



Selected Coverage February 2009

National

All About Jazz
Arizona Daily Star
Broadway World
Canada Toronto Star
Fort Worth Star Telegram
Jazz Police
Kalamazoo Gazette
Los Angeles Times
New York Times

Local & Regional

Adirondack Daily Enterprise
Democrat & Chronicle
The Ithacan Online
MPNnow.com/Messenger
Post
RNews
WHEC TV
WROC TV
WXXI

HIGHLIGHTS

New York Times (February 15)

For Two Jazzmen, Life Meant Work on the Road

From the day she was born, Elizabeth Niewood kept what she called a “daddy doll,” a cloth figure about 18 inches tall with a shock of ochre yarn for hair and eyes stitched with light blue thread. The doll was made to look like her father, the saxophonist Gerry Niewood, and was a gift from a family friend intended to comfort Ms. Niewood whenever her father was out of town plying his trade. The doll now has greater poignancy for Ms. Niewood, who is 23: her father was on his way to perform at a concert when he was killed on Thursday night in the crash of Flight 3407

Mr. Niewood, 64, and Coleman Mellett, 33, were scheduled to perform with the jazz musician Chuck Mangione when their Continental Connection flight from Newark slammed into a house as it approached the Buffalo airport, killing all 49 aboard

“Ever since Sept. 11, he said the travel has been harder on him,” said Bob Sneider, a jazz musician and a friend of Mr. Mellett’s who teaches at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y. “But music was his passion, and he loved to go and perform for people.” (*Note: Mr. Niewood was an Eastman graduate; related news stories in the report.*)

Fort Worth Star Telegram (February 19)

In New York, Cliburn hopefuls take first steps in a long journey

With a prize package that includes a recording contract, concert tour management and gold-medal prestige, the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition looms over the classical music landscape as the Mount Everest of competitions.

Some 40 hopefuls took their first real steps in climbing that peak at New York’s Rockefeller University this week, and the final group of contestants will audition in Fort Worth beginning Saturday.

Zhang Zuo, 20, from China is making her first try at the Cliburn. A student at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., she dazzled the audience with her performances of Ravel’s *Gaspard de la Nuit* and Liszt’s *Spanish Rhapsody*. By the end of her recital, she was being tipped as one of the competitors to beat.

"Even so early, the Van Cliburn already has such huge pressure," Zuo observes. "But it's a good kind of pressure; I feel so motivated."

Canada Toronto Star (February 1)

Putting song to silent films

In the 1920s, before anyone imagined that movies might have soundtracks, the Rudolf Wurlitzer Company did a steady trade in installing pipe organs in theatres where silent films were playing.

The advent of the theatre accompanist, first organists and then pianists, was a boon to keyboardists, says William O'Meara. The **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester actually began as a training centre for theatre accompanists.

Adirondack Daily Enterprise (February 2)

Award-winning musicians to visit Tupper schools

An award-winning student woodwind quintet will be visiting Tupper Lake's schools on Wednesday and Thursday. Arabesque Winds, from the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, will give a short performance at a reception in the cafeteria of the middle-high school from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

The quintet won the Harvard Musical Association's Arthur W. Foote prize in December 2008, and in May 2008 it won the Grand Prize in the 2008 International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition, according to the school's Web site. In February 2009, the ensemble will travel to Europe to participate in two competitions: the 35th Premio Vittorio Gui in Florence and the fifth-annual Henri Tomasi International Woodwind Quintet Competition in Marseille.

Arabesque Winds consists of Isabel Kim, clarinet; Liz Spector, oboe; Eryn Bauer, bassoon; Deidre Huckabay, flute; and Sophia Goluses, horn. (*Also follow-up article on Feb. 7*)

Democrat & Chronicle (February 4)

Soprano found her Baroque calling as Eastman student

Julianne Baird — a leading soprano in early music with more than 100 recordings to her name — didn't come to the **Eastman School of Music** to sing Baroque operas and cantatas. But that's inevitably what happened.

