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**NEWS** 

### Selected Coverage May 2008

#### National

Time Magazine
Baltimore Sun
Broadway World
Los Angeles Times
NPR
The Ottawa Citizen
Providence Business News

#### Local

Democrat & Chronicle
Rochester Business Journal
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#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

### Time (May 29) 'Star Trek' Theme Composer Dies

Alexander "Sandy" Courage, an Emmy-winning and Academy Award-nominated arranger, orchestrator and composer who created the otherworldly theme for the classic Star Trek TV show, has died. He was 88. Courage was born Dec. 10, 1919, in Philadelphia and raised in New Jersey. After graduation from the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., in 1941, Courage enlisted in the Army Air Corps. After the war, he became a composer for CBS radio shows and then became an orchestrator and arranger at MGM. (Also reported by CBS News, CNN, Fox News, LA Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Baltimore Sun, Houston Chronicle and many others)

### The Ottawa Citizen (May 11) Ending on a high note – just not a high C

Cathy Wilcox is an elementary school music teacher, organizer and conductor of Ottawa's New Horizons band, based on a model developed in 1991 by Roy Ernst of the prestigious **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, New York. "Your best is good enough" is Mr. Ernst's motto for the program developed initially to bring music to seniors who had never played an instrument before (www.newhorizonsmusic.org). By 1992 there were five bands based on his model; by the mid-1990s he'd helped form more than 50 in the United States, welcoming any adult beginners or those who had not played in many years. There are now more than 174 such bands in the U.S., Canada and even Ireland. The ages of the Ottawa band's members range from about 22 to 80-something. The point is inclusion, not exclusion, he said. "If someone plays 10 wrong notes in a piece and is now only playing eight, we celebrate that," said the professor emeritus, now retired and nearing 70.

### R News (May 22) Eastman Receives \$2.5 M

### Eastman Receives \$2.5 Million

Another financial boost for the renovation and expansion of the Eastman Theatre. The Davenport-Hatch Foundation is giving \$2.5 million for the project. The money goes to build the 230-seat recital hall that will now be known as the Hatch Recital Hall. The foundation's chair says the Hatch family has long had a relationship with the University of Rochester and the RPO. (Also reported by WXXI, Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester Business Journal)

# Democrat and Chronicle (May 3) Eastman professor Beck retires after nearly 50 years

"I never knew where beating a drum would take me," says percussionist John Beck one afternoon in his studio at the **Eastman School of Music**. "But really, it's done OK." Indeed it has. Beck is retiring this spring after nearly 50 years as a professor at Eastman. Through the years as a student and professor in the institution, he has taught at major conducting and percussion clinics around the world, was the president of the Percussive Arts Society and was inducted into its hall of fame in 1999. His legacy, however, will be that his students have dominated the professional percussion world for the last half-century.

### Los Angeles Times (May 4) Anthony Dean Griffey, the tenor from High Point

We expect tenors to be heroic, their virile voices ringing. But not every such singer need be a Rodolfo or Radamès, Siegfried or Lohengrin. Tenors can enjoy garlanded careers in more lyric repertory, and Anthony Dean Griffey is proving it. ... A native of High Point, N.C. -- population 105,000 -- Griffey, a boyish-looking 41, is as American as sweet corn or peach cobbler, with a voice just as toothsome: light in timbre yet focused, sturdy and suffused with warmth. ... By the time he finished high school, he had decided to study music as a profession, anticipating a church job. But things changed once he left North Carolina's Wingate University for the highly regarded Eastman School in Rochester, N.Y. There, he earned a master's in vocal performance and literature and elevated his job expectations to teaching at a small college.

## Media Newswire (May 5) Eastman School Community Remembers Gretchen Snedeker

Students, faculty, and staff of the **Eastman School of Music** will commemorate the life of hornist Gretchen Snedeker, a graduate student who died in a car crash earlier this month, with a concert that will include recordings of some of her own performances.

