



Selected Coverage June 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

National & International

ABC News
All About Jazz
Channel News Asia
Cincinnati Enquirer
Dallas Morning News
New York Times
Yahoo! India

Local & Regional

Batavia Daily News
City Newspaper
East Rochester Post
RNews
WROC TV
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Other

Charlotte Observer
TC Palm
Victoria Advocate
Youngstown Vindicator

The New York Times (June 29)

Annenberg Scholarships

The Leonore Annenberg Scholarship and School Funds has announced \$2.5 million in grants and scholarships to five high school juniors who have overcome obstacles, four outstanding young artists, and eight public elementary schools in Houston, New York, Philadelphia, Miami and Summerton, S.C., that lack adequate resources. The recipients of awards in the performing and visual artists are: Constance Stamatiou, a ballet dancer and performer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; Caleb Burhans, a composer, countertenor and multi-instrumentalist at the Eastman **School of Music** at the University of Rochester; Angel Otero, a painter at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and Jonathan Martin, a theater artist at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

ABC News (June 29)

Dream Dress Giveaway Winners

Mary Benes of Tulsa, Okla., wrote us about her 23-year-old daughter, Ashley, Ashley is about to enter her second year of graduate school at the prestigious **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, New York, where she's training to be an opera singer.

RNews (June 29)

Eastman Theatre Temporarily Closes

An historic venue in Rochester closes its doors temporarily while it undergoes a \$46.5 million renovation project. By October, Eastman Theatre will be known as Kodak Hall at Eastman Theater.

Eastman School of Music faculty and staff came for one last look at Eastman Theatre before it turns into Kodak Hall in 91 days. "These changes should make the acoustics much more lively in the hall and really much richer sound," Eastman School of Music Dean Jamal Rossi said. . (*Also reported by WROC-TV, WHAM 1180, 13WHAM-TV*)

CharlotteObserver.com (June 3)

'Rising star' to head ASC

Innovator from Cincinnati wins praise as the right choice to see the agency through troubled times.

A young arts leader from Cincinnati, known for bringing innovative technology to the business of fundraising, was named president of Charlotte's struggling Arts & Science Council on Tuesday.

Praised as a rising star on the national arts scene, Scott Provancher, 32, may be best served in his new assignment by his hobby: He likes to jump out of airplanes. Provancher grew up in his native Albany, N.Y., and went to the **Eastman School of Music** at the University of Rochester. He was trained as a classical percussionist but realized in college he was drawn to the administrative side.

The Batavia Daily News (June 5)

Church to host choral concert

Lyndonville Presbyterian Church on North Main Street will host a free choral concert at 7 p.m. Sunday. The event will feature The Adult Chamber Ensemble of The **Eastman School of Music**.

The group is conducted by Patricia Alexander, noted vocal instructor, mother of noted soprano Renée Fleming and experienced choral director. She is excited to be coming back to Lyndonville and has been eagerly planning this concert to include a variety of music.

Dallas Morning News (June 6)

Classical music: Dallas Symphony's new assistant to conduct Russian program

There's a new baton in town. It belongs to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's new assistant conductor, Rei (pronounced Ray) Hotoda, who's making her local debut tonight. Hotoda was born in Tokyo, but mostly grew up in Chicago. She was only 3 when she started piano lessons. "My mother was a pretty harsh teacher," she says, "and she started me. She was a music-education major and vocalist who went on to do other things, but she is a musician at heart, for sure."

By the time Hotoda was in high school, she knew she wanted a career in music. She got a bachelor's degree in piano performance from the **Eastman School of Music** and a doctorate, also in piano, from the University of Southern California.

Channel News Asia (June 7)

Opera whirred free

Singapore: Few classical music lovers are aware of this – up-and-coming Singapore conductor Joshua Tan, who won second prize in the prestigious Dmitri Mitropoulos International Conducting Competition in Greece last year, used to be a part-time deejay at MediaCorp's Symphony 92.4. "This was back in 2005 and looking back, it was a rather fun experience. As I do a lot of outreach programmes, it helped me hone my improvisational skills since I loathe a script and prefer to speak on the fly," the **Eastman School of Music** alumnus said.

WROC TV (June 8)

News 8 Talks with Quarantined Eastman Faculty

Two **Eastman School of Music** faculty members quarantined in China are now home in Rochester. Steven Laitz and Doug Humphreys were on a trip to promote cultural exchange and new music collaborations. But that trip came to a halt because they came in contact with someone on their airplane who had the H1N1 virus. The group was in an area about 1,200 miles south of Beijing. Chinese authorities told them they'd be quarantined in a hotel there.

Laitz said, "We got to the airport and sure enough when they put my passport in it was flagged. So I had to stand around. Then I noticed a bunch of men in space suits came up to me with those smart cars they can use in airports. They put a mask on me and put me in an area where I was supposed to wait."

Laitz said during their isolation he and Humphreys were well taken care of. They were released after 4 days.

