The Ray Conniff Jazz Ensemble Series

Eastman Jazz Orchestra

Christine Jensen,

director

Manuel Valera,

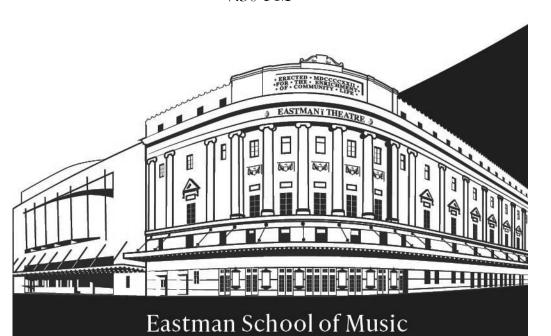
guest artist faculty - composition and piano

Eastman New Jazz Orchestra

Dave Rivello,

director

Friday, December 5, 2025 Kilbourn Hall 7:30 PM



~ PROGRAM ~ Eastman New Jazz Orchestra Dave Rivello, director

Fortnight With Ferguson

Russell Schmidt**

Jack Horvath, soprano saxophone Ryan Vasquez, trumpet Coleman Breining, drums

Pond Miniatures

Israel Stone*

Reeds Wave

II. Turtle Shambles

Lane Hansen, baritone saxophone

III. Water-Strider Skates

Kate Malloy, piano Ethan Do, trombone Lane Hansen, baritone saxophone

Bradon Jones, drums

IV. Frog Croaks

Ethan Do, trombone

V. Pond Hums

Vision or Mirage

Nick Finzer**

arr. Zhengtao Pan*

Andrew Kim, *trombone*Tyler Waltner, *tenor saxophone*

Birds of Paradise

Carla Bley

Garnett Mueller, trombone
Israel Stone, trumpet
Julian Sachs, trumpet
Jack Horvath, tenor saxophone
Coleman Breining, drums
Kat Link, bass

Featuring Cece Santiago, violin

Fear and Solace

John Rarick**

Daniel Zawel, piano Andrew Kim, trombone

^{*} Denotes current student

^{**} Denotes alumni

~ PROGRAM ~ Eastman Jazz Orchestra

Christine Jensen, director

Late Date Melba Liston

Felix Schneider, *trumpet*Jack Kelly, *drums;* Sam Streeter, *trombone*

Danca Illusoria Maria Schneider

Camilo Baracaldo, piano Sam Streeter, trombone

His Thoughts* Wyatt Pepper

Wyatt Pepper, trumpet

You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To *

Arr. Camilo Baracaldo

Cole Porter

Ian Oliver, tenor saxophone Reyna Machado, drums

A Path To Follow Barefooted-Counting Sand Grains* Juan Saus Ruiz

Juan Saus Ruiz, alto saxophone

St. Louis Blues WC Handy

Arr. Bob Brookmeyer

Nelsen Campbell, trombone; Carter Bowman, alto saxophone Felix Schneider, trumpet; Cole Powers, piano

Remembered Manuel Valera

Wesley Benjamin, trumpet Dan Atkinson, trombone

Gemini Manuel Valera

Alvaro Caravaca, trumpet; Eric Paige, alto saxophone Manuel Valera, piano

Pathways Manuel Valera

Cameron Jones, tenor saxophone; Brendan Nie, bass Jack Kelly, drums

*denotes student premiere

~ PERSONNEL ~

Eastman New Jazz Orchestra

Reeds

Ryan Finegan Jacob Merrill Jack Horvath Tyler Waltner Lane Hansen

Trumpets

Israel Stone Ryan Vasquez Julian Sachs Mark Zeger Cole Pringle

Trombones

Andrew Kim Garnett Mueller Ethan Do Bec Caldwell

Guitar

Liam Ross

Piano

Daniel Zawel Kate Malloy

Bass

Erin Famous Kat Link

Drums

Braden Jones Coleman Breining

~ PERSONNEL ~

Eastman Jazz Orchestra

Woodwinds

Carter Bowman Eric Paige Ian Oliver Cameron Jones Allison Young

Trumpets

Felix Schneider Wyatt Pepper Wesley Benjamin Alvaro Caravaca Israel Stone

Trombones

Nelsen Campbell Dan Atkinson Sam Streeter Angel Paz

Piano

Camilo Baracaldo Cole Powers

Guitar

Will Anderson

Bass

Brenden Nie Danica Rebudiao

Drums

Reyna Machado Jack Kelly

Teaching Assistant: Sarah Jerrom

~ MEET THE ARTIST ~

Born and raised in Havana, Grammy nominated, Guggenheim Fellow, pianist and composer **Manuel Valera** since arriving in NYC has become well known in the modern jazz scene, garnering national reviews and lending his talents as a pianist and composer to such notable artists as Arturo Sandoval, Paquito D'Rivera, Brian Lynch, Dafnis Prieto, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Jeff "Tain" Watts, John Benitez, Samuel Torres, Yosvany Terry and classical violin virtuoso Joshua Bell among many others. In 2020 Valera joined Steve Smith's legendary music group Vital Information.

This dynamic and prolific artist has recorded 18 CDs as a bandleader with touring projects ranging from his Grammy nominated group New Cuban Express to his modern contemporary trio, solo piano and the New Cuban Express Big Band.

Valera is the recipient of many composition grants — most notably a 2019 Guggenheim Fellowship, Chamber Music America's New Jazz Works three different times, the Dranoff International Two Piano Foundation twice, and the ASCAP Young Jazz Composer Award. He has travelled the world performing in more than 30 countries at some of the biggest international venues and festivals in the world.

About The Ray Conniff Jazz Ensemble Series:

The Ray Conniff Jazz Ensemble Series is supported by The Ray and Vera Conniff Foundation, established in 2015 to honor the renowned Grammy-winning trombonist and arranger Ray Conniff. The foundation furthers Conniff 's legacy by supporting future generations of musicians through scholarships and financial support.



For the most up to date information on Eastman concerts and events, 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.

