



Selected Coverage August 2008

HIGHLIGHTS

National

All About Jazz
Chicago Tribune
The Mercury News
Newsday
The New Straits Times,
Malaysia
The Philippine Daily Inquirer
Pittsburgh Tribune Review
Vancouver Sun

Local

Democrat & Chronicle
R News
WHAM TV 13
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WROC TV 8

Newsday (August 14)

Adirondack museum looks at legacy of prima donna

Tucked away among towering white pines and nestled in the foothills of the Adirondacks, legendary soprano Marcella Sembrich taught music lessons on her lakefront property after retiring officially from the opera world. Her teaching studio, a small pink stucco house with huge windows overlooking Lake George, is now home to a museum in her honor and doubles as a venue for intimate music performances. There, she once taught students from the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and Juilliard during the later part of her life. Two years after she died in 1935, her daughter-in-law, Juliette de Coppet Stengel, established the museum, one of only a handful of museums in the U.S. dedicated to opera. ...

"What's perhaps most impressive about Sembrich is that her voice was rock solid and she had such power of flexibility," said Ralph Locke, a professor of musicology at the University of Rochester's **Eastman School of Music** who's written extensively on opera. "Sembrich was one of the truly reliable vocal stars who helped implant opera on the American scene."

Vancouver Sun, Canada (August 30)

Learned this week: Finding the Perfect Pitch

Researchers at the University of Rochester's **Eastman School of Music** and Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences have developed a unique test for perfect pitch, and have found surprising results. Their research shows that perfect pitch -- the ability to recognize and remember a tone without a reference -- is apparently much more common in non-musicians than scientists had expected. . . . "Tests for perfect pitch have always demanded that subjects already have some musical training or at least familiarity with a particular piece of music, which really limits the pool of candidates you can test," says Elizabeth Marvin, professor of music theory at the world-renowned **Eastman School of Music** at the University of Rochester. "That means nobody really knew how prevalent perfect pitch is in humans in general." (*Also reported by Science Daily, DailyIndia.com Florida, Thaindian.com Thailand, NewKerala.com India, The Post Chronicle, NewsLite United Kingdom, PhysOrg.com, Virginia*)

WROC TV 8 (August 9)

Winner of Eastman Young Artists International Piano Competition Performs

The winner of the Eastman Young Artists International Piano Competition performed before a packed crowd today at the **Eastman School of Music**. Sixteen-year-old Tie-Dan Yao of Alberta, Canada beat out 23 competitors from the United States, Taiwan, Korea, China, Canada, and the Czech Republic to win the top prize. Yao won four thousand dollars and also received a full-tuition scholarship to the Eastman School. (*Also reported by Democrat and Chronicle, WHEC TV10, R News, fyi Music News*)

The New Straits Times, Malaysia (August 1)
Catch: Music of the Night in Ipoh

The Perak Society Of Performing Arts' (PSPA) International Ensemble is back on Aug 15 with Music Of The Night, a new repertoire featuring eight internationally acclaimed musicians from the United States, South Korea, Hong Kong and Malaysia. They are violinist David Leung and bassoonist Tim Leung of Hong Kong, violinist Nari Hong of South Korea, violist Fung Chern Hwei, double bassist Oh Beng Yew and clarinetist Eugene Pook of Malaysia, and cellist Cara Miller and French horn player Aimee Morris of the United States. ... David is a professor at the State University of New York in the United States and received his music degree from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. He also graduated with a Masters' degree and doctorate in musical arts from **Eastman School of Music** in New York. Hong is a music graduate from **Eastman** and has performed with various orchestras and chamber groups in the United States.

Democrat and Chronicle (August 3)
International Eastman competition tests skill, nerves of pianists

Chang and 22 other pianists compete this weekend in the first round of the Eastman Young Artists International Piano Competition. Winners receive cash prizes and full scholarships to the **Eastman School of Music**. Contestants come from China, Taiwan, Korea, Canada, the Czech Republic and the United States and are ages 15 to 18. (*Opening day of competition also reported by WHEC TV.*)

The Mercury News (August 3)
Cabrillo Festival opens strong with Concerto rockin' hysteria

Introducing his eruptive new Concerto for Orchestra at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music on Friday, composer Christopher Rouse said the "threat level on this piece is orange." He also said it quotes from a tune by the Jefferson Airplane, dared the audience to figure out which one, and finally described his new work as "a dissonant 12-tone piece, but you'll like it, anyway." ... Rouse, a favorite of Marin Alsop, the festival's famous music director and conductor, is a Pulitzer Prize winner whose many works include a cello concerto composed for Yo-

Yo Ma and who once taught a course on the history of rock at the **Eastman School of Music**.