"I may have come with the right equipment to Eastman, but it took someone there to point it out

to me," says Baird, who graduated from Eastman in 1973 with a bachelor's and in 1976 with her master's. "I was probably torturing myself and others by trying to sing Puccini."

It was Erich Schwandt, a musicology professor, who taught her all about improvised ornamenting of Baroque vocal lines (one of her signatures), pronunciation of foreign languages from the 16th and 17th centuries and how to sing recitative (melodic speaking) with unabashed dramatics. He even taught her the rare skill of how to tune a harpsichord. She is now a professor at Rutgers University in Camden, N.J.

"These days, I'm really grateful," she says. "I direct my own madrigal choir here at Rutgers, and I have to tune the harpsichord." (*Also reported by City newspaper*)

Broadway World (February 6)

Nicole Cabell Makes Her Roy Thomson Hall Debut 3/8

American soprano Nicole Cabell, winner of the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition in 2005, makes her Roy Thomson Hall debut on Sunday, March 8 at 2 pm. She is joined by pianist Spencer Myer for a captivating program of art songs by Liszt, Obradors, Guastavino and Gordon, plus Leonard Bernstein's delightful song-cycle *I Hate Music*, and a selection of spirituals. The concert, part of Roy Thomson Hall's International Vocal Recitals, will be recorded live by CBC Radio for future broadcast.

Ms. Cabell, a native of California, is of mixed African-American, Korean and Caucasian ancestry. She studied at Rochester's **Eastman School of Music** and briefly at the Juilliard School of Music before joining the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Her two main mentors have been the renowned American mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne and Sir Andrew Davis, Conductor Laureate of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Democrat & Chronicle (February 8)

3 organ concerts here to air nationwide

Michael Barone, host of the nationally syndicated radio program *Pipedreams*, will host and record three concerts in Rochester featuring **Eastman**

School of Music students and faculty playing three of the city's finest organs. Selections will run the musical gamut from Bach to Gershwin.

Concerts are at 7 p.m. Feb. 13 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park; 7 p.m. Feb. 14 at Christ Church, 141 East Ave.; and 2:30 p.m. Feb. 15 at the Auditorium Theatre, 885 E. Main St. All are free and open to the public.

At the Feb. 13 concert at the Cathedral, Eastman professors David Higgs and William Porter will join their students in a two-hour performance followed by a reception. Since seating at all performances is unreserved, the public is encouraged to arrive early. Doors open one hour prior to each concert.

The event is co-sponsored by WXXI, the Eastman School of Music, the Rochester Theater Organ Society, and the Rochester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. *(Also reported by City newspaper, Democrat & Chronicle WEEKEND.)*

Democrat & Chronicle (February 10) **Eastman School of Music graduate wins two Grammys**

Eastman School of Music graduate Anthony Dean Griffey, a tenor, picked up two Grammy Awards Sunday night, in the categories of Best Classical Album and Best Opera Recording, for a EuroArt recording of Weill's *Rise And Fall Of The City Of Mahagonny*. The recording was conducted by James Conlon with the Los Angeles Opera.

Griffey beat out two Eastman connections in the Best Opera Recording category: faculty member Paul O'Dette, who was nominated for conducting the Boston Early Music Festival's recording of Lully's *Psyché*; and alumna Renée Fleming, a soprano, who was nominated for performing in a Decca recording of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* with the Metropolitan Opera. *(Also reported by WXXI, WHEC-TV, RNews, The Daily News, Greensboro News and Record)*

Democrat and Chronicle (February 11) **Guitar quartet thrives on the unexpected**

In the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet's early years (three record companies ago, to be exact), it once agreed to a zany recording for Disney in which it

played the Electrical Street Parade theme in the style of Vivaldi.

It's the never-say-never attitude that got the LAGQ where it is, turning a niche ensemble into a popular sensation. Four guitars, as it turns out when Kanengiser, John Dearman, Scott Tennant and Matthew Greif play together, can sound like almost anything.

