

Selected Coverage July 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

National & International

Blogcritics.org
Modern Guitars Magazine
New York Times
Paisley Daily Express (UK)
The Times of India
UB Post -- Mongolia

Local & Regional

Batavia Daily News
City Newspaper
Democrat and Chronicle
RNews
13WHAM TV
WXXI FM

Other

Arizona Daily Star
Colorado Daily
IBerkshires.com
Reporter Herald (North Carolina)
Syracuse Post Standard
The Times Record (Maine)
Tulsa World

The New York Times (July 25)

Music Review | Alarm Will Sound: A Classical Approach to Electronic Sounds

It is hard to tell whether Alarm Will Sound is finding itself or losing itself, but it may be a bit of both. A reasonably straightforward new-music band in 2001, when it made the jump from college orchestra (at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester) to professional ensemble, it has preserved its freshness by thinking about repertory in ways that most groups do not. . . .

Stefan Freund's eerily dreamy "kinda asleep" is a fantasy on sections of "The Little Death, Vol. 1," an opera by Matt Marks, Alarm Will Sound's hornist. And Caleb Burhans's melancholy "oh ye of little faith ... (do you know where your children are?)" moves deftly from gentle Minimalist scale figures to electric-guitar power chords, touching on murky brass figures along the way. Mr. Burhans's work was written for Alice Tully Hall's reopening festivities this year. It delivered a more visceral punch in the tighter confines of Le Poisson Rouge.

13WHAM-TV (July 1)

Eastman Renovation - One Chair at a Time

Although the makeover has begun at the **Eastman Theatre**, not all the work is happening on-site.

Craftsman and finishers are restoring more than 500 seats in the theater, retaining the authentic look that George Eastman sought when he built the then movie theater in 1922.

"You just get a sense of history working on it." For the craftsmen at Artisan Interiors, it's not a job; it's a labor of love. "It takes a long time to do these chairs, we give these chairs a lot of love," said artisan Guy DiMatteo.

RNews (July 24)

Inside Eastman School's Summer Conducting Institute

Tomorrow's star conductors gathered at **Eastman School of Music** this week. Ten conducting students trained at the school's Summer Conducting Institute. The five-day program includes sessions on opera conducting, score preparation, and directing professional orchestras and pops concerts.

Neil Varon directs the Summer Conducting Institute. His own conducting career spans almost 30 years. Varon studied piano, composition, and conducting at the Juilliard School. He has held music director positions in Istanbul, Vienna and Germany. In 2002 Varon joined the faculty at **Eastman School of Music** as Professor of Conducting and Ensembles. This week he fine tuned some of tomorrow's best conductors.

Democrat & Chronicle (July 5)

RPO, Eastman School of Music and others provide soundtrack for the season

Given that summer warmth in Rochester is fleeting, there's no better soundtrack to help indulge the season than the one provided by the many musical organizations throughout the region. The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Eastman School of Music and area chamber music festivals pack your summer with a smorgasbord of music. . . .

World music concerts are at the center of offerings from the Eastman School of Music this summer. Concerts include South Indian percussion, an annual multicultural affair led by dulcimer player Mitzie Collins and even a celebration of Bastille Day with French music. Summer is also a chance for Eastman's talented faculty members to step up to the recital stage.

Tulsa World (July 7)

Dream dress

Ashley Benes was surprised to see her mom, Mary, standing at the door. For one thing, Mary lives around here, and Ashley is going to grad school on the East Coast.

"It was a complete shock," Ashley told us during a phone conversation. But it wasn't just the fact her mother had flown all that way to knock on her door. Ashley got a fabulous designer dress out of the visit — and got on TV, too.

She was one of three winners in a dream-dress giveaway from ABC's "Good Morning America" — a contest Ashley knew nothing about until her mom showed up at the door. . . .

Ashley, by the way, graduated from Broken Arrow High in 2004. After graduating from the University of Kansas, she enrolled at **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., to earn her master's degree in voice performance.

"The reason I nominated Ashley was so that she would have a beautiful gown to wear to her master's recital in 2010," Mary said.

The Times Record (July 9)

Festival features professional debut

The Bowdoin International Music Festival's July 10 Festival Fridays concert will present the American debut of Tamsin Waley-Cohen, a British-American violin soloist who has performed extensively worldwide.

The program will open with Brahms' second Piano Quartet, featuring Barry Snyder on piano. Snyder was a triple prize winner in the 1966 Van Cliburn International Competition, and has been a member of the Eastman Trio (1976-82) and the Meadowmount Trio (1989-90). Snyder's **Eastman School of Music** colleagues Mikhail Kopleman, violin, and Rosemary Elliot, cello, will join him for the performance. Former festival viola Fellow Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt will round out the group.

