

# The Ray Conniff Jazz Ensemble Series

## Eastman Jazz Orchestra

Christine Jensen,  
*director*

## Eastman New Jazz Orchestra

Dave Rivello,  
*director*  
Ines Velasco,  
*guest composer and conductor*

Thursday, April 9, 2026  
Kilbourn Hall  
7:30 PM



Eastman School of Music

### ~ PROGRAM ~ Eastman New Jazz Orchestra Dave Rivello, *director*

For Lene

Matilda Lorenz, *voice*  
Jack Horvath, *tenor saxophone*

Ines Velasco

#### A Flash of Cobalt Blue Ines Velasco

I. Todo Está Por Deci

Jack Horvath, *tenor saxophone*  
Lane Hansen, *bass clarinet*  
Erin Famous, *bass*

II. The Heron Crosses

Liam Ross, *guitar*  
Coleman Breining, *drums*

III. This Is The Way Down

Lauren Gibson, *voice*  
Garnet Muller, *trombone*

IV. In The Tropical Night

Israel Stone, *trumpet*  
Julian Sachs, *flugelhorn*

V. Vauxhall

Israel Stone, *trumpet*  
Ryan Finegan, *alto saxophone*  
Braden Jones, *drums*

VI. Cae La Nieve

Cole Powers, *piano*  
Tyler Waltner, *tenor saxophone*

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

Late Date Melba Liston

Felix Schneider, *trumpet*  
Sam Streeter, *trombone*; Reyna Machado, *drums*

The Touch of Your Lips Ray Noble  
arr. Michael Abene

Dan Atkinson, *trombone*  
Lang Armstrong, *alto saxophone*; Danica Rebudiao, *bass*

Three Romances Part III: Dança Illusória Maria Schneider

Sarah Jerrom, *conductor*  
Camilo Baracaldo, *piano*; Sam Streeter, *trombone*

Sing, Sing, Sing arr. Jim McNeely

Carter Bowman, *soprano saxophone*  
Reyna Machado, *drums*

The Jitterbug Waltz Thomas Wright 'Fats' Waller  
arr. Bill Dobbins

Daniel Zawel, *piano*  
Will Anderson, *guitar*

The Peacocks Jimmy Rowles  
arr. Bill Holman

Allison Young, *baritone saxophone*

Don't Git Sassy Thad Jones

Wyatt Pepper, *trumpet*; Felix Schneider, *trumpet*  
Wesley Benjamin, *trumpet*; Alvaro Caravaca, *trumpet*  
Dan Atkinson, *trombone*; Nelsen Campbell, *trombone*  
Cameron Jones, *tenor saxophone*; Ian Oliver, *tenor saxophone*

~ PERSONNEL ~  
Eastman New Jazz Orchestra

**Narration**  
Juan Saus Ruiz **Guitar**  
Liam Ross

**Reeds**  
Ryan Finegan  
Jacob Merrill  
Jack Horvath  
Tyler Waltner  
Lane Hansen **Piano**  
Kate Molloy  
Cole Powers

**Trumpets**  
Israel Stone  
Ryan Vasquez  
Julian Sachs  
Mark Zeger **Bass**  
Erin Famous  
Kat Link

**Trombones**  
Andrew Kim  
Garnet Muller  
Ethan Do  
Thomas Leethouts **Drums**  
Braden Jones  
Coleman Breining

**Voice**  
Lauren Gibson  
Matilda Lorenz

~ MEET THE ARTIST ~

**Inés Velasco** is a Brooklyn based composer, arranger and drummer born in Guadalajara, México. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Berklee College of Music with a dual degree in Jazz Composition and Performance. While at Berklee, she was awarded the Tadd Dameron as well as the Quincy Jones Awards from the Contemporary Writing Division.

Ms. Velasco's recent work includes compositions for the National Jazz Orchestra of México, string arrangements for the NY Philharmonic's 'Bandwagon' series with vocalist Juana Luna, as well as Alina Engirbayan's CD 'We Are' (GroundUP, 2018), orchestration/transcription work including Avenged Sevenfold's last studio album 'Life Is But a Dream' (Warner, 2023), and for Snarky Puppy/Metropole Orkest's performance at the North Sea Jazz Festival in 2018. She was chosen to participate in the 2014 Metropole Orkest's 'Arranger's Workshop', under the tutelage of Vince Mendoza, where she arranged for jazz vocalist Gregory Porter.