#### Baruch College The Ticker (May 5) Break of Reality breaks boundaries

Bach, Mozart, Haydn ... Metallica? For classically trained cello rock band, Break of Reality, who were recently featured in the Baruch Performing Arts Center's 55 Underground series, the usual repertoire certainly does not apply. "We try to think outside the box and find ways to experiment with different sounds and genres," says percussionist Ivan Trevino. Formed in 2003 at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, the band began as a side project for cellists Patrick Laird, Erin Keesecker and Chris Thibdeau. Jeff Hood, an original member, left the group in 2004. Break of Reality soon morphed into its current form when Trevino joined in 2004. Due to Eastman's emphasis on classical music, the band was understandably apprehensive about how they would be received. "We didn't want to tell our teachers at first," joked Trevino, "but once we started building a fan base, the school was willing to take us under their wing."

# News 10NBC (May 6) Pittsford church rebuilds after fire, adds showpiece organ

Four years after a devastating lightning strike sparked an aggressive fire at the First Presbyterian Church in Pittsford, the congregation is celebrating a rebirth. ... This week, private contractors are putting the finishing touches on a hand-crafted pipe organ being assembled by Taylor & Boody Organbuilders from Staunton, Virginia. The impressive 6,000 pound pipe organ is believed to be the best of its kind in western New York. The First Presbyterian Church consulted Dr. Hans Davidsson at the Eastman School of Music on the purchase and construction of the organ. "One of the primary goals of the Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) is to build a unique collection of organs in the Rochester area," said Davidsson. (Also reported by WHAM TV 13, RNews, Democrat and Chronicle.)

# Democrat and Chronicle (May 7) Eastman students to perform at state tourism event today

Seven students from the **Eastman School of Music** today are scheduled to perform at a media event in New York City where Gov. David Paterson re-launches the famous "I Love NY"

campaign. Quartet Aura, a string quartet, and the Miles Brown Trio, a jazz trio, traveled to Manhattan this morning for the noon news conference, which is to promote tourist attractions and activities throughout the state, according to Eastman School officials. Both groups are slated to perform before and during the event at Rockefeller Center. The event will feature a presentation by Paterson and representatives from Empire State Development Corp. on the new themes and images for the state's tourism campaign. (Also reported by WHEC TV 10)

### Elmwood Park-Leaves (May 7) Unhappy customer is not a lost cause

Staff Sgt. Gina Guhl, of River Grove, is among the musicians in the United States Marine Band, "The President's Own," to be conducted for the first time by President George W. Bush. Clarinetist Staff Sgt. Guhl joined the "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in December 2005. Staff Sergeant Guhl began her musical training at age 10 on the clarinet. After graduating from East Leyden High School in Franklin Park, Ill., she attended the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester in New York, where she earned a bachelor's degree in music in 2005. She has studied with Jon Manasse of Eastman, Susan Warner of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Brian Patti. Prior to joining "The President's Own," SSgt Guhl won the Eastman School of Music Mozart Concerto Competition in December 2004.

## The Princeton Packet (May 7) New Opportunity: Taione Martinez leads the Trenton Children's Chorus' cultural melange.

Taione Martinez balked at his mother's suggestion to teach in a public school. He had heard enough horror stories. Still, he needed a job, so one day he filled in as a substitute, teaching social studies to seventh-graders.

"From the first day I was hooked," he says. "The students didn't look at me as this old dusty man. I had a connection to them. I knew the lingo and could throw it right back at them. I was able to teach them in a way I wish I was taught." Mr. Martinez was educated at Hampton University and the **Eastman School of Music**. Since his first days as a substitute teacher he has taught in middle and high schools, most recently serving as

the director of choral programs at the School of the Arts in Rochester, N.Y., where he grew up. In January the Trenton Children's Chorus appointed Mr. Martinez its first full-time executive artistic director.