The Grammy award-winning **Ying Quartet** is also on the evening program, presenting Dvorák's always popular "American" String Quartet. (*Note: the Ying Quartet is Eastman School's string quartet in residence and its members are on the School's faculty.*)

Colorado Daily (July 12)

Charles Castleman's Quartet Program brings reputation, talented students to Boulder

Charles Castleman's Quartet Program is the major moveable feast in American music.

Castleman, concert violinist and head of the string division at the **Eastman School**, is one of the country's most respected string teachers. He launched the Quartet Program in 1970 at Saratoga, New York, summer home of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Since then he has taken it to a number of locations.

This summer the program is at home in Fredonia, New York, and -- for the second consecutive summer -- here in Boulder, where the University of Colorado is its host.

Last week 28 students -- largely high-school and college age -- arrived here for four weeks of intensive training in chamber music. . . .

"The Quartet Program is the best program of its kind that I know," says renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma. "Every young person in it not only learns many of the great works written for this genre, but they also learn how to work with each other and to communicate their most personal thoughts to their colleagues.

"No one emerges from the program without great love of music and better knowledge of interpersonal relationships. I view this program as a training ground for Lifemanship."

Democrat & Chronicle (July 12)

Life lived: Donald Coley 1933-2009

Kristin West recalls fondly the day when Donald Coley, her clarinet teacher at Brighton High School, told her that she had won the "Coley Scholarship," entitling her

to a weekly one-hour private lesson during her senior year.

Coley had been her teacher since fourth grade. He selected a clarinet for her in New York City. He encouraged her to use her abilities. When she told him she was interested in teaching, he let her shadow him when he taught younger grades, even allowing her to help with lessons. He knew she needed two instruments to perform in an orchestra, and he knew the family didn't have money for additional lessons.

"I thought there really was such a thing," she says of the Coley Scholarship. Only much later did she learn that Don Coley offered free lessons to many promising students.

Over hundreds and hundreds of lessons, says West, who now teaches music, and clarinet in particular, in the Fairport schools, "he never raised his voice. He was always kind and nurturing. He gave me his time, and without him, I would not have become a teacher."

Coley, who died in May, was 76. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees at the **Eastman School of Music**. He served briefly in the U.S. Army and played in the United States Military Academy Band at West Point before starting his teaching career in Brighton in 1959.

At the Eastman School, Coley was cited for his performance skills but he preferred teaching, says his daughter Pamela McCann of Pittsfield, Mass., one of four Coley siblings.

WXXI (July 15)

New book examines exotic influences in classical music

A new book about music challenges long-held assumptions about classical music. In *Musical Exoticism: Images and Reflections* (Cambridge University Press, 2009) **Eastman School** musicologist Ralph Locke analyzed how various composers were influenced by exotic cultures. He touches on standards by Richard Rodgers, Rimsky-Korsakov, and the Lord of the Rings film score. WXXI's Brenda Tremblay reports.

UB Post - Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (July 17)

Renowned Conductor Wows Mongolia

World famous guest conductor Shinik Hahm held concerts last week on June 9 and 10 in the State Philharmonic hall. The Mongolian audiences were enthralled with Hahm, as he displayed his classic music talents with performances composed by world classic composers, including Brahms, Rossini, Verdi, and Weber. . . .

Hahm is also a Professor of Conducting at Yale, where he is also director of the orchestral conducting program.

While pursuing his conducting studies at the **Eastman School of Music**, Hahm founded the Gibbs Orchestra. His musicianship and entrepreneurial talents led it to grow from a chamber ensemble to a full-sized professional orchestra within four years.

Maestro Hahm has received a variety of honors and awards, including the Fourth Gregor Fitelberg International Competition for conductors, the Walter Hagen Conducting Prize from the **Eastman School of Music**, and the Shepherd Society Award from Rice University. In 1997, he was part of a select group of conductors to appear at the American Symphony Orchestra League's National Conductor Preview.

13WHAM (July 17)

Jazz on the Pond with Jeffrey Osborne

Norma Holland spoke to R&B legend Jeffery Osborne who will be performing at Jazz on the Pond, an afternoon of music, fun, food and drinks to raise funds for the **Eastman School of Music** Jazz Studies Program. Saxophonist Everette Harp and Eastman student group Triple Threat will also be performing at the concert.

13WHAM (July 17)

Eastman Dean Talks Jazz

Norma Holland spoke to Doug Lowry, Dean of **Eastman School of Music** and David Belasco, about Jazz on the Pond, an afternoon of music, fun, food and drinks to raise funds for the Eastman Jazz Studies Program.