"I think the (classical) guitar is becoming very much in the mainstream more and more," says Nicholas Goluses, professor of guitar at the **Eastman School of Music**. "A lot of it has to do with ensembles like the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet. They are huge, and they are huge for a good reason. They really connect with audiences." *(Also covered by City newspaper, Democrat & Chronicle WEEKEND.)*

The Ithacan Online (February 12) **New Orleans music makes way to Ithaca**

Since October 2007, seven students from Rochester's **Eastman School of Music** calling themselves The Po'Boys Brass Band have been creating a new genre of New Orleans brass funk rock. Using jazz instruments to create an un-jazz-like sound, The Po'Boys Brass Band will play at 9 p.m. Sunday at Castaways with local band The Buddhi. Staff Writer Sarah McCarthy spoke with trombone player and founding member Erik Jacobs about bringing New Orleans flavor to upstate New York, covering Led Zeppelin and finding a fan base that fits.

MPNnow.com (February 12) **Companions in brass make a 'Joyful Noise'**

Back in 2006, trumpeter Brett Long put a notice up around **Eastman School of Music**, seeing who might be interested in forming a brass quintet. Exactly five people showed up, said trombonist Chris Van Hof — and thus was born the Emerald Brass Quintet.

The chamber group has gone through a few personnel changes — not surprising considering it's traditionally been Eastman students, some of whom have finished their studies and relocated — but it's still going strong, performing a range of music for trombone, French horn, tuba and two trumpets. There's the traditional repertoire written

for brass, plus arrangements of other pieces, and some pops and contemporary works.

Democrat & Chronicle (February 14)
Buffalo crash silences Gerry Niewood, Rochester native and saxophonist

Rochester native Gerry Niewood, whose jazz saxophone was a familiar sound for four decades in venues ranging from the downtown Rochester Shakespeare Lounge to Saturday Night Live, was among the victims of Thursday night's Continental Airlines crash.

Mr. Niewood, who was 65, was on his way to Buffalo to play in Friday night's Chuck Mangione concert at Kleinhans Music Hall. The two had known each other since childhood, both growing up in the area around Clinton and Joseph avenues.

Mr. Niewood — who played alto, tenor, baritone and soprano sax, as well as piccolo, clarinet and alto and bass flute — was a Rochester native who lived in New Jersey. He began playing sax at age 8 and was soon in a number of jazz bands, including a 10-piece band with Mangione while they were students at Franklin High School.

Mr. Niewood moved on to the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he earned a degree in industrial relations. But he soon returned to Rochester and music, picking up a bachelor of music degree in 1970 from the University of Rochester's **Eastman School of Music**, while playing in bands such as Herbie Gale & the Five Gales.

The last time Mr. Niewood played a concert here was at last year's Rochester International Jazz Festival.

Local guitarist Bob Sneider, who played with Niewood in Mangione's band during the '90s, said: "I had just spoken to him, via e-mail, trying to hook up, get him back here to play in May or June. He was one of those friends I'll never forget. I was just a young punk trying to learn the gig. He was just a really great cat."

Sneider had also grown close to Mellett, meeting him at the Friends and Love concerts and inviting Mellett and Jeanie Bryson to perform with him at the Strathallan hotel last summer.

(Also reported by USA Today, The Buffalo News, WHEC-TV, 13WHAM-TV, R News, Rochester City Newspaper and others)

Democrat & Chronicle (February 17)
Violinist, teacher shares his love of music

In the few years that David Leung has lived in Rochester, he has transformed from student to professor and taken leadership roles in several local musical groups. Leung plays violin and recently earned his doctorate of musical arts from the **Eastman School of Music**. The 29-year-old is now a professor at both Roberts Wesleyan College and University at Buffalo. He also is the concertmaster of the Brighton Symphony Orchestra and a freelance violinist for the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Now Leung is looking forward to playing a recital at Carnegie Hall this spring. He and a friend are playing a violin and clarinet duo with piano accompaniment. The concert will be featuring pieces written by Chinese composers and all the musicians in the concert are Eastman students or alumni and are Chinese. The recital is in the Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall on April 9.

