



Selected Coverage February 2010

National

All About Jazz
Broadway World
California Chronicle
Chicago Sun-Times
Cleveland Plain Dealer
LSI Online (Lighting & Sound International)
New York Times
San Francisco Classical Voice
Washington Post

Local & Regional

Batavia Daily News
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Other

Asheville Mountain Express
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Wickenburg Sun

HIGHLIGHTS

The New York Times (Feb. 19)

Tinges of Electro-Pop and Some Ives, Too

Among the ways to pin down Kneebody, a resolutely unpin-downable band, a few come rooted in plain fact. The group uses a common jazz instrumentation — trumpet, saxophone, rhythm section — to make a somewhat less common amalgam of urban-signifying genres, from electro-pop to punk-rock to hip-hop. Four of its five members met in the late 1990s at the **Eastman School of Music**. Its most recent album, “Twelve Songs by Charles Ives” (Winter & Winter), featuring the vocalist Theo Bleckmann, was nominated for a Grammy this year, in the category of best classical crossover album.

Broadway World (Feb. 11)

Eastman School of Music presents EASTMAN VIRTUOSI at Merkin Concert Hall

On Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 8:00 PM, the **Eastman School of Music** - one of the nation's premier music institutions, named "Hottest School for Music" by Newsweek - presents its esteemed faculty-based chamber ensemble, Eastman Virtuosi, in concert at Kaufman Center's Merkin Concert Hall. The program features works by Georg Philipp Telemann, Francis Poulenc and Anton Dvorak, as well as the New York premiere of Sebastian Currier's Pulse (2002).

WXXI (Feb. 2)

Eastman Grad Bill Cunliffe Talks About His Grammy Award

Eastman School graduate Bill Cunliffe was among those winning Grammy Awards this past weekend. Cunliffe earned his master's degree from the Eastman in 1981 and had made a name for himself as a jazz pianist, arranger and composer.

The Daily News Online (Feb. 1)

3 Eastman alumni win Grammys

Three **Eastman School of Music** graduates, including soprano Renée Fleming who grew up in Churchville, won awards at the 52nd annual Grammy Awards on Sunday.

Fleming and tenor Anthony Dean Griffey, who already had two Grammys apiece, received two more Grammys each. Bill Cunliffe picked up his first Grammy. (*Also reported by 13 WHAM TV, MPNow, WHEC TV, WXXI, Democrat & Chronicle*)

Mountain Xpress (Feb. 3)

Getting Sirius

"When you're doing pop and jazz, ugly sounds are encouraged," says cellist Franklin Keel. Not the case in classical group Opal String Quartet or as first cello in the Asheville Symphony — two of Keel's musical engagements. But, as the newest member of self-described "absurdist gypsy folk funk punk" sextet Sirius.B, Keel is making nice with the ugly sounds. . . .

Sirius.B violinist Amy Lovinger is in the same situation. She and Keel met while attending the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y. Keel returned to Asheville (his hometown) in 2004, and about a year later Lovinger followed. She is also in the Opal String Quartet and is principal second violin in the local symphony.

Batavia Daily News (Feb. 4)

Kilbourn Concert Series features Amernet String Quartet

The award-winning Amernet String Quartet will perform in the **Eastman School of Music's** Kilbourn Hall, 26 Gibbs St., at 8 p.m. Tuesday, as part of the School's Kilbourn Concert Series.

Arnold Steinhardt, first violinist of the Guarneri Quartet who was scheduled to appear with the quartet, will not be joining them due to an elbow injury. **Eastman School** faculty pianist Barry Snyder will be joining the Quartet for the Piano Quintet in F Minor by Cesar Franck.

The Washington Post (Feb. 4)

Beltsville teen to sing at the Apollo Theater in Harlem

Chris Urquiaga, 18, of Beltsville has been playing piano since he was 7 and singing since his early teens. He has performed at numerous recitals and concerts, but he will take the stage Wednesday at perhaps his most prestigious venue yet. Urquiaga will sing at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, N.Y., during the theater's weekly Amateur Night. At an audition in October, he was among a handful of musicians, dancers and comedians selected from 300 entrants.

