



Selected Coverage March 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

National

All About Jazz
Tampa Tribune
Toronto Star

Local

Batavia Daily News
City Newspaper
Democrat & Chronicle
Geneva Sun
MPNnow.com/Messenger Post
Syracuse Post Standard
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Other

Aiken Standard
Grand Junction Free Press
Laredo Morning Times
Macomb Western Courier

All About Jazz (March 28)

Chris Ziemba on Piano Jazz

Buffalo native Christopher Ziemba is an amazing young pianist and composer. His mature voice and articulate manner belies the fact that he's only just recently completed his senior recital at the **Eastman School of Music**. At the urging of his teacher, pianist Harold Danko, Ziemba sent a CD of that recital to Marian McPartland. She was immediately taken with the young player, and invited him to be a guest on Piano Jazz. *(Also reported by the Buffalo News, Democrat & Chronicle, NPR)*

WHEC-TV

Local 20-year-old chosen for prestigious piano competition

She is an example parents can point to when the kids won't practice the piano. An **Eastman School of Music** student is selected to take part in one of the most prestigious competitions in the world. She started playing the piano at the age of seven and four years later she won her first international piano competition. It's the kind of competition that opens doors for young musicians like Zhang Zuo also known as "ZZ". She is from China and is a junior at the **Eastman School of Music**. ZZ is prepping for the performance of a lifetime. She is one of only 30 pianists in the world selected to take part in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and it's a big deal. The competition starts May 22 in Fort Worth, Texas. *(Also reported by Democrat & Chronicle)*

WROC-TV (March 3)

Eastman Student Wins YouTube Orchestra Spot

Eastman School of Music sophomore Nicholas Fitton won a spot in the YouTube Symphony Orchestra.

Fitton will be flown to New York City in April to participate in a classical music summit and perform in Carnegie Hall. Fitton will perform the piccolo part in composer Tan Dun's "The Internet Symphony" under conductor Michael Tilson Thomas on April 15. *(Also reported by Democrat & Chronicle, Cape Cod Times, WHAM AM 1180, 13 WHAM TV)*

The Syracuse Post-Standard (March 4)
Howard Potter leads Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra to Mingus title

Big band music lovers in Central New York remember Howard Potter as the ultra-successful music educator from Manlius Pebble Hill School who formed the 315 All-Stars and directed the scholastic group to the No. 1 slot at the 2001 national Essentially Ellington competition at Lincoln Center.

Potter left MPH in 2002 to take a job as associate dean at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester. And he's continued his notable success as a band director, too.

His sister-in-law, Kathleen E. Quinn, just sent over a release touting the news that Potter led The Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra to status as best big band at the first Charles Mingus Competition, at the Manhattan School of Music. The EYJO is made up of high school musicians from 14 different school districts in the Rochester, Buffalo and Corning areas. They meet to rehearse every Saturday at the Eastman Community Music School.

Macomb Western Courier (March 4)
Festival Features Modern Music

Each year, the Western Illinois University School of Music hosts the New Music Festival to showcase contemporary music written by students, faculty and other modern published composers. Throughout the three-day festival, participants contemplate the question "how do we recognize good music?"

The festival will begin on Monday, March 9 with a presentation by the festival's featured composer, Robert Morris, in Browne Hall at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Morris, who has been a member of the prestigious **Eastman School of Music's** Composition Department since 1980, is known best as a music theorist for his work bridging the gap between academia and the realm of experimentation in the field of modern music. He has composed over 160 pieces for a variety of media in all different forms. Morris also contributes articles to publications, including "Perspectives of New Music," "Journal of the

American Musicology Society," and "In Theory Only."

Toronto Star (March 5)
Young soprano hits the high notes

On a cell phone from California's Sonoma Valley, Nicole Cabell sounds like any other tourist happy to get some sun and relaxation.