### Lawrentian (May 9) - Appleton, WI, USA (subscription)

#### Baseball music project visits Appleton

Many baseball lovers do not connect baseball with music. However, Saturday, May 3, they had a chance to experience this connection at the Fox Valley Performing Arts Center. That evening, The Baseball Music Project hosted its Appleton concert, which was presented by the Fox Valley Symphony as part of the BMP's nationwide tour. Founded in 2004 by a group of music professionals, the BMP has collected and arranged a variety of baseball songs to form a concert program. A key figure in this development is Kimberly-Clark Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies Fred Sturm, an avid Cubs fan. He became involved with the BMP at the request of Robert Thompson, his former classmate from Eastman School of Music. Thompson is also the former chief executive of Universal Edition, a firm that "represents and publishes composers in classical, world, jazz and film music." (Note: Fred Sturm is a former Eastman School of Music faculty member.)

### Los Angeles Times (May 10) Ventura Music Festival brings soprano Nicole Cabell back to her roots

The auditorium at Nicole Cabell's old high school is a little more modest than her usual haunts. Last month, the 30-year-old soprano performed at Royal Albert Hall in London. In a couple of weeks, she'll sing at Tivoli in Copenhagen. Tonight, she plays Ventura High School, headlining the final show of the 10-day Ventura Music Festival. Tall and elegant, Cabell has won some of opera's most prestigious awards. Last year, she triggered a gush of superlatives from the music critics of Berlin, racing there from France on three hours of sleep to stand in for a diva who had fallen ill. ... In 2005, she was named the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World, beating out hundreds of other up-and-comers. Eight million viewers tuned into what is promoted as opera's most important competition, and even more savored the finalists' glittering outfits on such blogs as

BBC's Frockwatch. ... After attending the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., on a full scholarship, Cabell plunged into a world strikingly different than the one she had studied. "I used to want to be a big star," she said, "but that has nothing to do with the quality of performance. It's how you look, what you wear, the sandals, the affairs, what you say to the press." (Also reported by Ventura County Star)

# The Oklahoman (May 11) 'American Portrait' explores rich US music heritage

"I hear America singing," poet Walt Whitman wrote in his celebrated collection "Leaves of Grass." More than a century later, America is still singing — about providence, optimism, democracy, freedom and patriotism. Such ideals are at the heart of Canterbury Choral Society's 2007-08 season finale, titled "An American Portrait." Canterbury's program explores the rich history of America's music, as created by such distinguished composers as Howard Hanson, Randall Thompson and Aaron Copland.... More than a year ago, Canterbury music director Randi Von Ellefson set out to create a program that would spotlight American composers. After narrowing his choices, Ellefson chose a trio of popular works that would anchor the program: Hanson's "Song of Democracy," Thompson's "The Testament of Freedom" and Peter Wilhousky's arrangement of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Hanson, who was director of the Eastman School of Music from 1924 to 1964, composed his "Song of Democracy" in 1957. Featuring texts by Walt Whitman, the brief work explores public school education and the ideals of democracy. The work was also performed at an inaugural concert for incoming president Richard Nixon in 1969.

#### Broadway World (*May 14*) Charles Strouse Donates Papers to Library of Congress

Celebrated American composer Charles Strouse will present his papers to the Library of Congress in a ceremony on May 14. Librarian of Congress James H. Billington will formally accept the gift on behalf of the Library and the American people and honor Strouse, perhaps best known for such musical-theater smashes as "Annie," "Bye Bye Birdie," "Applause" and "Golden Boy." ... Born

in New York City on June 7, 1928, Strouse is a graduate of the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y. where he studied under Aaron Copland, Nadia Boulanger and David Diamond, among others. He first came to national attention with the musical "Bye Bye Birdie," which opened in New York City on April 14, 1960, to great critical and popular acclaim. The musical brought Strouse his first Tony Award for best score.

### McCook Daily Gazette (May 15) Wall of Famer Stanley Hasty to visit alma mater

A 1937 graduate of McCook Senior High and 2005 inductee onto the schools' "Wall of Fame" will visit McCook and present a band clinic Tuesday, May 20. Eighty-eight-year-old Stanley Hasty, now of Rochester, N.Y., will fly with his wife, June, into Denver and drive to McCook Monday, May 19. After graduating from MHS, Stanley Hasty continued his education at Eastman School of Music and Julliard Graduate School. He was principal clarinetist and soloist with six orchestras including the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C., and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in Rochester, N.Y., during which time he also served as Professor of Clarinet at the Eastman School of Music.

