



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

Eastman Jazz Ensemble

Christine Jensen, director

**Charles Pillow, guest artist:
arranger & saxophones**

Clay Jenkins, trumpet soloist

Sara Gazarek, vocalist

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
Kilbourn Hall
7:30 PM

~ PROGRAM ~
Eastman Jazz Ensemble
Christine Jensen, *director*

*A Concert in Celebration of Black History Month
featuring works of Miles Davis*

Not Too Far From Home* **Jack Snelling**
*Aaron Ouellette, flugelhorn; Thomas McCloskey, bass clarinet
Jack Snelling, conductor*

On The Sunny Side of the Street **Dorothy Fields/Jimmy McHugh**
Arr. Quincy Jones
Sara Gazarek, vocals; Clay Jenkins, trumpet

CELEBRATING ACOUSTIC MILES

Yesterdays **Jerome Kern**
Arr. Dennis Mackrel
Haik Demirchian, trombone

Blues For Pablo **Gil Evans**
John Hasselback III, trumpet

Bess You Is My Woman Now **George Gershwin**
Arr. Gil Evans
Wesley Benjamin, trumpet

Seven Steps To Heaven **Miles Davis/Victor Feldman**
arr. Manny Mendelson
*Sebastian Claas, bass; Dan Mach-Holt, trombone
Adam Aronesty, tenor saxophone; Ryan Barski, drums*

*denotes student premiere

~ INTERMISSION ~

CELEBRATING ELECTRIC MILES *Music adapted and arranged by Charles Pillow*

It's About That Time **Miles Davis**

Rated X **Miles Davis**

Willie Nelson/Ife

Miles Davis

In A Silent Way

Clay Jenkins, *trumpet*; Charles Pillow, *soprano saxophone*

Joe Zawinul

~ PERSONNEL ~
Eastman Jazz Ensemble

Woodwinds

Shane McCandless
Dylan Knowles
Adam Aronesty
Sarah Navratil
Thomas McCloskey

Trumpets

Steve Sharp
John Hasselback III
Aaron Ouellette
Wesley Benjamin

Trombones

Ben Sneider
Haik Demirchian
Aidan Fuller
Ben Jalensky

Bass Trombone and Tuba

Dan Mach-Holt

Piano and Keyboards

Jack Snelling
Misha Studenkov

Guitar

Aiden Bartholet

Acoustic and Electric Bass

Oliver Gomez
Sebastian Claas

Drums

Ryan Barski
Andrew Goyette

~ PROGRAM NOTES ~

It is Black History month and The Eastman Jazz Ensemble is excited to present an evening of music highlighting the influence and innovation that Miles Davis brought to jazz from the '40's up until his death in 1991.

We are celebrating Miles' legacy, highlighting the arrangements of faculty member Prof. Charles Pillow.

Davis left a vast legacy with his recordings. In tonight's concert we are focussing on his earlier works and late 60's works, including compositions by Victor Feldman and Gil Evans. The ensemble is especially excited to perform the arrangements of faculty member Charles Pillow, highlighting works from his recent *Electric Miles* Project. He produced and arranged two albums of the music of Davis-penned tunes aptly celebrated the music of the jazz legend within the 1969-72 period, of which he also conducts and performs on. Summit Records released *Electric Miles* and *Electric Miles Vol. II* - Charles Pillow Large Ensemble respectively in 2018 and 2023.

More on Charles Pillow's *Electric Miles* albums:

The sound of *Bitches Brew* – the bass clarinet and multiple keyboards – was unheard of at the time. Almost every aspect of this 1969 release was new; the loose, yet guide-post like structures in the music, the post production techniques that Teo Macero used putting it together, the fact that it was a double album, even the liner notes, all pointed to a new direction in jazz. On *Electric Miles*, Pillow and his large ensemble draws attention to the music that featured jazz stalwarts such as **Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, Lenny White, Jack DeJohnette, John McLaughlin, Joe Zawinul, Wayne Shorter, Dave Liebman and Dave Holland.** *Electric Miles* centers around compositions from *Bitches Brew, Jack Johnson,* and *In a Silent Way* – all skillfully arranged for big band.

Originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Pillow studied at **Loyola University** before pursuing his Masters Degree in Jazz Studies at the prestigious **Eastman School of Music**, in Rochester, NY. Since moving to NYC in 1987, he has appeared on over 100 recordings with both jazz and pop luminaries such as **Frank Sinatra, Mariah Carey, Jay Z, Luther Vandross, Paul Simon, Brad Mehldau, Michael Brecker, Bruce Springsteen, John Scofield, Tom Harrell, Dave Liebman, David Sanborn,** to name a few. In addition to an active performing and recording schedule, he is an Assistant Professor of Jazz Saxophone at the Eastman school of Music.