Reporter Herald (July 17)

UNC summer camp offers five free jazz shows

The University of Northern Colorado Jazz Camp features five free performances, open to the public, beginning Monday, July 20, and ending Friday, July 24.

Thirteen nationally respected artist faculty are involved in the camp this summer, and 73 students have registered for the one-week camp, which allows students to play in student big band and combo ensembles and take instrumental master classes and jazz theory and listening classes.

Camp faculty members Clay Jenkins of the **Eastman School of Music** and Don Aliquo of Middle Tennessee State University also will perform July 20 and 23 during two jazz camp faculty concerts. Trumpeter Clay Jenkins is a member of the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra and was formerly with the Stan Kenton, Buddy Rich and Count Basie Orchestras.

Saxophonist Don Aliquo is a former member of the Buddy Rich Big Band and has recently recorded with bassist Rufus Reid.

Pittsfield - IBerkshires.com (July 17)

Chamber Music Series At The Clark

The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute begins its August chamber music series with the Ying String Quartet joined by celebrated pianist Adam Neiman on Tuesday, August 4.

The Ying String Quartet features Steven Copes on first violin, Janet Ying on second violin, Phillip Ying on viola, and David Ying on cello. The Yings have made their mark not only as first-rate performers, but as commissioners of new music. With the support of the Institute for American Music, the quartet aims to create a distinctively American string repertoire by commissioning emerging and established composers to create music that reflects contemporary American life. Actively involved in arts education, the Yings are quartet-in-residence at the **Eastman School of Music** and Harvard University.

The Times of India (July 18)

City has exceptional talent in playing piano

The city has an exceptional pool of talent when it comes to music and the piano, says Roxana Anklesaria-Doctor, director of the Academy of Music, a city-based music school which is all set to organise MusiQuest' a national level piano festival and competition in the city in September.

It will be at the end of the festival that the judges will choose the winners among the best. A national level festival cum competition, MusiQuest' boasts some noted names as judges. "We are fortunate to have renowned teacher Nelita True from the US, who is known for her teaching skills judging the advanced division. She comes from the **Eastman School of Music**, a world renowned school," says Anklesaria-Doctor.

Blogcritics.org (July 19)

Music Review: Dave Rivello Ensemble - Facing the Mirror

When you're doing something you love, you find a way to continue to do it for as long as possible. Cost doesn't matter and neither does compensation.

In the case of composer/conductor Dave Rivello, his passion for jazz is indisputable.

He continues to hone his craft day after day, playing with his Dave Rivello Ensemble once a week for the past eight years and establishing a tradition that he'll continue for the rest of his life. Of course, playing once

a week doesn't crank up much by way of income, so Rivello keeps things going working at freelance copying and as an assistant professor at the **Eastman School of Music**.

Modern Guitars Magazine (July 20)

Dr. Brad DeRoche Talks about the Interlochen Arts Camp

Dr. Brad DeRoche is one of the hardest working guitarists you will ever meet. He is regarded as a world-class classical guitarist who maintains a busy performance schedule of concerts and clinics every year. DeRoche is also one of the most sought after classical guitar educators in the Midwest and he holds teaching positions at Delta College, Central Michigan University and the Interlochen Arts Camp. On top of all of these commitments, DeRoche is the co-owner of the highly successful company, Strings by Mail.

DeRoche holds degrees from Central Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Classical Guitar Performance and Literature from the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, New York. Aside from his scholarly studies, he has also participated in master classes with world-renowned classical guitarists David Russell, Raphaëlla Smits, Paul Galbraith and Fabio Zanon, just to name a few.

The Daily News (July 22)

WXXI-FM's 'Backstage Pass' ep wins award

"Backstage Pass," a radio series that highlights local and visiting artists on WXXI-FM, received a Bronze World Medal from the New York Festival Awards for its episode featuring the Cello Divas.

Winning in the category of "Best Regularly Scheduled Music Program," the episode featured a live performance by the Cello Divas and candid talk, as the four musicians shared their secrets of success with program host Julia Figueras.