"I'm pretty excited for it," said Urquiaga, a 2009 graduate of High Point High School in Beltsville who now majors in music composition at the University of Rochester's **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y. "Music is a passion that I've had ever since I was young."

Batavia Daily News (Feb. 4)

Organists Day is Friday at UB

The state University at Buffalo Department of Music presents two organ events during February. On Friday, organists from the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester perform in the annual Eastman Organists Day recital at 7:30 p.m. in Lippes Concert Hall.

The annual **Eastman** Organists Day is a unique opportunity for both audiences and performers alike. Students of the **Eastman School of Music** perform on the remarkable Fisk pipe organ featured in Lippes Concert Hall and audiences are treated to music from one of the best organ studios in the country. Students David Baskeyfield, Nathan Davy, Margaret Harper and Aaron James will present pieces ranging from Bach and Brahms to Jos Evangelista:

Sioux City Journal (Feb. 5)

Sioux City native plays with Eastman trio

A Bishop Heelan Catholic High School graduate will return to Sioux City to perform at Morningside College with the Studzinski Trio from the **Eastman School of Music** at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Eppley Auditorium.

The Studzinski Trio is a chamber music ensemble at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., where March is currently a student. The trio was formed in June 2008 at the Bowdoin International Music Festival. Their name is drawn from the performance venue where they first performed: Studzinski Hall on the campus of Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. The group reunited in the fall of 2009 at the **Eastman School of Music**.

WXXI (Feb. 5)

Need to Know Arts Friday: Pianist Tony Caramia (video)

A local pianist, **Eastman School of Music** teacher, and football fan is celebrating two milestones this year. WXXI Arts Reporter Brenda Tremblay and videographer Marty Kaufman filed this profile of Tony Caramia.

Democrat & Chronicle (Feb. 7)

Barry Snyder might be the busiest and most underappreciated pianist in Rochester.

Eastman's Barry Snyder might not always get the spotlight, but he's on stage all the time.

Snyder is the 1966 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition silver medalist. Instead of leading a career as one of the world's most in-demand solo artists — as could be the fate of a Van Cliburn medal-caliber artist — Snyder has since spent his years performing frequently but mostly locally.

"The springboard for many careers has been competitions, as it was for me with the Cliburn," says Snyder, 65.

But at the time, there was little fanfare given to the silver and bronze Van Cliburn medalists.

"I had one concert and money," he says. "It didn't do what lots of big competitions do."

In contrast, 2009 silver medalist Yeol Eum Son was awarded \$20,000, a CD record deal and three seasons of concert management. Unarguably, the exposure gained through those three seasons of worldwide concerts is the most valuable portion of the prize.

Snyder's Van Cliburn award still led to a smattering of solo performances under renowned conductors and a dizzying amount of collaborative performances with major artists, but his career has really stayed the course of a teacher.

Snyder has been a faculty member at University of Rochester's **Eastman School of Music** since 1970, with unfading dedication for harvesting the professional pianists of the future (he, too, received his bachelor's and master's degrees at Eastman).

Snyder's name also might be on more concert programs each year than any other performer at Eastman. The Brighton resident is a willing collaborator and a go-to accompanist for faculty recitals. His latest gig (he's one of the few featured faculty in guest artist series) will be Tuesday when he performs with the Amernet String Quartet in one of the Kilbourn Series concerts.

Broadway World (Feb. 8)

The Ying Quartet Performs Barber at The Morgan Library

On Tuesday, March 9th, the Ying Quartet—the **Eastman School of Music** Quartet-in-Residence—will perform at The Morgan Library & Museum beginning at 7:30 pm. The program includes Barber's String Quartet, op. 11, Sebastian Currier's Next Atlantis, and Beethoven's Quartet in C-sharp Minor, op. 131. The performance, which celebrates Robert Owen Lehman's recent gift to The Morgan of Samuel Barber's autograph manuscript of his Essay for Strings, takes place on the occasion of Barber's 100th birthday.

Wickenburg Sun (Feb. 10)

Quartet performs for kids

The world famous Ying Quartet, based at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., performed two concerts in area schools last week. . . . The Ying Quartet performs concerts around the world and has played at Carnegie Hall and the White House. More than 300 children were able to see and hear them and participate in a question and answer session.