~ MEET THE ARTISTS ~

Clay Jenkins' career as a jazz artist has covered a wide range of musical experiences and responsibilities, bringing him to the forefront of the jazz performing and teaching arenas.

Clay's experience as a performer began at an early age, playing and recording with the Stan Kenton Orchestra. In 1978, Clay moved to Los Angeles, where he was in demand as a performer and studio recording musician, and toured with the big bands of Buddy Rich and the Count Basie Orchestra.

Since moving to Rochester, New York in 2000 to join the Eastman faculty, Clay has maintained a busy performing, recording, and teaching schedule. He has remained active throughout the United States and abroad. Clay continues to perform and record with the Clayton/Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, of which he is a charter member and whose trumpet section also included the great Eugene "Snooky" Young (1919-2011).

Clay's close friendship with Snooky Young led to three guest appearances at Eastman by the great trumpet player, and Clay recently established the "Snooky Young Endowed Scholarship" at Eastman to assist under-represented minority students. Clay is currently writing a biography of Snooky Young's life.

Clay has performed on over one hundred recordings. He has released seven solo recordings under his name, and as a co-leader, he has recorded with Gene Bertoncini, Kim Richmond, and Don Aliquo. Additionally, Clay has also recorded with Joe LaBarbera's Quintet, The Clayton/Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, Harold Danko, Rufus Reid, Alan Ferber, and Charles Pillow. Clay also records with his Eastman colleagues Jeff Campbell and Rich Thompson as "Trio East." Clay's latest recording project, soon to be released, included guitarists Gene Bertoncini and Larry Koonse, drummers Joe La Barbera and Jeff Hamilton, and bassist John Clayton.

Clay attended North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas) where he earned his bachelor's degree in music theory. He received his master's degree in jazz studies from the University of Southern California.

Clay plays Edwards Trumpets and is a performing artist for The Edwards Instrument Company.

Graced with an "impeccable" voice (Winnipeg Free Press) and hailed as an artist who "may well turn out to be the next important jazz singer" by the LA Times, two-time GRAMMY Award® nominated vocalist **Sara Gazarek** has been one of the leading lights of an impressive generation of jazz vocalists since her brilliant emergence at age 20. While her subsequent career has been the picture of success – highlighted by five critically acclaimed albums, numerous world tours, an ardent fanbase, enthusiastic reviews, a teaching position at the University of Southern California and collaborations with such luminaries as Kurt Elling, Fred Hersch, Billy Childs and Larry Goldings, it is with her latest double-GRAMMY® nominated album, *Thirsty Ghost*, and most recent four-song EP, *Vanity*, that Gazarek brings her musical expression stunningly into phase with her emotional maturity. Gazarek is a founding member of the all-female, GRAMMY® nominated vocal ensemble, *säje*, and currently serves as Governor of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Recording Academy.

Upcoming Concerts

Events are free unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, February 14

Musica Nova

Music of Wu, Murail, Scelsi, and Lubman
Brad Lubman and Luke Poepel, conductors
Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre • 7:30PM

Sunday, February 18

Eastman Repertory Singers & Treble Chorus

Music of Britten, Talma, Kacinskas, Peacock, Brahms,
Rutter, Tay, Gibbons, and Mozart
Philip Silvey, Colin Mann, and Jiabao Guo, conductors
Kilbourn Hall • 7:30PM

Wednesday, February 21

Eastman New Jazz Ensemble

Dave Rivello, director
Kilbourn Hall • 7:30PM

Friday, February 23

Eastman Wind Orchestra

Music of Husa, Yurko, McCune, Stucky, and Sierra
Mark Davis Scatterday, conductor
Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre • 7:30PM

Monday, February 26

Eastman Wind Ensemble

Music of Bach, Daugherty, and Simon
Mark Davis Scatterday and Luke Camarillo, conductors
Featuring Justin Benavidez, tuba
Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre • 7:30PM

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.

Information about upcoming Eastman concerts and events can be found at:
www.esm.rochester.edu/calendar

Kilbourn Hall fire exits are located along the right and left sides, and at the back of the hall. In the event of an emergency, you will be notified by the stage manager. If notified, please move in a calm and orderly fashion to the nearest exit.

A **fully accessible restroom** is located on the main floor of the Eastman School of Music. Our ushers will be happy to direct you to this facility.

Please note: The use of unauthorized photo-graphic and recording equipment is not allowed in this building. We reserve the right to ask anyone disrupting a performance to leave the hall.

Supporting the Eastman School of Music:

We at the Eastman School of Music are grateful for the generous contributions made by friends, parents, and alumni, as well as local and national foundations and corporations. Gifts and grants to the School support student scholarships, performance and academic facilities, educational initiatives, and programs open to the greater Rochester community. Every gift, no matter the size, is vital to enhancing Eastman's commitment to excellence. For more information on making a gift, please visit www.esm.rochester.edu/advancement or contact the Advancement Office by calling (585) 274-1040.
Thank you!