Kalamazoo Gazette (February 18)
Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra names new executive director

Jennifer Barlament says taking the job of executive director of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra will be a kind of homecoming for her. The 35-year-old, who is currently general manager of the Omaha Symphony, was born in Chicago and worked as director of special projects for the Detroit Symphony early in her career. She also spent time in the Detroit suburb of Farmington as a child. So when she relocates to Kalamazoo in mid-April to start her new job, "it will feel almost like I'm coming home to Michigan," she said in a telephone interview from her office in Omaha, Neb.

Music has been a key part of Barlament's life since she began studying the clarinet in fourth grade. In high school, she took up the violin and eventually became concertmaster of her youth orchestra. She earned a bachelor's in music at Emory University and a master's in clarinet performance from the **Eastman School of Music**.

Los Angeles Times (February 13)
Trumpeter Jon Hassell strikes cosmic-sexy balance

The musician and his band Maarifa Street, who'll be at UCLA's Royce Hall tonight, stretch the boundaries of jazz music with their hybrid sound. Trumpet player-composer Jon Hassell is an artist with endless enthusiasm for the ways music and art can connect -- he's best known for drifting ambient jazz that marries rhythmic and tonal sources from the ancient world with space-age digital technology.

Tonight, Hassell and his band Maarifa Street will bring his indefinable sound to UCLA's Royce Hall, part of his first U.S. tour in 20 years, supporting his recently released ECM collection, "Last night the moon came dropping its clothes in the street."

Its unusual title, from a work by 13th century poet Jalaluddin Rumi, refers in part to the prolonged process of the music's conception and assembly, which took place in studios in the south of France and in Los Angeles.

"The moon is dropping its clothes in the street," he said, "I thought, well, here's one line that's completely cosmic and completely sexy at the same time."

That cosmic-sexy balance -- and his expressed desire "to make something which is extravagantly beautiful" -- has obsessed Hassell in one way or another since his student days. The Memphis-born musician grew up daydreaming about the music of Les Baxter and Eden Ahbez and went on to earn a degree in theory and composition at the renowned **Eastman School** and to study electronic and serial music with German electronic pioneer Karlheinz Stockhausen in the late '60s. *(also reported by Jazz Police)*

WROC TV (February 20)
Eastman Student Finalist For Online Orchestra Contest

Music is a big part of Nick Fitton's life. A flute performance major at the **Eastman School of Music**, Nick's always making music. Recently he and some of his friends entered a symphony orchestra contest on Youtube.

Nick performed the piccolo part in "Bach's Partita". Much to his surprise he was chosen as one of three finalists across the world. "There's so much talent all over the place and for me to be picked was such an honor," said Nick.

Registered Youtube users are voting for their favorite. If Nick wins he'll be flown to Yew York City in April to perform at Carnegie Hall. He'll get to play for world renowned conductor Tilson Thomas. *(Also reported on WHEC TV)*

Arizona Daily Star (February 23)
Bonnie Henry: For philanthropist, 'Life is a rhythm'

Don't ask Norma Zimdahl questions anywhere near a piano — unless you want her to launch into a musical number. ... Only after we've gotten her away from the Steinway and into her den are we really able to delve into her life. And what a life it's been: Broadway plays, a record album, comedy skits with Sid Caesar, rave reviews by newspaper columnist Walter Winchell.

The raves continue for Zimdahl —stage name Norma Douglas — both as performer and philanthropist.

At not quite 16, she enrolled at the prestigious **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y. There, she was approached by an adman looking to fill a 15-minute TV show in Rochester. ... She did the show, "A Girl, a Boy and a Piano," for a couple of years, then headed for New York City. During her 20s, she performed in a couple of Broadway musicals, toured with Fred Waring's orchestra, appeared with Arthur Godfrey on radio and television, snared star billing at the Waldorf-Astoria's Empire Room and recorded an album, "The Dynamic Miss Douglas," which had Winchell rhapsodizing, "She doesn't sing like a singer; she sings like an instrument."

