April 1)

Eastman Opera presents 'Le Figaro'

One of the world's best-loved comic operas, Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* ("The Marriage of Figaro"), comes to the Eastman Theatre stage for four performances April 2 through 5.

Presented by the Eastman Opera Theatre, the production will be sung in Italian with projected English supertitles, and the April 5 matinee also will be interpreted in American Sign Language. Two alternating casts, composed of **Eastman School of Music** singers, will perform in 18th century period costumes. *(Also reported by Democrat & Chronicle Weekend, WXXI 91.5 FM)*

The Prague Post (April 2)

A true romantic: Conductor John Fiore finds the magic in Tchaikovsky

Unlike many conductors, John Fiore did not come to opera from a symphonic background. Opera was his first love and has remained the focus of his musical career, starting from a remarkably early age.

Now 48, Fiore has carved out an impressive career on two continents, establishing himself as an intelligent and versatile maestro at houses like the New York Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera and Chicago Lyric Opera before venturing to Europe in the mid-1980s. He is now in his 10th season as chief conductor at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf and a regular guest at major houses in Munich, Dresden and Cologne.

Born in New York City, Fiore moved with his family to Seattle when he was 7. Both of his parents were musicians, and his father got a job as a voice coach at the Seattle Opera. When managers there learned that he had a son who was good at replicating orchestral scores on a piano, they brought him in for rehearsals.

Fiore went on to do formal music studies at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, New York, but that's not where he learned how to conduct.

Columbia Missourian (April 2)

Combining old and new, Esterhazy Quartet marks the big 4-0

Named for those European aristocrats, the Esterhazy String Quartet of MU also brings new music to the public. Drawing from composers such as Haydn and those working today, the quartet, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary, tries to keep its selection broad. On Monday evening, Esterhazy is presenting an anniversary recital with a program drawn from the past and the present.

The music drawn from the present is particularly special: Renowned composer Samuel Adler has written "String Quartet No. 9" for the Esterhazy Quartet, a follow-up to his visit to MU last year as part of his 80th birthday celebration. The quartet presented an all-Adler concert, and the composer came to the stage and talked with the audience about the works.

Adler will be at the performance and will give a lecture on Tuesday. In 2001, he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He has composed more than 400 works, which have been performed around the world. He is a professor emeritus at the **Eastman School of Music**, where he taught for three decades, and he continues to give workshops around the country.

Beacon Journal (April 5)

Opera star Fleming to perform recital at E.J. Thomas Hall; Opera star downplays pressures of celebrity

Fleming, who grew up the daughter of two music teachers in Rochester, N.Y., has long been called the "people's diva" for her down-to-earth, girl-next-door persona. Superstardom was a long time in the making for Fleming, now considered one of the world's reigning sopranos.

In her advice to aspiring young singers, Fleming — educated at the State University of New York at Potsdam as well as **Eastman** and Juilliard — warns that musicians can never simply sing and forget about the nuts and bolts of their craft.

"They need to be very patient about their development and invest in honing and refining their technique." (*Performance in Nashville also reported by Nashville Scene*)

13 WHAM TV (April 6)

Rock and Roll is Here to Stay

University of Rochester, **Eastman School**
Professor Dr. John Covach talked about the second edition of his book, *What's That Sound*, a history of rock and roll. (*Also reported on CW Cable 16*)

Eagle Newspapers (April 6)

Local organist appointed after national search

Last month, a nationally advertised job search for a church musician ended with a local hire when the First Presbyterian Church of Skaneateles named Karen A. Hindenlang of Aurora to serve as its new coordinator of music and organist.

Hindenlang earned a graduate degree from the **Eastman School of Music** and studied organ and conducting at Westminster Choir College, Cornell University, Wells College, and the Choate School. In addition to working as a church organist, she has served as a lecturer in music history at Colgate University and the University of Rochester, and taught organ privately and as an adjunct instructor at Wells College.

Las Vegas Sun (April 6)

A chance to hear works that are classical but also new

The five-day event, called NEON (Nevada Encounters of New) Music Festival, begins Tuesday. Joining Thomas as guest composers are Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon and Tom Flaherty. Eight emerging composers, whose works were selected from about 50 submissions, also are in town for the event.

Zohn-Muldoon, associate professor of composition at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., is a Mexican-born composer whose rhythmically diverse music has an urgent sensibility. His "Paramo," also to be presented Friday, is a playful and dreamy piece of varied voices scurrying about in a controlled format, occasionally responding to a pounding drum.

