

# 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



Eastman School of Music

~ 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\*

- I. 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*

<b>Late Date</b>	Felix Schneider, <i>trumpet</i> Jack Kelly, <i>drums</i> ; Sam Streeter, <i>trombone</i>	<b>Melba Liston</b>
<b>Danca Illusoria</b>	Camilo Baracaldo, <i>piano</i> Sam Streeter, <i>trombone</i>	<b>Maria Schneider</b>
<b>His Thoughts*</b>	Wyatt Pepper, <i>trumpet</i>	<b>Wyatt Pepper</b>
<b>You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To *</b>	Ian Oliver, <i>tenor saxophone</i> Reyna Machado, <i>drums</i>	<b>Cole Porter</b> <b>Arr. Camilo Baracaldo</b>
<b>A Path To Follow Barefooted-Counting Sand Grains*</b>	Juan Saus Ruiz, <i>alto saxophone</i>	<b>Juan Saus Ruiz</b>
<b>St. Louis Blues</b>	Nelsen Campbell, <i>trombone</i> ; Carter Bowman, <i>alto saxophone</i> Felix Schneider, <i>trumpet</i> ; Cole Powers, <i>piano</i>	<b>WC Handy</b> <b>Arr. Bob Brookmeyer</b>
<b>Remembered</b>	Wesley Benjamin, <i>trumpet</i> Dan Atkinson, <i>trombone</i>	<b>Manuel Valera</b>
<b>Gemini</b>	Alvaro Caravaca, <i>trumpet</i> ; Eric Paige, <i>alto saxophone</i> Manuel Valera, <i>piano</i>	<b>Manuel Valera</b>
<b>Pathways</b>	Cameron Jones, <i>tenor saxophone</i> ; Brendan Nie, <i>bass</i> Jack Kelly, <i>drums</i>	<b>Manuel Valera</b>

~ 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

*\*denotes student premiere*

~ **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.*



**University  
of Rochester**  
Eastman School of Music