



University
of Rochester
Eastman School of Music

GATEWAYS
MUSIC FESTIVAL
IN ASSOCIATION WITH EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS:
GEORGE TAYLOR, VIOLA
IN RECITAL WITH THE
GATEWAYS CHAMBER PLAYERS**

*Friday, October 9, 2026
Hatch Recital Hall
7:30 PM*

PROGRAM

Beads of Light (2023)

Eric Kivnick
(b. 1953)

Linda Mohamed Dahou, piano

World Premiere

Cello Suite No. 2 in D Minor, BWV 1008

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Prélude
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Menuetts I and II
Gigue

In Loving Memory of Arthur Nyanfor II

Sonata for Viola and Piano (1989)

George Walker
(1922-2018)

I
II

Dianna White-Gould, piano

INTERMISSION

Duo for Violin and Viola (“Portrait”) (2009)

Diane Monroe

Diane Monroe, violin

String Sextet No. 1 in B-flat Major, Op. 18

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Allegro ma non troppo
Andante ma moderato
Scherzo. Allegro molto
Rondo. Poco allegretto e grazioso

Diane Monroe, violin
Kyle Lombard, violin
Juliet White-Smith, viola
Alvin McCall, cello
Tahirah Whittington, cello



For program notes, artist biographies, and 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.

PROGRAM NOTES

Beads of Light is a work composed in 2023 for viola and piano and recorded by George Taylor, viola, and Linda Boianova, piano, of the Eastman School of Music. It is a series of excursions and connections. Absence, prescience, chance, grief, kinship... Profound gratitude to George and Linda for vigorously bringing this emotional piece to life with both gravity and wit.

— Eric Kivnick

MEET THE ARTISTS

“In the hands of an outstanding artist like Taylor, the instrument seems almost heaven-sent,” wrote John Lambert in *The Spectator* of **George Taylor**, violist. Taylor is active in practically every aspect of performance as soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician, and his playing has been praised for its eloquence, warmth, and sensitivity.



Mr. Taylor is currently Professor of Viola at the Eastman School of Music. Before joining the Eastman faculty, he was a member of the Ciompi Quartet of Duke University, a position he held from 1979 through 1986. A dedicated, sought-after, and beloved teacher, he has served on the artist faculties of The Castleman Quartet Program, Le Dormaine Forget, the Chautauqua Institution, Musicorda, The Encore School for Strings, the Meadowmount School, the Manchester Music Festival, and the Elan International Music Festival, among others. Mr. Taylor is also the inspiration for and collaborator in a series of highly successful workshops called Viola Intensive and presents a summer technique workshop for violists at Eastman. With faculty colleagues Carol Roland and Phillip Ying, he co-hosted the highly successful 40th International Viola Congress at the Eastman School of Music. He has also served as a juror for international competitions in Europe and the United States, and has served on the boards of the American Viola Society and the Sphinx Organization.

George Taylor has given numerous solo recitals and appeared as a chamber musician in concerts throughout the United States and at the Tainan Cultural Center in Taiwan. He is a frequent collaborator with the Ritz Chamber Players, and has performed as guest artist at the Skaneateles Music Festival, Lake Winnepesaukee Music Festival and with ensembles such as the Triple Helix Trio, The Society for Chamber Music in Rochester, and the Ying Quartet. His recording with guitarist Nicholas Goluses titled *Night Strings* has received wide critical acclaim. Carlos Maria Solare, reviewer for the *Journal of the American Viola Society*, states, “Frequent excursions into the instrument’s higher register are beautifully mastered by Taylor, who also enjoys playing the guitar in a plucked cadenza half-way through. Indeed Taylor’s dark, beautifully expressive tone is a constant joy throughout the recording.” Robert Schulslaper of *Fanfare* writes: “This is an enjoyable recital of diverse, not often-encountered repertoire, performed by accomplished musicians whose intuitive gifts enable them to reveal the essential qualities of each selection.”

Mr. Taylor can also be heard in a landmark recording of the complete chamber music of the African-American composer William Grant Still by the Videmus Ensemble. He has also recorded music by composers such as Frederick Jacobi, John Zorn, Ernst Toch, Jan Radzynski, and Ezra Laderman,

among others, for the Milken Foundation. He was co-founder and conductor of the St. Stephens Chamber Orchestra (Durham, NC), an ensemble that has continued to perform and record together to date as the Orchestra of The Triangle. An active advocate for the performance of music by African-American composers, Taylor was a participant in the National Black Arts Festival held in Atlanta, GA and the Gateways Music Festival. He was also a member of the Black Music Repertory Ensemble, which presents music of African-American composers in concerts throughout the country, and is currently a member of The Ritz Chamber Players. Mr. Taylor has performed and premiered works written for him by many composers, including Bill Dobbins, Michael Kimber, Ron Carter, Noel DaCosta, George Walker, David Liptak, and Carmen Moore.