Ingrid Bock, Rosemary Elliott, Mimi Hwang, and Kathleen Murphy Kemp make up the Cello Divas. Their 2001 debut in the **Eastman School of Music's** Kilbourn Hall was an instant hit, and since that time the Divas have delighted audiences with a unique blend of music spanning the globe and the centuries. (*Note: Rosemary Elliott, Mimi Hwang, and Kathleen Murphy Kemp are Eastman School faculty members.*)

City newspaper (July 22)

JAZZ: Gabe Condon performs Friday, July 24 at the Bop Shop

Guitarist Gabe Condon just graduated from Penfield High School, but his resume is already overflowing with awards. The Outstanding Performance Award

from Downbeat Magazine and the Outstanding Soloist Award from the Mingus Competition at the Manhattan School of Music are but a few. His guitar prowess has just won him the Gerry Niewood Scholarship (given by the Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival) to attend the **Eastman School of Music**. A student of Bob Sneider, Condon is poised to take his place in the next generation of jazz guitarists.

Arizona Daily Star (July, 24)

Braun's smooth trumpet

Rick Braun could afford to celebrate his birthday just about anywhere in the world with the success he has had as a smooth jazz trumpeter. Last year he chose Tucson. For his 53rd, Braun packed his wife and kids in the family RV and headed to the Old Pueblo for a concert held by the Tucson Jazz Society in his honor. "We made a vacation out of it," Braun, now 54, said in a phone interview Monday. "We went through Zion National Park, the Grand Canyon, Sedona. "We love it in Tucson. The people are great and we love coming during the monsoon season." Braun is also a big fan of the Tucson Jazz Society, which is why he'll be in town next Friday. . . .

A virtuoso in high school and a member of the jazz-fusion band Auracle at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., Braun first earned his stripes on the national scene as a touring member of the funk band War and as a songwriter.

His song "Here With Me," co-written with Kevin Cronin, became a Billboard Top 20 hit for REO Speedwagon. As his reputation grew, so did the artists with whom Braun was involved. He eventually shared the stage with the likes of Rod Stewart, Sade, Natalie Cole, Tom Petty and Tina Turner.

The Post-Standard (Jul 25)

Harrison's moves keep wet crowd dancing to wind up Northeast Jazz and Wine Festival in Syracuse

The Thelonious Monk Project lovingly served up superb compositions from the great American jazz man of that name.

The foursome of Bill Dobbins on piano, the double-duty men Vitale on bass and Melito on drums, and this year's festival artist-in-residence, Joe Magnarelli on trumpet, struck and quick and easy way with Monk's sophisticated work.

Dobbins, on the faculty of the **Eastman School** in Rochester, has played with and directed bands worldwide. His confident and elegant piano work showed it.

Democrat & Chronicle (July 27)

Letter to the Editor: Wonderful day on the pond

In a time when the economy is affecting all of our daily lives, there was a bright spot in the Rochester sky on July 18. The Belasco family of Rochester and Los Angeles put on a benefit concert on Cranberry Pond called "Jazz on the Pond." This event was to bring family and friends together for a great day of music and at the same time help raise scholarship money for the **Eastman School of Music**. The Belasco family brought in top-notch entertainers such as Everette Harp and Jeffrey Osborne who "brought down the house" with their music. Several musicians who attended Eastman were on hand to show off their talents as well.

Kudos for putting on such a great event

Democrat & Chronicle (July 28)

Worth knowing: Arts & Cultural Council's Arts Awards

Some of Rochester's longtime arts supporters and venues will be honored this fall with the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester's 26th annual Arts Awards:

Champion of the Arts: Betty Strassenburgh. An ardent East End arts supporter, she rallied support for the ongoing Eastman Theatre renovation and construction of the **Eastman School of Music's** new wing.

Paisley Daily Express, United Kingdom (July 30)

Toni hits the right note!

Toni James began to tinkle the ivories at her grandmother's house when she was just five years old.

And she was just 11 when she knew she wanted to study piano. . . . Now aged 23, Toni knows she made the right choice as she has a long list of musical achievements under her belt and plenty more sure to come.

When she was 15, she was selected to represent the RSAMD in the Junior Intercollegiate Beethoven Competition in London. Then, in 2001, Toni was a gold medallist in her class at the Moray Piano Festival.

She was a finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year piano class in 2004 when she was aged 18 and was the winner of the regional final for Scotland and Northern Ireland. In March 2005, at the International Emmanuel Durllet Prize for Piano in Antwerp, Belgium, Toni reached the semi-final as the youngest competitor in the event.

. . .

Toni achieved four A grade Highers at Castlehead High School in Paisley and then applied to the RSAMD when she was just 16 to study music performance. She stayed on to study for a post-graduate certificate in music and then, in 2007, she applied to **Eastman School of Music** in New York state – one of the top music schools in America. Toni was accepted on to the Master of Music Performance course and graduated in May. Now she is getting ready to go back to **Eastman** as one of only eight pianists to be accepted on to the Doctorate in Music course.

(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.)