

Selected Coverage December 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

National

All About Jazz
Jazz Police
Jazz Times
National Public Radio
New York Times
Toronto Globe and Mail

Local & Regional

Batavia Daily News
City Newspaper
Democrat & Chronicle
Messenger-Post Newspapers
WHEC TV 10NBC

Other

AnnArbor.com
CoastalBeat.com
Long Beach Press-Telegram
New Philadelphia Times-Reporter

The New York Times (Dec. 22)

In Oak and Iron, New Pipe Organ Sounds Echo of Age of Bach

The ceremonial pipe organ of the 18th century was the Formula One racer of its time, a masterpiece of human ingenuity so elegant in its outward appearance that a casual observer could only guess at the complexity that lay within. . . .

The effect was breathtaking. “Each instrument speaks to you in a different way,” said Hans Davidsson, a concert organist, sitting before the console of the organ at the cavernous Christ Church, Episcopal, in Rochester. Dr. Davidsson began to play the Bach hymn “Gottes Sohn Ist Kommen” (“The Son of God Is Coming”), and an enormous, bell-clear sound exploded from the gleaming pipes that soared above him.

The organ, the Craighead-Saunders, is a unique instrument, not only because of its lovely sound, but also because it is a nearly exact copy of a late Baroque organ built by Adam Gottlob Casparini of East Prussia in 1776. The original stands in the Holy Ghost Church in Vilnius, Lithuania. . . .

The project to build a replica of the Vilnius organ began in 2000 at the **Eastman School of Music** at the University of Rochester, but Eastman had long wanted a new instrument for Christ Church. David Higgs, a concert organist and head of the Eastman organ department, had been seeking one for years. (*Also reported by The Chronicle Herald.*)

Jazz Police (Dec. 1)

Bob Brookmeyer 80th Birthday Celebration

On December 2nd, the Jazz Studies Department at the **Eastman School of Music** will hold an 80th birthday celebration in honor of a true jazz legend, composer, valve trombonist and conductors Bob Brookmeyer. . . .

Brookmeyer will perform in Kilbourn Hall at the Eastman School of Music with the Eastman New Jazz Ensemble, directed by Dave Rivello. (*Also reported by JazzTimes Magazine, Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, Rochester City Newspaper, Batavia Daily News, and MPNow.com*)

herRochester Rochester Arts Blog (Democrat & Chronicle online, Dec. 12)

Eastman Wind Ensemble sneak preview

Friday evening, the Eastman Wind Ensemble trotted out a program it plans to take next week to the Midwest Clinic, one of the major band and orchestra conferences – and from the way it sounds, it should be a huge success.

New York Times (Dec. 2)

Among Oboists, a Mutual Admiration Society

Mr. Dine introduced Mr. Mayer to guests as they came in, including the courtly Richard Killmer, Mr. Dine's old teacher at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester.

Democrat & Chronicle (December 3)

Grammy nominees include Jars of Clay, Renee Fleming

Two of the usual suspects — Jars of Clay and Renée Fleming — are among musicians with local ties who appear on the 2010 Grammy nominee lists released today. As is often the case, **Eastman School of Music** grads are scattered throughout the classical categories: nine alumni this year.

Churchville native Renee Fleming, a soprano who holds a master's degree from **Eastman**, appears on two classical albums nominated for awards. Best Classical Vocal Performance features her work on *Verismo*. For Best Classical Crossover Album nominee Yo-Yo Ma & Friends: *Songs of Joy and Peace*, she joins a musically diverse lineup that includes Chris Botti, Dave Brubeck, Diana Krall, Alison Krauss, Joshua Redman and James Taylor, among others, in backing the famed cellist. Fleming is a two-time Grammy winner.

She is one of nine **Eastman** grads on the list. In Best Classical Crossover, she'll be going against **Eastman** alums Ben Wendel, Shane Endsley, Kaveh Rastegar and Adam Benjamin, all members of the Kneebody, and that quintet's recording, *Twelve Songs* by Charles Ives.