A native of New York City, Mr. Taylor attended the Manhattan School of Music where his teachers included Jaime Laredo, Raphael Bronstein, and Burton Kaplan. Further studies on viola were with Michael Tree and Abraham Skernick. Mr. Taylor's chamber music mentors include such notables as Arthur Balsam, Joseph Seiger, Lillian Fuchs, Joseph Gingold, Mischa Schneider, and members of the Guarneri Quartet. He made his recital debut at Carnegie Recital Hall in 1979. Joseph Horowitz of *The New York Times* wrote: "He is already an unusually accomplished player, with a secure command of the instrument, and an ardent, refreshingly direct style."

Bulgarian-American musician **Linda Mohamed Dahou** is equally at home as a concert pianist, singer, vocal and chamber music coach, opera conductor, and concert and jazz band director and arranger. Special interests include Russian romance, music history of the Arabs, Baroque performance using primary sources, world premieres of new compositions, and advanced language studies. Ms. Mohamed Dahou has collaborated with Chick Corea, Barbara Frittoli, Ion Martin, Fondazione Arena di Verona, Deutsche Opera Berlin, and Royal Opera House Muscat and has been on the faculty at Alfred University, Nazareth University, State University of New York at Geneseo, and the court orchestra and chorus of the Sultan of Oman. Linda Mohamed Dahou holds degrees in Performance, Theory, Vocal Coaching, and Stage Direction from the Eastman School of Music.



Dianna White-Gould is a pianist, educator, and collaborative artist. An Oberlin Conservatory graduate, she has performed nationally and internationally while promoting the music of African American composers. Born into a distinguished musical family, White-Gould is known for championing the music of African American composers, including works by her mother, composer, and pianist Dolores White. She teaches and mentors young musicians through her work with leading arts and educational organizations.

Chamber artist and jazz musician **Diane Monroe** has played for the Max Roach Double Quartet, Uptown String Quartet, String Trio of New York, and her own ensembles; guest soloed with Cincinnati Pops and Jon Faddis Jazz Orchestra; received the PA Jazz Legacy Award, Pew Center for Arts and Heritage Fellowship, and Musical Fund Society of Philadelphia's Lifetime Achievement Award; performed with artists including Odean Pope, Reggie Workman, Regina Carter, and Mark O'Connor; soloed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Kennedy Center; and composed for ensembles and film. She gives workshops and master classes and has taught at colleges and universities, holding degrees from the Curtis Institute and Philadelphia Musical Academy.

Kyle Lombard, a violinist hailing from Kansas City, Missouri, is a member of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. He graduated with honors from Indiana University and earned his master's degree from Yale University. Lombard has performed extensively as a chamber musician across Europe, the Middle East, and the United States, including at Carnegie Hall and the Ravinia Festival. He has collaborated with the Ritz Chamber Players and performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Lombard made his solo debut with the Kansas City Symphony and performs on a 1775 Gennaro Vinaccia violin.

Juliet White-Smith has performed throughout the United States, Europe, Africa, and Asia. She was a Fellow with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (1987-1989). Her album *Fashionably Late: Juliet White-Smith Debuts!* features the premiere recording of George Walker's *Viola Sonata*. She has been featured in *The Strad*, *Strings*, and *American String Teacher*, as well as on WBUR-Boston. She served as President of the American Viola Society from 2008-2011. Currently, she is Professor of Viola at The Ohio State University. She holds degrees from Louisiana State University and the University of Houston and a Doctor of Musical Arts from Eastman School of Music, where she was a Teaching Assistant to George Taylor.

With the St. Louis Symphony since 1994, cellist **Alvin McCall** was previously Principal Cello with the Orpheus and Prism chamber orchestras, Philharmonia Virtuosi, Jupiter Symphony, Naumburg Orchestra, and Orchestra of St. Luke's, and was Assistant Principal Cello with the Mostly Mozart Festival. A founding member of the McCall-Deats Duo, recording the Rachmaninoff and Shostakovich sonatas, he has performed with members of the Orchestra of St. Luke's at Caramoor, Chamber Music Society of St. Louis, ARDA, and with St. Louis Symphony members at Sheldon Concert Hall, Piper Palm House, Summerfest, and Innsbrook's Summer Institute. He has soloed with the Springfield (MO) and University City Symphonies, Virginia Philharmonic, Moscow Academic Symphony Orchestra, and Opera Theatre of St. Louis.

Tahirah Whittington, founding member of D-Composed and Ritz Chamber Players, was the cellist for the *Dear Evan Hansen* National Tour (2020-2022) and for *Hamilton: An American Musical* in Chicago. She appeared in the film *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* as an honorary member of The Uptown String Quartet and in episodes of *Empire*. Recordings include *The Lion King* (2019) as a member of Re-collective Orchestra; Beyoncé's *The Lion King: The Gift*; John Legend's *Big Love*; PJ Morton's *Gumbo Unplugged*; and the cello solo for Rhiannon Giddens' song *Cry No More*. Whittington received her Bachelor's from the New England Conservatory and her Master's in Cello Performance from The Juilliard School.