Democrat and Chronicle (August 4)
Young Pianist From Around The World Compete In The Language Of Music

Future **Eastman School of Music** student Peter Klimo, 17, of Northridge, Calif., practices as his mother, Anna Papp, watches before his performance at the Eastman Young Artists International Piano Competition, held through Saturday. Competitors between the ages of 15 and 18 come from Taiwan, China, South Korea, Thailand, Canada, the Czech Republic and the U.S. The winners receive cash prizes and scholarships to attend Eastman.

Democrat and Chronicle (August 5)
Young artists heat up the ivories at Eastman competition

After Peter Klimo performed in his first preliminary round of the Eastman Young Artists International Piano Competition on Sunday, one woman came up to him outside of Kilbourn Hall, congratulating him while putting a hand on his shoulder. "I'm sorry, I'm sweating," he said, politely. "It's OK, now I have your sweat," she replied, a true fan. Klimo, a 17-year-old from Northridge, Calif., who has already accepted an offer to attend the **Eastman School of Music** this fall on a scholarship that will cover about a third of the cost, gave a mesmerizing performance of a finger-twisting program.

WHEC TV10 (August 6)
15-year-old Brighton piano prodigy (video)

A 15-year-old from Brighton is putting New York on the map in the piano world. Harvest Zhang is one of 23 young pianists competing in an international competition at the **Eastman School**. He's the only competitor from New York and the entire northeast. Local piano prodigy, Harvest Zhang, has been playing piano since he was five-years-old. Now he's 15 and one of the best young artists in the world. "It's a very selective competition. Everyone has to be really, really good."

The Saratogian (August 6)
Orchestra goes to the movies under Tyzik's baton

Pops conductor/composer Jeff Tyzik makes his debut appearance leading the Philadelphia Orchestra Thursday, but it won't be his first appearance at SPAC. As a student at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, Tyzik played trumpet in Main Street East, a band modeled after Chicago and Blood Sweat & Tears. . . . The secret to Tyzik's success may lie in his broad musical experience (he earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in music at **Eastman**) and eclectic taste, as much as in his long-proven ability to arrange music for symphony orchestra. Among his many works listed with Schirmer Publishing are arrangements for symphony orchestra of Duke Ellington's works, "Nutcracker Suite" and "Black, Brown and Beige;" patriotic and religious music, pop music such as "Beatles Hits Medley," and numerous original compositions for a wide variety of instruments. (*Also reported by The Daily Gazette*)

Democrat and Chronicle (August 7)
Eastman International Piano Competition: Change faces challenges offstage, too

For Shih-Yuan Chang, the 17-year-old pianist from Taiwan competing in the year's Eastman Young Artists International Piano Competition, coming to America takes a lot of adjustment. The trip was 26 hours long, including layovers, and there's a 12-hour time difference. "I got here on day before the first round and was not familiar with the new environment," she says, with translation help by **Eastman School of Music** student Shichao Zhang.

Jewish Exponent (August 7)
Orchestra Trumpets Return of a Native Son

In just a few weeks -- on Sept. 1 -- Jeremy Rothman, a 31-year-old Philadelphia native, will join the Philadelphia Orchestra as vice president for artistic planning, beginning a new path for the first time in eight years, during which time he has served the Baltimore Symphony, the last four in the same capacity he will fill at the Philadelphia. A graduate of the University of Rochester with a degree in music administration, Rothman also studied trumpet at the **Eastman School of Music** and completed the school's arts-leadership program, then directed by James Undercofler,

currently president and CEO of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

. . . In Baltimore, Rothman developed and supervised a number of innovative programs that brought ever-growing audiences into the BSO's concert venues, including the "Explorer" and "Symphony With a Twist" concert series. He hosted a weekly radio program, interviewing soloists who would be performing with his orchestra. Rothman was also involved in this coming season's BSO presentation of the Leonard Bernstein "Mass," an intensely complex work requiring more than 200 singers, dancers, marching bands and rock musicians that will be mounted in Baltimore and New York City.