Not that her working life is anything to run away from. The 31-year-old soprano was singled out as one of the world's top young singers when she won the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition in 2005. The win catapulted her from relative obscurity to the world's most prestigious venues.

After vocal studies at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., and Juilliard in New York City, Cabell landed a spot in Chicago Lyric Opera's young ensemble. It was a three-year stint that gave her the means to kick-start her career.

Loyola Maroon (March 5)
Dean of music open to input

The verdict is in, and the College of Music has a new dean. Donald Boomgaarden — pianist, organist, fiddler, university administrator and church music director — will be taking over in fall 2009.

Boomgaarden grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas, and received a bachelor's degree from Texas State University in music education. He received a master's degree and doctorate from the **Eastman School of Music** in musicology.

He was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Vienna in Austria and completed the Institute for Management and Leadership in Education program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education last year.

As a professor of music literature and history at St. Mary's College in Maryland for fifteen years, he also served as the dean of music and the assistant to the provost.

He spent the last five years in his position at Loyola College in Maryland and also served as the music director at Corpus Christi Church in Baltimore.

The Tribune-Democrat, (Johnstown, PA, March 5)

Pianist will add zip to Winter Jazz

Grammy Award-winning talent is sure to add liveliness to Winter Jazz 2009.

Widely acclaimed jazz composer Maria Schneider and her jazz orchestra will be the featured performers at the jazz fest, scheduled for 7 p.m. March 21 at the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center, Richland Township.

Schneider later earned a bachelor's degree in theory and composition from the University of Minnesota.

The emphasis was European music, but her admiration for American composers such as Duke Ellington, George Russell, Gil Evans and Bob Brookmeyer turned her direction toward jazz.

With renewed purpose, Schneider attended the University of Miami, then the **Eastman School of Music**, where she earned a master's degree in jazz writing and contemporary media.

Laredo Morning Times (March 6)
Break away with 'cellos gone mad'

After a successful performance at Laredo Community College last spring, Break of Reality is making a comeback with new musical selections from their upcoming album on Tuesday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m.

The cello rock quartet was formed in 2003 while the original members were freshmen at the **Eastman School of Music** at the University of Rochester in New York.

WHAM 1180 (March 6)

Delay In Construction Of Addition To The Eastman Theatre

Construction on the addition to the Eastman Theatre project has been temporarily halted. A spokeswoman for the University of Rochester says the reason is to give officials time to review the costs of the project.

It is not expected to be a long delay, in fact construction may resume sometime next week. Originally officials were hoping to complete the project early next year. Now, it may take a little longer than that, but they still expect the addition to be completed next year.

The other part of the project, which involves renovations to the existing theater, remain on track. The new 'Kodak Hall' at the Eastman Theater is expected to be finished by this October. The addition part of the plan calls for space for studios and a recital hall.

Officials say they are still committed to finishing the addition as well. The cost of the entire project is around 43 million dollars. They have raised more than 30 million dollars so far. (*Also reported by Rochester Business Journal, WHEC-TV*)

Democrat & Chronicle (March 8)
Renovated Eastman Theatre shares billing with stars in 2009-10 RPO season

The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra is betting on the Eastman Theatre sounding like a million bucks after this summer's renovations.

"The high-profile name on the season is really the Eastman Theatre itself," says Charles Owens, president and CEO of the RPO. "That is the focal point and fulcrum of our season."

Repertoire highlights of the season include three world premieres. **Eastman School of Music** dean Douglas Lowry gets the opening spotlight with a composition called Geo, which will get not two, but three performances over the opening gala weekend. Jeff Tyzik has also been commissioned to write a work for the RPO's principal timpanist, Charles Ross. Lastly, concertmaster Juliana Athayde will perform a concerto written for her by composer Allen Shawn, who had a piano concerto performed by the RPO a few years ago.

WROC TV (March 9)

Scholastic Arts Spotlight: Marissa Balonen-Rosen

The Rochester City School District has some incredible student artists. Students like Marissa Balonen-Rosen. She's in the 1-B Program at

Wilson Magnet High School and she plays a beautiful piano!