Cincinnati Enquirer (June 11)

'Figaro' Countess enjoying her rise

She's being talked about as one of the most exciting up-and-coming lyric sopranos on the opera stage, but Nicole Cabell is the most down-to-earth diva you'll ever meet. . . . Cabell was chatting between rehearsals for Cincinnati Opera's "The Marriage of Figaro," which opens the summer festival season today in Music Hall.

Cabell played the flute, and wanted to sing Broadway, jazz and pop music, but everything she tried, she says, "came out sounding like (New Zealand opera star) Kiri te Kanawa." She still occasionally crosses over into cabaret or pop with symphony orchestras, but, as it turned out, she was born to sing opera. At 16, she began lessons with a voice teacher, and graduated from the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y.

Her ascent in the opera world has been meteoric. After Eastman, she attended the Juilliard School "for about three days" before Lyric Opera of Chicago offered her an apprenticeship. Then in 2005, she surprised the music world when she won the Cardiff Singer of the World, beating hundreds of hopefuls and 24 finalists.

East Rochester Post (June 12)
'Eastman Summer Sings' returns to Kilbourn Hall

Singers of all ages and abilities are invited to take part in **Eastman School of Music's** "Eastman Summer Sings" at 7:30 p.m. in Kilbourn Hall every Tuesday, beginning July 7.

The New York Times (June 14)
The Week Ahead: June 14-20

Two vibrant new-music ensembles are presenting inviting programs that together cover a vast range of contemporary styles. The program by ALARM WILL SOUND, though devoted to only a single composer, Derek Bermel, covers a pretty broad stylistic range because Mr. Bermel is an imaginative eclectic whose work draws on his studies of ethnic folk styles and his love of jazz and rock. He is the kind of composer the young musicians of Alarm Will Sound — a group formed at the **Eastman School of Music** but now out on its own — play particularly well, because their own tastes are as eclectic as his.

Youngstown Vindicator (June 14)
Web site will promote local bands, models - Rivello Ensemble releases new CD

Dave Rivello, a Struthers native and 1986 graduate of Youngstown State University, has released a new compact disc titled "Facing the Mirror." The CD features Rivello's original compositions performed by the 12-piece Dave Rivello Ensemble.

Rivello is an assistant professor of jazz studies at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y. He directs Eastman's New Jazz Ensemble, which has been named Best College Big Band by Downbeat magazine.

RNews (June 15)
Jazz Book Has Roots in Rochester

A man who met many of the greats in jazz music is sharing his stories just in time for Rochester's Jazz Festival. Many of this author's musical tales were woven during his time at the **Eastman School of Music**.

Stephen Botek came to Rochester in 1949. For him, music was a way out of a coal-mining town in Pennsylvania that was home to the Dorsey Brothers. Botek found playing jazz was his ticket to a new life.

Botek loved being in Rochester. He got classical lessons at Eastman during the day and at night he played jazz and bebop with his band. It was the freedom of the music that brought together an eclectic group of musicians for the time, a woman singer, a black pianist, a Native American drummer. "When I came to Eastman it was like an awakening," Botek says,

The New York Times (June 15)
Operas and Concerts Fit for a Prince (Especially a Sun King)

During the nine days of the Boston Early Music Festival, which ended on Sunday afternoon, you could spend all day every day, from 9 a.m. to midnight, bingeing on the sounds of antique instruments and the music composed for them. The sheer number of performances offered in the festival and the associated Fringe Concerts let listeners build their schedules around their own passions, or ignore what they knew and seek out the unfamiliar. . . . Ms. Headly made a strong impression on her own in a virtuosic suite by Louis Couperin. Ms. Headley and Ms. Lasla were accompanied on the organ and harpsichord by Kristian Bezuidenhout, who also performed several works, including a wide-ranging exploration of "Les Folies d'Espagne" by Marais.

Mr. Bezuidenhout's organ accompaniments were simple — mostly chord roots to support the gambas — but they helped him achieve a

keyboard trifecta on Thursday. He began the day giving sensitive accounts of Haydn sonatas and variations on the fortepiano in the opening installment of a Keyboard Mini-Festival at the First Lutheran Church. And a couple of hours before his appearance as an organist he gave a shapely, thoughtfully paced account of the harpsichord solo in Bach's "Brandenburg" Concerto No. 5, with the Boston Early Music Festival Chamber Ensemble, also at Jordan Hall. (Note: Kristian Bezuidenhout is an alumnus of the **Eastman School**; Eastman School faculty member Paul O'Dette is co-artistic director of the Boston Early Music Festival.)

WROC TV (June 16)

Flight 3407 Victim Honored at Scholarship Concert

The Jazz Fest takes a reflective tone on Monday night, as the scholarship concert is dedicated to Gerry Niewood. Niewood was among the victims of Flight 3407, which crashed outside Buffalo back in February. Niewood was a noted jazz musician who was a member of Chuck Mangione's band. He also graduated from the **Eastman School of Music**.