EMU News (August 7)
Ten Faculty Join EMU Roster

EMU will have 10 new full-time teaching faculty members when fall semester of the 2008-09 academic year begins Aug. 26. . . . Lynne A. Mackey, associate professor of music (piano), holds a BS degree in piano from the University of Michigan, a master of music in piano from The Julliard School and a doctor of musical arts in piano from **Eastman School of Music**. She is an accomplished musician with numerous solo and chamber music performances along with prior teaching and academic administrative experience.

Democrat and Chronicle (August 8)
News Briefs: Young pianists in finals tonight

Six finalists were chosen Thursday by an international jury for the Eastman Young Artists International Piano Competition. They are Zue-Sha Hu of China; Min-Soo Hong of South Korea; Connie Kim-Sheng of La Crescenta, Calif.; Peter Klimo of Northridge, Calif.; Tie-Dan Yao of Canada and Wan-Ting Zhao of China. The biennial contest for pianists ages 15 to 18 has featured competitors from Taiwan, China, Korea, Thailand, Canada, the Czech Republic and the United States this year and offers winners cash prizes and scholarships to attend **Eastman School of Music**.

All About Jazz (August 8)

The Debut Release from the Wee Trio! National Tour Announced!

Dan Loomis (bass, composer) - Bassist Dan Loomis, originally from St. Louis, MO, and currently based in Brooklyn, holds degrees from Southern Illinois University, and a Masters Degree in Jazz Performance (plus the Schirmer Award, **Eastman's** highest honor for a jazz student), from the prestigious **Eastman School of Music** where he had the privilege to study with Jeff Campbell, Harold Danko, Bill Dobbins, Walt Weiskopf, and Clay Jenkins. While at Eastman Loomis' VeryTall Band received the DownBeat Magazine award for best collegiate small group performance in 2004. In the winter of that year Loomis was selected to appear as a featured artist in the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra's Young Stars of Tomorrow Concert.

Jared Schonig (drums, composer) - Jared attended the prestigious Hamilton Academy of Music in Los Angeles, CA, where he was the recipient of no less than four DownBeat Student Music Awards, including a "Best Soloist" honor his senior year, in 2001. After receiving scholarships to attend a number of different universities, Schonig decided it was best to head to the East Coast and enroll at the **Eastman School of Music** where he performed with a number of Eastman groups including the Bionic Bones with Fred Wesley and Steve Turre, the Eastman New Jazz Ensemble, Harold Danko's JPW A (Jazz Performance Workshop), and the Eastman Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Bill Dobbins. Schonig was also fortunate to work and perform with faculty members Jeff Campbell and Clay Jenkins. During his time at Eastman, the drummer/composer was awarded three more Downbeat Student Music Awards; in 2002 for his funk/jazz band Groove Brewery and in 2004 for his JPW The Verytall Band," which was recognized as the nations top collegiate combo, as well as another "Best Soloist" honor.

auburnpub.com/The Citizen (August 8)

Time-warp tunes

This year's Skaneateles Festival will take music lovers to the start of the 20th century to the depths of jazz throughout the month of August. ... Created in 1980 by Skaneateles residents Louise and David Robinson, the annual series,

known lovingly as SkanFest, has grown into a nationally recognized, award-winning event honored by organizations like Chamber Music America and featured in national magazines such as Bon Appetite and Opera. Artistic directors Elinor Freer and David Ying select themes for each week of the festival. "Elinor and David have come up with four excellent themes this year," said Susan Mark, the festival's executive director. In addition to their festival duties, both Freer and Ying serve on the faculty at University of Rochester's **Eastman School of Music**.

Star News (August 8)

More than a pipe dream

Joseph (Joey) Ripka won first-place honors in the Dublin International Organ Competition 2008, held at Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland, part of the Pipeworks Festival June 20–29. ... Ripka holds master of music degrees in both piano and organ performance from the University of Kansas, as well as bachelor of music degrees to match from St. Cloud State University. He plans to apply to the **Eastman School of Music** for his doctorate, hoping to study with Professor David Higgs, one of the Dublin contest judges.