Hackensack Record (Feb. 11)

Gerry Niewood: one year later...

Friday will mark one year to the night Continental Connection Flight 3407 crashed near Buffalo, killing everyone aboard the aircraft and another person on the ground.

The shock and sorrow caused by the accident hit very close to home for Glen Ridge, as 65 year-old Gerry Niewood, a longtime backing musician for Chuck Mangione and a Bay Avenue resident of over 30 years, was among the passengers. . . . In his 65 years, Niewood was known for a wide variety of roles: musician, saxophone player for Mangione and many other A-list celebrities, **Eastman School of Music** alumnus, husband to Gurly Niewood, father to Adam and Elizabeth and a supporter of the Glen Ridge arts scene. . . . The family and **Eastman** have since set up a memorial scholarship in Niewood's name, to benefit jazz students.

Last year, Gurly Niewood and drummer Rich DeRosa discovered several notebooks containing unpublished music in her husband's attic studio. Those snippets subsequently became "Treasures in the Attic" and premiered at **Eastman School** last fall to benefit the scholarship fund.

Batavia Daily News (Feb. 11)

Organ series features Joan Lippincott

Joan Lippincott, who has been acclaimed as one of America's outstanding organ virtuoso, will be featured in the next concert of the Rochester Celebrity Organ Recital Series. The new recital series is a collaboration among the Rochester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, **Eastman School of Music**, WXXI and area churches.

Cleveland Plain Dealer (Feb. 12)

Lutenist Paul O'Dette deciphers Bach's music

Musicians who perform works from before the 19th century face many challenges, including the need to decipher what the composer may have intended. The notes tell only part of the story.

Allow Paul O'Dette, the admired lutenist, to explain.

"If Bach didn't notate the rhythms he expected you to play, it was because it was quite obvious to an 18th-century musician what the rhythms should be," said O'Dette. . . .

The high-spirited O'Dette, head of the early-music program at the **Eastman School of Music** and director of the Boston Early Music Festival, is aware that some musicians and listeners may not share some of his views on Baroque matters.

Democrat & Chronicle (Feb. 12)

What our critics are listening to: Jon Manasse and the Seattle Symphony Mozart – Spohr Clarinet Concertos

It's not hard to find a good recording of the Mozart Clarinet Concerto — pick from David Shifrin, Charles Neidich, Sabine Meyer and more — but it is difficult to find one with the same silky finesse that Manasse, a part-time professor at the **Eastman School of Music**, gives in this recording just released on the Harmonia Mundi label. Everything he plays, from Mozart's lingering slow movement to the swift pace of Spohr's up-tempo movements, is smooth and effortless, like a ribbon of sound floating through the speakers. The Seattle Symphony under Gerard Schwarz provides a lively and exacting accompaniment that elevates Manasse's performance.

City Newspaper (Feb. 12)

Harold Danko "Escapades"

Eastman School of Music professor Harold Danko kicks off his aptly named CD with an original tune. "Murmur Not," an obvious reference to Benny Golson's classic, "Whisper Not," is a more abstract and mysterious ride. From here on Danko and his excellent trio, with bassist Michael Formanek and drummer Jeff Hirshfield, take on some of the most popular standards in jazz and a few more obscure tunes. They never fail to find something new in their interpretations. Ahmad Jamal owns "Poinciana" to the point where few pianists dare to deviate from his approach. Danko's impressionistic take, involving wonderful interplay between him and Formanek, is completely original. "All The Things You Are," "Yesterdays" and "What Is This Thing Called Love" are all freshly brewed. Danko has a propensity for playing subtle tunes that dance around a melodic core. Kenny Dorham's "Brown's Town" and Joe Henderson's "Serenity"

nicely fit the bill. Another, Andrew Hill's "Tired Trade," provides a vehicle for some of Danko's most inventive improvisation.

Democrat & Chronicle (Feb. 14)

Musical couples find perfect harmony

Working with a spouse may not seem ideal, but these musical couples thrive on it. . . .