TCPalm (June 17)

Carol Saunders: Award-winning dancer/choreographer De Jesus feted at cocktail reception

Ron De Jesus, award winning dancer/choreographer, original cast member of the Twyla Tharp/Billy Joel Broadway Musical "MOVIN' OUT" was feted at a cocktail reception June 10 at the Abacoa home of Marie and Dr. Don Tanabe. The occasion to introduce him to supporters of the newly formed Craig Wich Studio of Performing Arts.

Marie Tanabe is chairman of the board for the fledgling Craig Wich school, formed by five experience, highly professional local performing arts educators who have joined together to create a new performing arts studio, dedicated to providing artistic excellence for young singers, dancers, actors and musicians.

Making up the Craig Wich faculty are voice professor Craig Wich, of the Boston Conservatory; school director Judy Gelman, former director of education at the Maltz

Conservatory of the Performing Arts (COPA), artistic/managing director of the Kids Theatre Project and the artistic/managing director for the Center for Theatre Arts in Pittsburgh, PA; award winning musical director/pianist Betty Saunders, of the **Eastman School of Music**; professional acting coach Marc Durso, director of ActTrue and graduate of the Burt Reynolds Institute; and Alicia "Lissa" Birder, founding director of The Performers Workshop in Green Bay, WI.

City Newspaper (June 17)

SUMMER '09: What to do in June

If you're still coming down from your Jazz Fest high, the **Eastman School of Music's** Dave Rivello Ensemble concert can get you your fix.

Batavia Daily News (June 17)

Sonny Rollins, Maria Schneider win at jazz awards

Jazz legend Sonny Rollins and big-band leader Maria Schneider each were triple winners at the Jazz Awards, but it was 90-year-old pianist Hank Jones who struck the most sentimental chord.

Schneider -- a graduate of the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester -- once again won the awards for composer, arranger and large ensemble of the year in voting among the 450 members of the Jazz Journalists Association.

Rnews (June 20)

Young Musicians Jam at Jazz Fest

As the Rochester International Jazz Festival comes to a close, a new generation of jazz musicians is preparing to take the stage. To help that eventual transition along, kids got a chance to jam with some pros and learn a little bit about taking chances.

"Yeah it's fun to play," said Andrew Hershelman. Hershelman has been listening to music his whole life and has been learning to play the piano for the last year. He said learning jazz is all about taking chances. "I was born blind," Hershelman said.

"When it comes to music, there are no disabilities," said jazz guitar teacher Bob Sneider. "We're all making music on different levels." For the second year, Sneider hosted a free jam session at the **Eastman School of Music**.

All About Jazz (June 24)
Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival Wraps Up Spectacular Record-Setting 8th Edition

Three scholarships were awarded to incoming **Eastman School of Music** students at the RIJF Scholarships Concerts, named this year in memory of the late Gerry Niewood, noted Eastman alumni. (*Also reported by 13WHAM TV*)

Victoria Advocate (June 25)
Break of Reality plans Victoria performance
Break of Reality's latest album "Spectrum of the Sky" is available on iTunes, Amazon.com and the band's Web site www.breakofreality.com. It started out as a side project. It's turning into a professional music career.

Instrumental rock band Break of Reality began as a way for Victoria musician Ivan Trevino and his fellow classmates at the **Eastman School of Music** in New York to take a break from their classical conservatory studies.

13WHAM (June 26)
Eastman Grad Student Wins GMA Gown
A student at the **Eastman School of Music** is wearing a hand-me-down for her master's recital, but she's not complaining. On Thursday, Ashley Benes received the dress worn by *Good Morning America's* Robin Roberts at the Oscars after winning a contest.

Unbeknownst to Ashley, her mom wrote a letter explaining that her daughter needed a dress for her master's recital. "I had no idea, and a couple months going by I kept telling her, I found this dress online [or asking] 'What do you think of this dress, because I need to find a dress for my master's recital. And now, I don't have to look anymore,'" she said.

Benes will be featured on *Good Morning America* on Monday, June 29 as the winner of the contest. The show is broadcast daily 7 – 9 a.m. on 13WHAM.

Yahoo! India (June 28)
Music historian assesses Jacko as 'pivotal figure in US music history'
A music historian has assessed Michael Jackson's musical greatness, classifying him as "one of the

world's great entertainers and a pivotal figure in the history of American music."

John Covach, professor of music and chair of the Department of Music at the University of Rochester and professor of music theory at the **Eastman School of Music**, reacted to the King of Pop's shock death on June 25. He said: "Michael Jackson is arguably the most important figure in 1980s popular music. Though he got his start as a child singing a series of hits in the 1970s with his brothers in the Jackson 5, Jackson's ascent to the status of The King of Pop occurred as a solo artist. (*Also quoted in Christian Science Monitor*)

RNews (June 26)
Gibbs St. Music Lovers React to Jackson's Death
Many on Gibbs St. in Rochester, where **Eastman School of Music** calls home and where music plays such an important role in many people's lives, news of Michael Jackson's death was till registering in many people's minds. (*Also reported by WROC TV*).

(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.)