Knoxville News Sentinel (August 10)

Symphonic serenity: Violinist brings joy, peace to those in need of healing

Throughout the oncology wing, during the moments before he begins to play, the nurses speak in hushed tones and patients wage a silent war with malignant enemies within. The violinist is the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra's Sean Claire, performing this day as part of KSO's Music and Wellness Program.

At 10 he fell in love with the violin. Claire studied at San Diego State University for three years and spent another two in dedicated practice before he was accepted to study at the prestigious **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y. There he found a family of some 700 students and one mentor whose philosophy would inform his life. Zvi Zeitlin taught Claire more than just the technical aspects of playing the violin. In addition to bow distribution and the like, the demanding, old-school master emphasized personal responsibility. "He doesn't brook excuses," Sean says today. "Words are cheap."

Chicago Tribune (August 11)

At 80, Charles Strouse recalls his journey through the golden age of Broadway

"I work every day. Activity — it's a life force," the New York-born Strouse says, searching for words to explain why he keeps coming back to the piano to write. "When you enjoy doing what you're doing, which I do very much, I have something to get up for."

"What he does seems very easy and most people think it is: to write these simple melodies that stick in your head and never go away. But he studied very seriously at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., with composer Aaron Copland at the Tanglewood Music Center in Massachusetts and with composer, conductor and music professor Nadia Boulanger in Paris. (*Also reported by San Francisco Chronicle, Baltimore Sun, Newsday, Orlando Sentinel Florida, The Canadian Press and others*)

University of Toledo Calendars (August 13)

Dorothy MacKenzie Price Piano Series:

Michael Boyd

Today's master class features Dr. Michael Boyd, a UT professor of Music and a recently named Steinway artist. As a concerto soloist, Dr. Boyd has performed with the Rochester Philharmonic, the Milwaukee Symphony, the Toledo Symphony, the Dearborn Symphony, and the Eastman Chamber Orchestra. . . . Dr. Boyd's studies culminated in a Masters and Doctoral degree from the **Eastman School of Music**. At Eastman, he was teaching assistant to Rebecca Penneys and served as studio pianist for soprano Jan DeGaetani and violinist Donald Weilerstein. He won first prize as pianist in the Kneisel Lieder Competition and played a radio broadcast recital from Carnegie Hall with Naumburg prize winning violinist Ian Swensen while still a student. Dr. Boyd graduated from Eastman with that institution's highest honor, the Performer's Certificate. Dr. Boyd is currently Professor of Piano at the University of Toledo. He was also a visiting professor at the Eastman **School of Music**.

WHAM TV13 (August 14)

U of R Wants Downtown's "Block F" (video)

The University of Rochester has submitted a bid for Block F, meaning the institution could play a major role in revitalizing downtown. The Main Street parking lot is directly across from the Eastman Theater and the **Eastman School of Music**.

U of R President Joel Seligman revealed the college has placed a bid on Block F. His proposal calls for placing some money down, and then developing a plan over three years. Seligman said he would work with the commission and the neighborhood to come up with an acceptable plan. "Block F matters to the **Eastman School of Music** and Eastman Theater enormously," Seligman said. "You are likely to see, because this is a university making the bid, is some combination of academic or performance space with retail and with housing."

Journal Live (Aug 16)

From California to Durham, Erica Walker has enjoyed her journey ...

People always speak of Californians having a sunny disposition, and Erica Walker does nothing to dispel this stereotype. Which is not to say the harpist's life has been simply a ball. Erica has been through some tough times, but her personality shines through. Erica won a number of competitions in California, including the Redlands Bowl Young Artists Competition.

With accolades behind her Erica decided to move to the other side of America to study the instrument on the East Coast. Erica went to New York in 1997 to study at the **Eastman School of Music**. Its alumni include some of the most famous musicians and composers of our time, from composer Dominick Argento to bassist Tony Levin, of King Crimson. She trained under Kathleen Bride, "one of the best harpists in the world," who is also an associate professor at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

Erica recalls her time at Eastman fondly. "I loved it — being able to study under such good teachers was really an honour." She spent four years at the university and decided to add a string to her bow by taking a business management qualification as part of her degree.