Rochester has an abundance of artistic couples. The Ying Quartet's David Ying is married to pianist Elinor Freer, tenor Gregory Kunde to soprano Linda Wojciechowski. In dance, Garth Fagan Dance's Nicolette Depass is married to Bill Ferguson. In the art world, there's Wendell Castle and Nancy Jurs. . . .

RPO couples

Wesley and Shannon Nance, second trumpet and assistant concertmaster; Mark Kellogg and Joanna Bassett, principal trombone and second flute.

These two couples were students at the **Eastman School of Music** and were fortunate enough to land jobs in the RPO together. The Nances met at a summer music festival in Santa Barbara; Wesley was a junior at **Eastman** and Shannon was on her way there in the fall. The two started dating back in Rochester and Wesley proposed to Shannon at the end of her sophomore year.

(Note: David Ying and Elinor Freer are also Eastman faculty.)

Spinner.com (Feb. 15)

SXSW 2010: Break of Reality

They may have gone to college to become classically trained musicians, but cellist Patrick Laird and drummer Ivan Trevino, two members of the four-piece crossover instrumental group Break of Reality, were more than relieved to break the mold and flex their flair for rock. The two met in 2003 at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, NY. A few years of performances later, they're proud to bring their brand of stormy "cello rock" to SXSW.

The Daily News (Feb. 16)

Lotte Lenya singing competition begins Saturday

The **Eastman School of Music** will again host one of the live regional auditions as well as the finals of the annual Lotte Lenya Competition,

giving local audiences plenty of opportunities to catch the rising stars of musical theater.

Twenty-two singing actors, including eight **Eastman** singers, will audition beginning at noon Saturday in Kilbourn Hall, 26 Gibbs St., in one of only two live audition rounds for the competition. The other live auditions are being in New York City March 12 through 14. Contestants are also able to audition by submitting DVDs.

California Chronicle (Feb. 16)

Reviews of new pop, country/roots, jazz and classical music releases

Released during Black History Month, the CD at first projects an earnest quality, producing neither entertainment nor history. But one can appreciate the musicality of Douglass' words, read here by Paul Burgett, university Vice president of the University of Rochester. *(Note: Paul Burgett earned undergraduate and graduate degrees at Eastman and was the Dean of Students at Eastman.)*

San Francisco Classical Voice (Feb. 17)

It's All in the Genes

In some ways, the Ying Quartet will be returning to its roots when it plays the "American" String Quartet, Op. 96, by Dvořák at Kohl Mansion in February. Written when the composer was living in rural Iowa, it's a special piece for the quartet, according to Phillip Ying, who plays viola. While the Ying siblings did not grow up there, it was in Jesup, Iowa, a town of just 2,000 people, that they got their professional start. . . .

The quartet has since moved on to more traditional venues, such as Carnegie Hall, the Aspen Music Festival, Tanglewood, and the Sydney Opera House, and currently is the quartet in residence at the **Eastman School of Music** and the Blodgett Artist-in-Residence at Harvard University. But it has also kept the nontraditional venues alive, by performing in workplaces, schools, and even juvenile prisons, as well as at the White House.

LSI Online (Feb. 17)

Eastman's Kodak Hall ready for jazz

As the principal performance venue for the prestigious **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, NY, Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theatre regularly hosts classical music concerts by

the conservatory's celebrated orchestras and ensembles. With the recent installation of a new Meyer Sound MICA line array loudspeaker system, the 2,326-seat hall is now much better equipped to support another musical genre - jazz. . . .

According to Ron Stackman, stage operations manager at the Eastman Theatre for 15 years, the audio upgrade was long overdue. "The difference is night and day," he says. "I've been pushing for a first-quality sound system since I've been here. It's thrilling to see it come to fruition. Even for spoken word, which is part of nearly every event, including symphony concerts, the new system is so much clearer and more articulate."

Democrat & Chronicle (Feb. 18)
Ying Quartet's LifeMusic at Eastman School of Music

Eastman-Ranlet Series presents the Ying Quartet's ongoing LifeMusic project, featuring the first Rochester performance of the most recent LifeMusic commissioned work, Richard Danielpour's String Quartet No. 6, Addio. (*Also reported by the Batavia Daily News.*)

Democrat & Chronicle (Feb. 20)
Yings says goodbye to first violinist

The Ying Quartet doesn't have to look far for inspiration when playing its newest LifeMusic commission, Richard Danielpour's String Quartet No. 6 "Addio," in its annual LifeMusic concert tomorrow afternoon at Kilbourn Hall.