Three days a week . . . she studies piano and music theory in the Pathways Program at the **Eastman School of Music**.

Out of 71 students across the state, Marissa was one of 11 chosen to play at the School Music Association Winter conference Last December. She performed at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

Democrat & Chronicle (March 10)
Brighton Symphony Orchestra has made music for more than three decades

The orchestra was founded in 1974 by Paul Roxin, a graduate of the **Eastman School of Music**. Roxin, 92, a World War II veteran whose vision is failing, had to drop out of the orchestra a few years ago, but said that music helps slow down the aging process.

The orchestra benefits from having John Marcellus, an internationally-renowned trombonist, as its music director and conductor. Marcellus is a former president of the International Trombone Association, and has performed in Australia, Japan, Germany, Italy and elsewhere.

He's also a professor at the **Eastman School**. He said he wanted to lead the Brighton Symphony Orchestra so he could help local people.

Gustavus Adolphus College News (March 10)
Ying Quartet in Concert at Gustavus Saturday
The Ying Quartet, **Eastman School of Music** Quartet in Residence, brings its music to Gustavus Adolphus College and the Gustavus Artist Series Saturday, March 14. The quartet's performance, "A Dim Sum Evening," combines traditional western string quartets and contemporary Chinese works in one concert.

Democrat & Chronicle (March 11)
Eastman student to play in prestigious Van Cliburn competition

Eastman School of Music junior Zhang Zuo is one of 30 pianists selected to compete this year in what's considered one of the world's two most prestigious piano contests, the Van Cliburn

International Piano Competition in Fort Worth, Texas. She is also one of the youngest, at age 20, with only one other competitor clocking in younger by one year.

Zuo won't be the first Eastman connection in the Van Cliburn competition's history. Barry Snyder, professor of piano at Eastman, won the silver medal in the 1966 competition; Jeffrey Kahane, who served on the faculty from 1988 to 1995, received the bronze medal in the 1981 competition; and Mark Westcott, who received his master of music degree from Eastman in 1972, won the bronze in 1969.

The Van Cliburn competition is in three rounds. The first is a 50-minute solo recital. Whittled down to 12 competitors, the second round is a 60-minute recital plus a chamber music performance with the Takacs Quartet. From there, six pianists go into the final round, which consists of another 50-minute recital and two concerti performances. In all for the competition, Zuo estimated she's learned and memorized about 20 works. (*Also reported by WHEC TV*)

Democrat & Chronicle (March 11)
Eastman School of Music renovation price tag: \$46.5 million

As economic factors continue to plague the area's construction projects, the **Eastman School of Music** has not been immune.

Vendor bids came in higher than projected for the Eastman Theatre renovation and school expansion plan, which forced construction of the new wing to be suspended over the past two weeks as costs were analyzed.

Construction has resumed, but at a new price tag: \$46.5 million, up from \$43 million. The original estimate in September 2007 was \$35 million.

Selected vendors were notified Tuesday.

Douglas Lowry, dean of Eastman, said that the school has raised about \$30 million for the project, which includes \$10 million from Kodak and \$2.5 from the Davenport-Hatch Foundation; the commitments include naming rights to the theater and the new recital hall, respectively.

Geneva Sun (March 11)

Night of jazz Friday at St. Charles North

A full evening of quality jazz, performed by high school musicians, will unfold on Friday, March 13 in the auditorium of St. Charles North High School.

Guest artist is jazz bassist Jeff Campbell, a faculty member of the renowned **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y. In addition to teaching, Campbell maintains an active schedule performing with an array of jazz professionals, and has appeared on Marion McPartland's Piano Jazz program on National Public Radio.

Democrat & Chronicle (March 14)

Show will go on for local theater projects

Three theater projects in Rochester are progressing — and a fourth opened Friday night — despite the recession and stalled plans for a Renaissance Square arts center.