Berkeley Independent (April 7)

Steel drums beat in teacher's heart

The sounds of the Carribean Islands are thriving in the Berkeley County School District – and have been for some time. People who have heard music teacher Linda Versprille's students go through their paces on Trinidad Steel Pan drums – at Piccolo Spoleto, on television, and most recently, during African American Heritage Days at North Charleston's Wannamaker Park – most likely enjoyed themselves, but may not have realized just how unique her program is.

Versprille, who teaches strings, band, piano – and steel drums – in the Berkeley County School District's STEP program, said she discovered steel drums by accident. A graduate of the **Eastman School of Music** with background in piano and strings, Versprille said the discovery took her by surprise, then by a storm.

"If someone had told me this would be my passion, I would have laughed and said, 'no way,'" she said. "But this is so much fun!"

City (April 8)

Finding the future voices of the theater: 2009 Lotte Lenya Competition

When tenor Eric Liberman sang "Try Me" as part of his program in the first round of the finals of the 2005 competition, Broadway director Harold Prince was one of the judges. Forty years earlier, Prince had directed "She Loves Me," the Broadway musical from which the song comes. Following the finals' first round, the judges called some of the contestants to the front of the stage, Liberman among them. Prince said to him, "In the original production, we had a single spotlight on the actor's face for this number. I'd like to see if you can do it as if you're being lit that way." After eight bars, Prince interrupted, "That's it; he can do it," and off he flew to Los Angeles in a hired jet.

Kim Kowalke, University of Rochester music professor and president of the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, who founded the competition in 1998, explains that Prince was trying to get Liberman to eliminate the extraneous movement that was getting in the way of the song. Liberman simplified his performance and, later that night, won second prize in the competition named for the woman who had been composer

Kurt Weill's wife and inspiration, and a distinguished actress and singer in her own right.

Lieberman never forgot that moment, and apparently, neither did Prince. Two years later, he hired Lieberman for the original production of "Lovemusik," the musical based on Weill's life.

That kind of quick teaching between the finals' afternoon and evening programs is an essential part of the Lenya Competition's commitment to the future of theater singing - everything from musical comedy to grand opera. Now in its 11th year, the first competition had a total of 11 entrants, all from the **Eastman School of Music**. With 13 singers drawn from an initial field of 164, this year's finals include singers from Toronto and Berlin (all the participants must be between 18 and 32 years of age). The 2009 finals competition take place Saturday, April 18, in Eastman School's Kilbourn Hall. The finalists compete for prizes totaling more than \$50,000, including a first prize of \$15,000. (*Note: Kowalke is also Professor of Musicology at the Eastman School.*)

Democrat & Chronicle (April 11)
76-plus trombones to herald Red Wings opener

Seventy-six-plus trombones will march to Frontier Field today to promote the Red Wings Opening Day and a literacy drive. **Eastman School of Music** trombone professor John Marcellus will lead the players from Main and State streets to Frontier Field, where they will play a few numbers at Rochester's Big Wish Globe to draw attention to the Rochester Literacy Movement. Mayor Robert Duffy will join them there.

The trombonists are from the **Eastman School of Music**, Ithaca College and Pennsylvania State University. Also in the parade will be some of Rochester's most notable drummers: Eastman professor emeritus John Beck, professor Michael Burritt, David Mancini of the Doc Severinsen Orchestra and Rich Thompson from the Count Basie Band.

The Peterborough Examiner (April 11)
Guest violinist at PSO concert

Bin Huang, the winner of several international music competitions, will be the guest artist at the

Peterborough Symphony Orchestra's April 25 concert at Showplace Peterborough.

Robert Gauldin, the composer of the concerto dedicated to the PSO and played by Bin Huang, b will be in the audience on April 25.

Huang began her violin studies at the age of four and graduated from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China at nine. After completing her high school program there, she came to the United States, where she earned a BM and Artist Diploma at the Peabody Conservatory and an MM at the **Eastman School**. She is currently completing her DMA in performance at Eastman and studying with Zvi Zeitlin.

Gauldin is Professor Emeritus in Music Theory and Composition at the **Eastman School of Music**, where he taught for more than years.

The Daily News (April 11)
Next stop ... Carnegie Hall

Brothers Joseph and John Irrera have both been to Carnegie Hall before. "In the audience, though," said Joseph.

That will change on Easter Sunday when the Batavia natives perform in the Winners' Recital of American Protege Competition at the famed New York City music theater. Joseph, 26, plays the piano. John, 23, plays the violin. Both teach at the **Eastman School of Music's Community School** in Rochester.