Kristian Bezuidenhout, playing harpsichord and organ on Vivaldi: *Violin Concertos*, featuring Daniel Hope and Anne Sofie von Otter, with the Chamber Orchestra Of Europe, is nominated for Best Small Ensemble Performance. Anthony Dean Griffey appears on Mahler: *Symphony No. 8*; *Adagio From Symphony No. 10*, nominated for the Best Classical Album and Best Choral Performance. Faith Sherman appears on the John Musto's Wolf Trap Opera recording of *Volpone*. The John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble, led by Hollenbeck, who earned his **Eastman** bachelor's and master's degrees in 1990-91, is up for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album for *Eternal Interlude*. Bill Cunliffe was nominated for Best Instrumental

Arrangement for "West Side Story Medley," a track that appears on *Resonance Big Band Plays Tribute to Oscar Peterson*. (*Also reported by News 10NBC*)

Democrat and Chronicle (Dec. 6)

Handel's 'Messiah' marks beginning of Christmas season for many Rochesterians

The **Eastman School of Music** will have a sing-along at the Reformation Lutheran Church as will the first Congregational Church of Canandaigua.

"The idea is getting as many people involved and giving as many people a chance to be involved," says Kerry Flanigan, an **Eastman** masters student and president of the Eastman chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.

Batavia Daily News (Dec. 7)

Kilbourn concert series features violin virtuoso Leila Josefowicz

Violinist Leila Josefowicz, known for her technically precise and emotionally resonant performances of both traditional and contemporary works, will perform at 8 p.m. Tuesday, as part of the Kilbourn Concert Series at the **Eastman School of Music**, 26 Gibbs St.

Democrat & Chronicle (Dec. 9)

Violinist pushes strings to limit at Kilbourn Hall

Contemporary music is always a gamble for a musician because audiences love their classics. But violinist Leila Josefowicz oozes such commitment and intensity that she can pull off a concert with music that can often be the antithesis of pretty. . .

On Tuesday night she played as part of the **Eastman School of Music's** Kilbourn Concert Series, and her flowing dress with unwieldy art deco shapes and loud colors summarized her solo recital, with accompanist John Novacek.

AnnArbor.com (Dec. 7)

Deanna Relya returns as interim Kerrytown Concert House director

Lauber's husband, classical guitarist Matthew Artizzone, was named Associate Dean for Admissions at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., in September and the couple has relocated to the East Coast. Before joining

Eastman, Artizzzone, a graduate of the **Eastman School of Music**, was assistant director for admissions for the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre & Dance and executive director of Great Lakes Performing Artist Associates, a non-profit artist management agency.

Rochester City Newspaper (Dec. 9)
CLASSICAL: John Graham

Though viola players may not get referred to as "slingers," if they did, **Eastman School of Music** professor John Graham would be at the top of the slinger's list.

Batavia Daily News (Dec. 10)
A Holiday Sampler

Mitzie Collins was awarded the 2007 Artist Award by the Arts and Cultural Council of Rochester, in recognition of her outstanding musical contributions to the Rochester community. She received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the **Eastman School of Music**, and teaches world music and hammered dulcimer through the Eastman Community Music School.

Globe and Mail (Dec. 11)
Ying Quartet's new member plays like one of the family

It was hard to realize that the irrepressibly youthful, all-sibling Ying Quartet – in residence since 1996 at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester – has been performing for more than 20 years. Its passion and verve bear no faint taint of world-weariness. Incredible, too, was first violin Timothy Ying's announcement from the platform that this concert for Music Toronto would be his final one with the ensemble.

Ying has moved with his wife and children to Toronto, and his three siblings – Janet, second violin; Phillip, viola; and David, cello – have been joined by Frank Huang as the quartet's new first violin.

National Public Radio (Dec. 11)
Composer George Walker Writes For His Son
George Walker has helped blaze a trail for African-American classical composers. His music has been performed by many of this country's top orchestras — he's got more than 80 commissions and a Pulitzer Prize to his name. Yet only now —

at the age of 87 — has George Walker written a work for his son. Violinist Gregory Walker didn't even know about it until the finished score showed up in the mail. (*Note: George Walker is an Eastman alumnus DMA '56*)

New Philadelphia Times-Reporter (Dec. 14)
We're never too old to learn

Roy Ernst, a professor at **Eastman School of Music** at Rochester, N.Y., founded the New Horizons International Music Assn. to help adults learn to play a music instrument.