The **Eastman School of Music** and Nazareth College Arts Center projects have hit bumps because material costs were higher than originally expected, but are now back on track.

"There is no doubt that philanthropy worldwide and nationally has slowed significantly," said Eastman School of Music Dean Douglas Lowry. "With drops in the markets, potential donors are being much more selective."

The University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music project includes a new wing and renovations to the Eastman Theatre.

Democrat & Chronicle (March 16)

Sibley library gets grant to digitize music scores

If you ever needed a two-piano, four-hands version of Ride of the Valkyries, the Sibley Music Library at the **Eastman School of Music** has a free, downloadable copy for you.

Sibley, the largest music library in North America, received a Preservation and Access Award of \$273,820 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize 10,000 to 12,000 scores from the library's general collection in the public domain. The scores were only previously available by two or fewer libraries in the world, including Sibley.

Free, portable document format (PDF) copies are available for download on the University of Rochester's Digital Repository, UR Research (<http://urresearch.rochester.edu>), which is also indexed in major search engines.

Democrat & Chronicle (March 20)

Takacs Quartet plays at the Eastman Theatre's Kilbourn Hall

To understand how the Takacs Quartet approaches music, it may only be necessary to hear Edward Dusinberre, its first violinist, describe the program it plays in Rochester on Sunday. It's Bartok Quartets with Beethoven sandwiched in, or as Dusinberre says, "sorbet in the middle, playing for the palate."

Listening to Takacs is much like eating a gourmet meal of bold, succulent tastes, with a touch of subtlety. Or even like delving into thick literature — the group has played to the poetry of Robert Pinsky and also to a Philip Roth novel read by actor and Fairport native Philip Seymour Hoffman.

Next month, the quartet takes on a very different challenge than playing in the world's top halls. It participates in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in Fort Worth, Texas, where it joins competitors in a chamber music round. This will be its third appearance in the competition.

Dusinberre says he will be looking out for pianist Zhang Zuo, the 20-year-old **Eastman School of Music** student who was selected to compete this year.

Democrat & Chronicle (March 23)

Celebrate a weeklong tribute to women in music

Classical, jazz, world and more are just a few of the genres of music to be presented during The Women in Music Festival presented today through March 27 by the **Eastman School of Music**, 26 Gibbs St. The festival will present works by composer Judith Lang Zaimont, among other tributes to women in music. Noontime and evening concerts run throughout the week at the Eastman School, concluding with a concert of Zaimont's music on Friday at 7 p.m. at Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave. For a full

schedule of events, go to www.esm.rochester.edu/wmf/. Call (585) 274-1100.

City Newspaper (March 25)

Classical Preview: Ossia

If the death of classical music is its oldest, finest tradition, no one has bothered to tell Ossia. The members of **Eastman School of Music's** student-run new music ensemble taste possibility. They grab at the inventive, the strange, and the original with a shared conviction that the line from J.S. Bach to John Cage pushes well into the future. If the line doubles back on occasion, it only affirms they're on the right track. In the strange case of the piece "3 Groups," a coincidence fuels more hope that the best is yet to be.

Every year, Ossia invites composers to enter their new works in a contest for a \$500 prize, and the chance to hear their piece performed by a top-notch new music ensemble. This year 268 scores flew in from dozens of countries, including the United States, Italy, China, and Israel. Submissions were up fourfold from last year, in part because Ossia allowed composers to enter pieces that had already been played in public.

After weeks of talking, Ossia's judges picked their winner, "3 Groups," by Anthony Green, a doctoral student in composition at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Judges also awarded two honorable mentions in the competition to Daniel Tacke, a doctoral student at the University of California, San Diego, and Ramón Souto of Vigo, Spain. This is the second year in a row the Eastman ensemble has picked a piece that allows the players room to improvise.