Both studied for years at Eastman Community that serves high school and younger age students, and went on to the college-level **Eastman School of Music**.

Iowa City Press Citizen (April 12)
String orchestra will celebrate spring at Englert

The Iowa City Community String Orchestra will present the spring concert of its 29th season at 3 p.m. April 19 The Englert Theatre. The concert will open with Antonio Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Trumpets in C Major, featuring David Greenhoe and Aren Van Houzen as soloists. Greenhoe, a graduate of the **Eastman School of Music**, retires this May after thirty years as professor of trumpet at the University of Iowa.

He plays principal trumpet with the Quad City Symphony, first trumpet with the Iowa Brass Quintet and solo trumpet with the Lake Placid, N.Y., Sinfonietta in summer season. He is also an active soloist and recitalist and has performed many times with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Before coming to Iowa in 1979, he was chairman of brass at Ball State University and played in several Indiana orchestras.

The Sacramento Bee (April 13)

Philharmonic is strong in works by native sons

... a homegrown offering of new music was a major part of the Sacramento Philharmonic's concert Saturday evening at the Community Center Theater. It also saw the performance of a new short work by Sacramentan Levi Saelua.

Of the new works the most provocative was Saelua's Prelude in G Major, a short neoclassical work with a taut rhythmic line that draws much inspiration from Bach's Cello Suite No 1.

Here, Saelua, a Rio Americano High School graduate studying at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., used jazz idioms to give dimension to a patently classical music piece. The work begins with a bracing line for basses that evolves to the cellos. As it passes through the orchestra in minor keys, it grows emotionally rich and resolves boldly. The piece evoked Erich Wolfgang Korngold as much as Bach and was a notable first outing for Saelua.

Ithaca Journal (April 16)

Pianist Dobbins to guest with Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble

On Sunday, April 19 at 8:15 p.m., the Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble will perform their last Ford Hall concert for the year in the James J. Whalen Center for Music. Pianist Bill Dobbins will be the guest artist and soloist for the evening. From the department of Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media at the **Eastman School of Music**, Dobbins has collaborated with such musicians as Clark Terry, Paquito D'Rivera, John Goldsby and Al Cohn, and has performed under such classical conductors as Pierre Boulez and Louis Lane.

Democrat & Chronicle (April 19)

Eastman's quartet-in-residence reunites with cellist who planted the seed

The Yings were mere musical siblings until their mentor suggested they form a quartet

"The good stuff in the string quartet is the music. The interpersonal relationships in a quartet, I guess they're tricky," says cellist Paul Katz, recollecting his time with the Cleveland Quartet.

If anyone can spout wisdom about the trials and tribulations of a string quartet, it's Katz. Members of the Cleveland Quartet, considered one of the premiere string quartets around the world, spent 26 years together teaching, traveling and concertizing full-time until disbanding in 1995. Out of that time, 20 years were spent as the quartet-in-residence at the **Eastman School of Music**, coaching fledgling string players.

At Eastman, the Cleveland Quartet coached four curious students who were siblings: David, Timothy, Phillip and Janet Ying. The Yings were unprecedented — never before had Katz known string quartet members who were all related — a notion Katz nurtured and could possibly claim responsibility for.

Next Sunday, Katz will return to Rochester to perform with the Yings, who follow the Cleveland Quartet as the current string quartet-in-residence at **Eastman**, a position they assumed in 1997. The concert re-creates the Yings' New York City debut concert at Alice Tully Hall from 1991. It's a concert of fond memories and about the significant bonds between teacher and student, all formed at Eastman.

13WHAM-TV (April 21)

Eastman Piccolo Player in YouTube Orchestra

Doug Emblidge listened to the music of piccolo player Nicholas Fitton, a **Eastman School** sophomore who performed with the YouTube Symphony Orchestra Project in Carnegie Hall.

Fitton, a flute major from Cape Cod, Mass., performed the piccolo part in composer Tan Dun's "The Internet Symphony" under renowned conductor Michael Tilson Thomas on April 15.

The YouTube Symphony Orchestra is described as "the world's first collaborative online orchestra."

Fitton was selected by the YouTube community.

Democrat & Chronicle (April 22)
Duo has a little fun with Italian Baroque in Rochester

Paul O'Dette prefers to drive to his concerts, but it's not because he's scared of air travel. It's because theorbos are just as foreign to airport workers as they are to most concert-goers. The six and a half-foot instrument, the giraffe of the lute, doesn't fit into upper compartments of a plane, and its long neck precludes it from its own seat.