Batavia Daily News (Dec. 16)
Italian Baroque organ music marks Christmas at MAG

Eastman School of Music professors David Higgs and Jan Opalach will headline a Christmas-themed program that showcases the Italian Baroque organ at the Memorial Art Gallery, 500 University Ave.

Rochester City Newspaper (Dec. 23)
CLASSICAL: Daniel Aune

The series, which is a collaboration between St. Michael's and the **Eastman School of Music**, showcases different performance majors from **Eastman** and provides the public with an opportunity to experience chamber music in a beautiful space. This month the featured student is Daniel Aune. (*Also reported by Rochester Democrat & Chronicle.*)

Democrat & Chronicle (Dec. 26)
Open Door Mission's Christmas meal helps many through hard times

More than 150 visitors packed the Open Door Mission to enjoy a Christmas feast Friday afternoon. . . .

Fifteen volunteers ferried plates between the kitchen and hall. Most of them were new, including a few well-known faces from Rochester's arts and business communities.

"This is an important time to be helpful," said Nicholas Goluses, a 54-year-old Pittsford resident waiting on tables with his 19-year-old son, Harry. "We wanted to give something back to the community."

One of the world's preeminent classical guitarists, Goluses is a professor at the **Eastman School of Music**. But he left Friday's music making to Fox, who accompanied a round of Christmas carols on the mission's piano.

All About Jazz (Dec. 29)

Tamir Hendelman: Living a Dream

One of those "overnight sensations" who's been working steadily for years, Tamir Hendelman has finally caught a rocket.

TH: The teacher I had in LA came from the Yamaha Method where they do a lot of ear training and sight singing, composing, things like that, and she prepped me to compete in this national competition. . . . afterward the judge came up to me and said "I thought you should have won," and gave me his card. . . . He was [pianist, arranger, composer, conductor] Joe Harnell, who had conducted for Peggy Lee, and worked with Ella [Fitzgerald]. . . . He also wrote for film and TV, and studied with [revered classical teacher] Nadia Boulanger. He wrote a letter to get me into **Eastman [School of Music]**.

CoastalBeat.com (Dec. 30)

Sparkle in the season

Don't miss this one: The Red Line Sax Quartet from the **Eastman School of Music** not only does the unthinkable, translating chamber music to a jazz instrument, but does it beautifully enough to have won awards all over the country for its style – totally from memory – and sound.

MPNow (Dec. 31)

The year in A&E: 2009

It's been a year of both triumph and turmoil on the regional arts and entertainment scene.

The house that George built: 'Kodak Hall' opens WHAT'S UP? In October, the **Eastman School of Music** welcomed guests to its renovated concert hall, now titled "Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre." Renovations eliminated some 800 seats on the orchestra level, while adding two-story box seating and a small lounge area. There's also new carpeting, restored and refurbished seating, enhanced house and exit lighting and sound and more — plus a new addition for the **Eastman School of Music**. The theater renovations, partly

funded by \$10 million from Eastman Kodak, were designed to improve acoustics and make the theater an overall more intimate venue to hear music. (The state also footed \$13 million.) The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra inaugurated the newly renovated venue with its Philharmonics season opener Oct. 8, which included the premiere of Douglas Lowry's "Geo," an homage to the theater's designer and community benefactor George Eastman.

Farewells

Jazz saxophonist **Gerry Niewood** — a frequent collaborator with Chuck Mangione — was among the passengers killed in a Feb. 12 plane crash near Buffalo. Guitarist Coleman Mellett also died.

Long Beach Press-Telegram (Dec. 31)

Ying Quartet tackles the classics

Phillip Ying remembers when he and his three siblings first sat down to play string quartets, long before any of them had any idea that the Ying Quartet would become world famous in chamber music. . . .

The Cleveland Quartet was the resident quartet at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y.

"We came to the **Eastman School** because we were each interested in studying with one of the faculty members here," said Ying. "We were off doing our own things in the years before that.

"An all-sibling quartet was an idea that was in the back of our minds," he said. "We kind of thought it would be fun to try, and then we dismissed it as maybe a little bit too much like the Jackson 5 or something like that. We realized by all coming to **Eastman**, we would finally have a chance to see if it would work or not. And the Cleveland Quartet were very encouraging to us."

(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.)