Here's the weird coincidence: Green originally wrote "3 Groups" for an offshoot of Ossia, the wildly successful New York City-based professional ensemble, Alarm Will Sound. Its members started playing together in Ossia at Eastman in the 1990's, and the after recording Steve Reich's "Tehillim," they decided not to disband after graduation, instead morphing into Alarm will Sound. When Alarm visited Green's university in 2007, it played "3 Groups" in a workshop, giving him the chance to hear it out loud for the first time.

Democrat & Chronicle (March 25)

Rochester jazz festival takes shape for 2009

Trumpeter Clay Jenkins (June 18), an **Eastman School of Music** faculty member, leads a band of his buddies, which no doubt will include others from Eastman's faculty. Mike Kaupa (June 12), another area trumpeter, plays with a quartet; and drummer Mike Melito (June 15), who can often be heard on weekends at the Strathallan, will lead a band of his own. Pianist John Nyrges (June 19), who is fluent in R&B, funk and jazz, also appears on the schedule.

Bob Sneider continues the late-night jam session at the Plaza Hotel and hosts a kids' jam during the day for area jazz students. A fixture of the festival, Gap Mangione (June 12), gets a venue upgrade, appearing for the first time at Max of Eastman Place.

Again, area high school jazz ensembles will entertain on the free outdoor stages. The **Eastman Community Music School** jazz kids — just back from a win at the Charles Mingus High School Competition — get a couple spots in the Big Tent this year (June 14 and 20).

Two big-band legends will be honored, Woody Herman (June 15 at the **Eastman School of Music** Jazz Scholarships show) and Benny Goodman (June 13 by saxophonist Ken Peplowski). The fest will also take note of the recent passing of two area saxophonists. Joe Romano will be honored by a group of surprise guests at the Xerox Auditorium (June 19), and a scholarship in the name of Gerry Niewood will be awarded at the June 15 Eastman Theatre show. *(Also reported by WXXI AM)*

Aiken Standard (March 25)

Augusta Symphony names new director

The Augusta Symphony announced its third director in the group's 55-year history Wednesday morning.

Shizuo Z Kuwahara joins the ranks of Harry Jacobs, who led the symphony from 1954 until 1991, and Donald C. Portnoy, who served as music director from 1991 until 2009. Kuwahara will become the music director of the Augusta Symphony Orchestra on July 1.

Kuwahara was born in Tokyo, Japan, and studied conducting at Yale University and the **Eastman School of Music**. He has served as the artistic director and principal conductor of the IPPO Philharmoniker in Tokyo, associate conductor of the Virginia Symphony, among other roles.

The Tampa Tribune (March 25)
Strong, Silent Type

From beneath the stage she emerges, a diminutive, demure figure with the ability to turn a silent movie into an auditory transformation of the senses.

Rosa Rio helps bring the otherwise soundless presentations to life at the historic Tampa Theatre, eliciting emotions as accompanist on the 1,400-pipe Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ.

Through her fingers, Rio has established movie moods for theater and radio audiences from New York to New Orleans to Tampa for more than nine decades. At age 106, she still charms audiences from the Tampa Bay area, where she and her husband, Bill Yeoman, have lived since 1995.

Rio went to the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., where she studied silent film accompaniment and was a student of organist John Hammond, whom she eventually married.

After completing her instruction at Eastman, Rio took her first job as organ accompanist at a theater in Syracuse, N.Y.

Grand Junction Free Press (March 27)
Young musicians meet in France, reunite in Grand Junction

Last summer a group of intrepid, young musicians (including two from Grand Junction) met in France while playing in an orchestra at an opera festival there. The festival director organized three concerts in the south of France for the group, who had formed a string quartet. They played music in small rural villages where people weren't accustomed to hearing much live music, said Gabe Mientka, a cellist with the ensemble.

It all came about when Mientka's 19-year-old sister Stephanie, who plays the viola, learned of the opera festival via the Internet. The brother

and sister applied and were hired to play in the orchestra.