The horrors of flying with the theorbo include a broken body for a concert in Vancouver with soprano Ellen Hargis. The instrument, he says, made "a crackling sound, like someone stepping on a bag of potato chips."

The chance for a travel-related accident is much reduced for his upcoming concert — the theorbo moves only from O'Dette's studio at the **Eastman School of Music** to Kilbourn Hall. He performs again with Hargis, his long-time duet partner. The concert is part of a conference by the Society for 17th Century Music, at Eastman this year. (Also reported by The Batavia Daily News, City)

WHEC TV (April 23)
Free recital from this year's Links Scholarship winner

How much were you influenced by your parents? A talented young oboist credits her mother who refused to allow her to quit. Jazmine Byas is this year's Links Scholarship winner. She'll appear in recital on Sunday at the **Eastman School of Music**.

For this 19-year-old music has always been a major part of her life. She comes from a musically talented family in Brooklyn. Her mother is a classical pianist, her younger brother and sister are artists too and her father's a DJ and not just any DJ, but DJ Jazzy Jay, a pioneer of the hip-hop movement.

She will be playing Bach in recital Sunday at Kilbourn Hall as this year's recipient of the Rochester Chapter of the Links, Incorporated Scholarship. (*Also reported by Democrat & Chronicle*)

Riverside Press Enterprise (April 28)
Inland pianist excels on national stage

Michael Noble shares his passion for music with others through piano. The 20-year-old from Moreno Valley has been playing piano since he was 4 years old. He recently won first place in the 2009 Crescendo Music Awards in Tulsa, Okla. He competed with 19 other student pianists from around the country. With the honor, Noble received \$5,000 and an invitation to perform with the Tulsa Symphony in 2011.

Noble is a student at the University of Rochester in New York. He is studying piano at the university's **Eastman School of Music** and double majoring in English.

City Newspaper (April 29)
Dance Preview: "Fire and Light"

"LumaVoce" opens in complete darkness, quickly establishing a mood of solemn mystique as the dancers use the flashlights to show only an eerily lit face here, a row of muscular legs there. The tension inherent in Stephen Kennedy's industrial-edged score combines with the almost aggressive sharpness of the carefully choreographed movements to create a compelling starkness. Kennedy, instructor of sacred music at the **Eastman School of Music** and director of the celebrated Christ Church Schola Cantorum, composed the music after artistic director Jamey Leveritt set the choreography, a reversal of the usual order in which movements are set to pre-existing music.

City Newspaper (April 29)
Classical Music: Rochester's Vital Organs

When Michael Barone boarded a plane from Minnesota to Rochester in February, he didn't know exactly what he was getting into. Barone, the host of the nationally syndicated public radio show "Pipedreams," felt pretty confident he would hear adrenaline-pumping performances from **Eastman School of Music** faculty and students during a three-day festival. But he wasn't sure if anyone else would show up. ...

"Think about what a new exit on the Thruway costs," says David Higgs, chair of the organ department at the **Eastman School of Music**. "How long will that last?" With proper care, he says, the instruments appearing in local churches and galleries might sing for another 300 to 500 years.

. . . In 2001, Higgs and his colleagues at the Eastman School set out to create a city of unusual instruments like the Fisk that would attract students, fans, and scholars from around the world. To do that, they founded the **Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative**, or EROI (pronounced "ee-roy."). It's a long-term effort, and by Higgs's reckoning, the group is at least one-third of the way there. So far, EROI has fostered two unique instruments.

The first, a Baroque instrument in the Fountain Court at the Memorial Art Gallery, is the only full-size antique Italian organ in North America. It was rescued in pieces from a junk shop by a German organ builder. Reassembled in 2005, its 600 pipes and gilded case sing in a variety of rich, textured voices that surprised experts with its sweetness.

EROI's second achievement was the \$2.8 million, scientifically based replica of an organ by a famous East Prussian designer named Adam Gottlob Casparini at Christ Church on East Avenue. It's the first organ in the United States constructed in the late 18th Century style as a research project, and it has astonishing attention to detail. Builders used hand-hammered nails. The case glows like a Baroque theater set, glued together with ground rabbit entrails, stroked with egg tempura, and gilded and burnished by German painters with a battalion of volunteers.

(Note: There are numerous references every day in the media identifying musicians and scholars as Eastman School of Music alumni or current or former faculty; this report includes selected clippings.)