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (Aug 18)

Charles Strouse recalls his B'way journey

"Put on a Happy Face," the autobiography of Charles Strouse, chronicles a jam-packed journey through the sunset of the American musical theater's golden era and beyond -- by the composer of "Annie," "Bye Bye Birdie" and "Applause." And the trip is not over yet. Melodies still pour out of the man, as Strouse, at age 80, prepares for his next project, "Minsky's," trying out later this season in California.

"I work every day. Activity -- it's a life force," the New York-born Strouse says, searching for words to explain why he keeps coming back to the piano to write. "When you enjoy doing what you're doing, which I do very much, I have something to get up for." What he does seems very easy and most people think it is: to write these simple melodies that stick in your head and never go away. But he studied very seriously at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., with composer Aaron Copland at the Tanglewood Music Center in Massachusetts and with composer, conductor and music professor Nadia Boulanger in Paris. (*Also reviewed in the Democrat & Chronicle.*)

The Philippine Daily Inquirer (Aug 18)

Kasilag, national artist for music, dies; 89

National Artist for Music Lucrecia R. Kasilag, a former president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), distinguished composer and music educator, passed away late Saturday night in her home on Perdigon Street in Paco, Manila. Tita King, as she was known to everyone, was 89, according to the CCP Encyclopedia and official records from her alma mater, Philippine Women's University (PWU), that listed her birth date as Aug. 31, 1918. Kasilag was the author of more than 200 compositions that include folk songs, opera and orchestral works. She was the former head of the Asian Composers League and continued to create music until this year. . . . She obtained her Bachelor of Music degree at the PWU in 1949. In the same year, she pursued graduate studies at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, New York under a Fulbright Travel Grant. She received an Eastman School of Music fellowship, and studied theory under Dr.

Allen I. McHose and composition under Dr. Wayne Barlow. She completed her M.A. in 1950.

Said pianist Jonathan Coo, graduate of Philippine High School of the Arts and who, like Kasilag, also studied at the **Eastman School of Music**, University of Rochester, New York: "Tita King is the mother of all Filipino artists. During her healthy years, she never missed a concert, an art exhibit, a book launching or any cultural event. When I was doing my cultural research at Eastman, she practically mailed all her piano works and entrusted the interpretation of her music to me. That's how giving she is."

The Herald Dispatch (Aug 20)

Snowshoe Mountain hosts Symphony Weekend...

Always a magical weekend on the mountain, this year's Symphony Weekend, August 22-24, marks the 18th year the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra has made the trip to Snowshoe Mountain Resort. This year's Symphony Festival is titled English Accents, and is all about the connection between music and language. Joining Maestro Cooper and the WWSO for this exciting musical journey will be violin soloist Linda Wang, as well as guest commentators Byron Adams (Professor of Music at the University of California -- Riverside in Los Angeles, California) and Holly Watkins (Assistant Professor at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, New York).

The Billings Outpost (Aug 21)

Rocky professor honored

The Music Teachers National Association recently honored Palma Wolverton of Billings as a 50-year member at the 2008 MTNA National Conference in Denver, Colo. Ms. Wolverton, a nationally certified teacher of music, holds bachelor's and master's of music degrees from the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y. After teaching at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D., for five years, she was a professor at Rocky Mountain College in Billings for 33 years, retiring as professor emerita in 1996.

The Ann Arbor News (Aug 21)

PREVIEW: Matthew Ardizzone

Guitarist Matthew Ardizzone returns to Kerrytown Concert House Sunday night with a program of Spanish and Latin American music for guitar, including a set of pieces from his award-winning 2001 CD "Mazurka!"

The Pittsburgh Tribune has described his "sensitive nuances" and the New York City Classical Guitar Society his "incredible tone, marvelous technical facility, and poetic phrasing."

Ardizzone came to Ann Arbor in 2001 from Rochester, N.Y., where he earned a doctorate at the **Eastman School of Music**.

Democrat and Chronicle (August 29)

UR freshmen spruce up their adoptive hometown

More than 1,000 University of Rochester students and staff painted the town red Thursday, scattering across the city and suburbs in red T-shirts saying: "Strong reasons make strong actions." Whether pulling weeds from city gardens or cleaning streets, students helped 40 nonprofit organizations for UR's Wilson Day. Wilson Day is a service-focused orientation program for freshmen from the College of Arts, Sciences and Engineering and the **Eastman School of Music**. The day is designed for students to bond and become involved in community service.

(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.)