While in France, the siblings met violinists Hanna Hurwitz, 22, of San Francisco, and 21-year-old Erin Brust of New York. All four musicians are prize winners in numerous competitions.

The four musicians formed a quartet called Quatuor Cornichons — French for “little pickle string quartet” — after the festival director organized three concerts for them in the south of France. The group spent seven weeks traveling and performing in France as a quartet, as well as with the orchestra. One of their venues included an 800-year-old church where the acoustics were great, Mientka said.

The four musicians reunited last Friday in Grand Junction — Mientka is studying at a music conservatory in Frankfort, Germany; Stephanie attends school in Boulder; Hurwitz lives in San Francisco, where she's working on a master's degree in chamber music performance; and Brust attends the **Eastman School of Music** in New York. The four have been rehearsing all week in Grand Junction for tonight's performance as part of the Western Slope Chamber Music Series at the American Lutheran Church.

Democrat & Chronicle (March 29)
Center of a trilogy: High comedy unlaces social class structures in Eastman Opera Theatre's 'The Marriage of Figaro'

The *Barber of Seville* was originally a play, and the first of three nicknamed the "Figaro Trilogy." *The Marriage of Figaro* is the second in the series, which delves into what might be considered the post-honeymoon, reality-stage of marriage, and is where we find the Count and Rosina, who are hitched at the end of *Barber*. The barber Figaro, the Count's accomplice in pursuing Rosina in *Barber*, has found a girl of his own and is getting married.

Director Johnathan Pape, who directs the upcoming production of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* with the Eastman Opera Theatre, says that the comedy in *Marriage of Figaro* digs deeper than the shtick humor of *Barber of Seville*.

"He (Mozart) has such an incredible sense of the human condition and how people's emotions and brains work," says Benton Hess, the musical director for Eastman's production. "It doesn't get any better than *The Marriage of Figaro*." (*Also reported by the Batavia Daily News, City newspaper*)

Instant Riverside (March 30)

Inland pianist wins national competition

Moreno Valley concert pianist Michael Noble won the piano category at the 2009 Crescendo Music Awards competition in Oklahoma. Noble, 20, won \$5,000 at the March 20 contest.

Noble, a graduate of the Idyllwild Arts Academy, attended Valley Preparatory School in Redlands and is currently a student at the University of Rochester's **Eastman School of Music**.

The Daily News (March 31)

Rising theater stars featured at UR competition

Finals for the 2009 Lotte Lenya Competition will be at the **Eastman School of Music** on April 18, giving local audiences the opportunity to hear exceptional young singing actors from the United States and abroad.

The 13 finalists will compete for prizes of more than \$35,000 in front of a panel of judges that includes Teresa Stratas, the world-renowned soprano and actress; Rob Berman, music director of New York City's Encores! series and musicals off- and on Broadway, and Theodore S. Chapin, president of the Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization and chairman of the board of the American Theatre Wing.

The Lotte Lenya Competition is an internationally recognized theater singing competition sponsored by the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music in Manhattan. Named in honor of the German composer's wife - the foremost interpreter of his music -- the competition was founded in 1998 by Kim Kowalke, the Richard L. Turner Professor in Humanities at the University of Rochester, professor of musicology at the **Eastman School**, and president of the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music.

MPNnow.com (March 31)

Brass takes center stage at Concert Band performance

Selections from "Chicago" will be featured this Friday in a performance of the Perinton Concert Band.

The group will present "Horn-a-Plenty" with special guest Peter Kurau, principal French horn player with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Kurau is associate professor of horn at the **Eastman School of Music**, where he has been a full-time faculty member since 1995; director of the Eastman Horn Choir; and hornist with Eastman Brass, succeeding Verne Reynolds. He previously served on the faculties of the University of Missouri-Columbia, SUNY Geneseo, Roberts Wesleyan College, Houghton College and Nazareth College.

(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.)