All About Jazz (February 24)
Painted Bride Art Center and John Hollenbeck Collaborate on Big Ears Residency Program

Painted Bride Art Center proudly presents Big Ears, an ambitious residency program that brings together New York-based drummer/composer John Hollenbeck with a dozen Philadelphia jazz musicians. A call to artists, followed by a rigorous

selection process, has yielded a group of local artists that transects age, gender, ethnicity, and musical heritage. The program concludes on March 6 with the premiere of new music that Hollenbeck has composed for the group. . . .

As a composer, Hollenbeck combines elements of his experiences in jazz and world music. The recipient of a B.M. in Percussion (1990) and a M.M. in Jazz Composition (1991) from the **Eastman School of Music**, Hollenbeck has received many awards and commissions including a National Endowment grant to study composition with Bob Brookmeyer in 1994 and a Meet the Composer's Grant in 1995 and 2001.

All About Jazz (February 24)

Rick Haydon, Reggie and Mardra Thomas Release Eastern Central Pacific

Guitarist Rick Haydon, keyboardist Reggie Thomas and singer Mardra Thomas have collaborated on a new CD released by the St. Louis-based Victoria Records label.

Titled Eastern Central Pacific, the disc features jazz standards performed by Haydon and the Thomases with help from drummer Harold Jones, a jazz veteran who has played with stars including Count Basie, Eddie Harris and Tony Bennett, and bassist Jeff Campbell, a member of the Rochester (NY) Philharmonic Orchestra and a faculty member at **Eastman School of Music**. Campbell also is the program director at the Birch Creek Music Performance Center in Wisconsin, and that's where the group, dubbed Standard Time for purposes of the CD, came together while the various members were teaching summer sessions there.

MLive.com/Michigan Online (February 26) **'Fiddler on the Roof' brings its universal message to Detroit**

Performing in the beloved musical "Fiddler On the Roof" is more than just "tradition" -- to borrow a line from the lead character, Tevye. It's a privilege, said Susan Cella, who plays Tevye's wife, Golde. . . . Cella, who's from Boston, studied at the **Eastman School of Music** at the University of Rochester and moved to New York after college.

Maryland Gazette (February 26)

'Winds, Strings, and Other Things' at Chamber Series

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Chamber Series returns to Frederick Community College's Jack B. Kussmaul Theater at 3 p.m., Monday with "Winds, Strings, and Other Things." The program includes an eclectic blend of chamber music hits for winds, strings and piano, featuring seven BSO winds and strings players and a guest pianist in performances of music by Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, and Jean Francaix.

Contrabassoonist David Coombs has been a member of the BSO since 1982. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester and a master's degree in music theory from the **Eastman School of Music**.

WXXI.org (February 26)

King-Size Crowds for the King of Instruments

When times get tough, the tough collaborate! Such was the case for the three-day, three-concert Pipedreams Live! event presented by WXXI-FM Classical 91.5, the **Eastman School of Music**, the Rochester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and the Rochester Theater Organ Society, February 13-15, 2009.

Pipedreams host Michael Barone came to Rochester to host and record three concerts, featuring two organs that had been recently completed as part of the Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI), and the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Auditorium Theater.

Trading Markets (February 27)

Great American Tuba Show premieres new works with free recital

With jammin' "Memphis Hang" Jim Shearer based here, and now the upcoming Great American Tuba Show, offering the world premieres of two new works for tuba, Las Cruces could be poised to assume oom-pah-pah preeminence. Shearer, a New Mexico State University music professor whose first solo tuba recording, "Memphis Hang," has attracted national attention and generated rave reviews, will present the Great American Tuba Show, a free recital of new works for horn, tuba and piano, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5, at NMSU's Atkinson Music Center Recital Hall.

Shearer holds a doctorate in performance and literature with an emphasis in music history from the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y. He teaches tuba, euphonium, music history, and music appreciation at NMSU.

(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.)