She released her first EP 'Three Stories' in December of 2022, and it was featured in JAZZIZ Magazine Summer Edition's Discovery Sampler 'Big Sounds'. Her debut large ensemble album 'A Flash of Cobalt Blue' was released on June 6, 2024, was featured on NPR, Alt Latino, Radio France, Mondo Jazz, and received 4 stars on Downbeat Magazine (September 2025 issue) and All Music. [www.inesvelascomusic.com](http://www.inesvelascomusic.com)

~ **PERSONNEL** ~  
*Eastman Jazz Orchestra*

**Woodwinds**

Carter Bowman  
Lang Armstrong  
Ian Oliver  
Cameron Jones  
Allison Young

**Trumpets**

Felix Schneider  
Wyatt Pepper  
Wesley Benjamin  
Alvaro Caravaca

**Trombones**

Nelsen Campbell  
Dan Atkinson  
Sam Streeter  
Angel Paz

**Piano**

Camilo Baracaldo  
Daniel Zawel

**Guitar**

Will Anderson

**Bass**

Brenden Nie  
Danica Rebudiao

**Drums**

Reyna Machado  
Jack Kelly

*Teaching Assistant: Sarah Jerrom*

~ **TEXTS** ~

Poem excerpts from the book  
*Descripción De Un Brillo Azul Cobalto*  
by Jorge Esquinca

**1. Todo Está Por Decir**

Everything remains to be said / the impulse in the feet / of that girl /  
María / who ascends into the trees / in one leap / settles /  
there in the upper branches / sways / a long time standing / one branch to  
another / here to there / placing her fate / in others' hands /  
everything remains to be said / my father /  
truly believed in heaven / le gentil Nerval /  
used to pull along behind him / a crab tied with a ribbon / dreams are a  
second life / said my father without a voice / releasing the ribbon /  
that tied him to the crab / everything remains to be said /

**2. The Heron Crosses**

The gardens open / in a gust of wind / the walls open / the heron glides /  
enters / settles / keeps silent / keeps the silence / like a motionless /  
flame / it watches us / it knows / the place and the hour /  
never before nor after / "God is the sun" /  
he said without a voice / I couldn't hear him / a gust disperses /  
the gardens / a gust of wind / her sweet dark saliva / the heron stays /  
still / watchful / quiet / and no one / they say / can see the sun /  
in dreams /

**3. This Is The Way Down**

This is the way down / she said the nameless one / here you descend / into  
what no one / of woman born / has ever seen / here you are / she said /  
the shadowed one / walk this way / this is the way down / she said / the  
invisible one / from here you must walk / no one has ever returned to  
tell of it / follow me / there into the dark / she said / unless he sings /

#### 4. In The Tropical Night

In the tropical night / someone tolls a bell /  
under the river / my father's footsteps echo /  
in another street / in another time /  
Rue de la Vieille-Lanterne / eighteen below zero /  
the crab heavier than a rock /  
in the Tuxtla night / that is suddenly cold as a morgue / my father comes  
forward the fog rolls in / I can't see a thing / the air has turned solid /  
the crab is a chunk of crystal /  
le gentil Nerval / pays the bill / picks up his hat / takes the crab off the  
table / the notes of a piano break / against the hardened air /  
there goes my father in the Tuxtla night /  
kicking his way through the ice / the houses have lost their color /  
we can hardly see him / he has put on his hat / he buttons his frock coat /  
checks his watch minds / the crab in his pocket / but it's a chunk of crystal  
glowing like a coal / in the alleyway of the old lantern /  
it's so cold / that thoughts come to a stop / death by hanging /  
says the report / the birds frozen at dawn / in the streets of Paris /  
the tropics trapped inside a glacier /

#### 5. Vauxhall

As the crow flies / I am trailing the blue car /  
as it travels on / takes a curve / disappears  
behind a hill / re-emerges / resplendent / the Vauxhall keeps to the road  
bluely / four vibrating cylinders headed to the sea / skimming the ground  
I follow it / pulsing cobalt blue I travel on / beneath the sun as it falls /  
implacably over the slanting / palms and burnishes the magnetic /  
strip of the highway /

#### 6. Cae La Nieve

Snow is falling / on the table where my father / is writing lines in red ink /  
in which he asks / not to die / snow is falling / dissolving the words /  
in the hospital the notes / of a piano resound / "closing time" they tell him  
/ he can't hear / he takes out another sheet of paper / adjusts his hat / be-  
gins a prayer / the storm / beats against the table / the crab catches on fire  
/ a live coal a beating pulse / snow is falling in his hospital room /  
"closing time" / he can't hear them /  
lost as a bird in the whiteness of the night / writing lines so as not to die /  
the crab slides off the table / and falls among the sheets where my father /  
lies writing a star / the Parisian night the flight of an angel /  
the Egyptian music of a hospital / what he is writing melts into the snow /

#### 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.



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*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.*



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of Rochester  
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