A work about saying goodbye, it was written for the quartet when former first violinist Timothy Ying was leaving the quartet, premiering earlier this season with new first violinist Frank Huang. "Now Frank is leaving the quartet — hopefully it's not a bad luck quartet," jokes David Ying, the quartet's cellist.

Huang was pursued by the Houston Symphony Orchestra to be its concertmaster starting next season, so the quartet is in search of another violinist to take the lead spot.

Democrat & Chronicle (Feb. 21)
Linda Wojciechowski: wife, mother, soprano and manager of Gregory Kunde Chorale
Linda Wojciechowski is running a household and chorale group — oh, and soloing in concert this week. . . .

Wojciechowski will be the featured soprano soloist in the Chorale's upcoming concert Friday of Brahms' Requiem, conducted by assistant conductor Malcolm Merriweather (Kunde is performing in Brussels this month). She'll be joined by baritone Jan Opalach, a faculty member at the **Eastman School of Music**. The work will be performed with piano in an arrangement Brahms wrote. . . .

Wojciechowski never had formal singing lessons prior to college and started off at a small, religious liberal arts school without plans to be a singer. But after hearing her voice, a professor pushed her to transfer schools to pursue singing. She switched to **Eastman**, completing a double degree in vocal performance and English.

All About Jazz (Feb. 24)
A Declaration of Optimism

Bassist Jeff Campbell's *A Declaration of Optimism's* underlying theme of positivity is channeled into an engaging trio recording. An associate professor of jazz studies and contemporary media at the **Eastman School of Music**, Campbell divides his many duties between family, teaching, and performances with notables across the globe.

City Newspaper (Feb. 24)
JAZZ: Fred Sturm

He's now the head jazz man at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music in Wisconsin, but from 1991 to 2002 Fred Sturm directed the jazz program at the **Eastman School of Music**.

WXXI (Feb. 25)
Backstage Pass with Eastman School of Music Professor, James VandeMark on 91.5 fm

James VanDemark, **Eastman School of Music** Professor of Double Bass and co-chair of the Department of Strings, Harp & Guitar joins Julia Figueras from the Henry Epstein Studio to perform with pianist Barry Snyder on the next

Backstage Pass, airing Thursday, February 25 at 1 p.m. on Classical 91.5/FM-HD91.5-1.

Albany Times Union (Feb. 25)

Ying Quartet performs at Skidmore's new Zankel Music Center

The Ying Quartet discovered its soul while in residence during the early 1990s in the Iowa farm town of Jessup, population 2,000. During a two-year stay there under the sponsorship of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ying performed for the Rotary Club and women's groups, as well as in elementary schools, churches and bank lobbies.

While maintaining an active touring schedule and doing a fair amount of recording, the Ying has specialized in education. Since 2001, it has been the quartet in residence at the **Eastman School** in Rochester. That's a long way from a small town in Iowa, but the Ying still faces challenges and growing pains.

Rochester Business Journal (Feb. 25)

Seneca Park Zoo named top local Web site

The Silver Award for best overall Web site went to a fundraising site for **Eastman Theatre's** renovation, www.rochester.edu/giving/eastmantheatre, a joint effort of the University of Rochester and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Chicago Sun-Times (Feb. 26)

Duo finds musicality in 'Pride and Prejudice'

Austen and her timeless characters are no strangers to television or the movie screen. But Chamber Opera Chicago will bring them to the stage in a new work with words and music by Lindsay Warren Baker and Amanda Jacobs. Baker teaches theater and music at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester and is also production stage manager of the Eastman Opera Theatre.

Marietta Daily Journal (Feb. 28)

Melodic memories

"Ginger Marmalade" is one of 150 works composed by Allers' maternal grandfather, Warren Benson. A teacher at the esteemed **Eastman School of Music** for 35 years, Benson's artful compositions have been played at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, The National

Cathedral and The White House, along with international locations.

(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.)