## Southern Baptist Towers (May 15) Longtime SBTS music professor McElrath dies in Florida

Hugh T. McElrath, longtime music professor at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, died May 8 at his winter home in Penney Farms, Fla. McElrath was 86. In 1992, McElrath became the first music professor to receive Southern's Findley B. and Louvenia Edge Award for Teaching Excellence, the highest teaching honor the seminary awards. From 1987-1989, McElrath served as president of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference. McElrath co-authored Singing With Understanding, a music textbook, with Harry Eskew, longtime music professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. McElrath also wrote several hymns, including "We Praise You With Our Minds, O Lord." McElrath earned bachelor of sacred music and master of sacred music degrees from Southern in 1947 and 1948, respectively. In 1967, he completed a Ph.D.

in musicology from the **Eastman School of Music** at the University of Rochester.

#### Messenger Post News (May 15) Sharing culture in song

It started with a number of people of Chinese heritage who just liked to sing. At heart, that's what the Chinese Choral Society of Rochester still is: people who love singing, and sharing Chinese culture. But its artistry and community outreach have grown over its quarter-century in the Rochester area, buoyed by connections with the Eastman School of Music almost from the beginning, by joint programs with area schools, and by arts grants from the Arts & Cultural Council of Greater Rochester. This Saturday, May 17, the society presents its 25th anniversary concert at the Monroe Community College Theater. Joining the singers will be the Ying Quartet, internationally known quartet-inresidence at Eastman, saxophonist Chien-Kwan Lin of **Eastman**, and several guest performers: sopranos Ai-Ze Wang and Jin-Fei Yao, baritone Mu-Zhen Liao, and pianists Teh-Ling Chiang and Chin-An Shen. (Also reported by Democrat and Chronicle)

#### Democrat and Chronicle (May 18) Volunteer, community group represents Rochester and US in Beijing

Athletes aren't the only ones buffing up for the 2008 Olympics. The Rochester Oratorio Society members are stretching their vocal cords and working out their repertoire for a historic opportunity to sing as part of the pre-Olympic cultural activities happening in Beijing leading up to the games. Out of 80 choirs from around the world selected to perform in the 2008 Olympic-9th China International Choral Festival on July 16 to 18, five have been selected for keynote spots in the opening and closing performances. ROS snagged a spot in the top five as the only volunteer, community choir in the festival. Singers also are learning a traditional Chinese hymn, utilizing local Chinese-speaking coaches to help with pronunciation, and using the talents of a Chinese Eastman School of Music graduate, Ying Ying Liu, to sing a solo part in the concerts. The group will give a send-off concert with the full program on July 9 at Hochstein Performance Hall.

# The Cambridge Chronicle (May 20) Cambridge musician inspired by her guinea pig

A guinea pig-inspired CD, "A Child's Trust," a new release by Freeana, is loaded with positive self-talk. The talking pig, Jazzie, is featured on the cover, nestled in Mommy's hair. The experience of guineapighood is much like motherhood. Jazzie has become the subject of more songs than any other guinea pig on the planet. The comforting messages reaching out to any age are a result of the interactions between Freeana and her beloved pet. Freeana is a Cambridge singer/songwriter, composer and multi-instrumentalist, originally from Maryland and schooled at the **Eastman School of Music**. (*Also reported by The Arlington Advocate*)

## Democrat and Chronicle (May 22) Churchville native Renee Fleming awarded Sweden's Polar Music Prize

Acclaimed soprano Renee Fleming and Pink Floyd were named winners of the 2008 Polar Music Prize on Wednesday for their contributions to their musical genres. Fleming is a Churchville native and a graduate of the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music. (Also reported by Canandaigua Daily Messneger)

### The Vancouver Sun (May 22) Silverman celebrates

Robert Silverman, dean of Canadian pianists, insists he does not want a sentimental and flowery retrospective about his career in music. "Not when there are things that make me so mad -- like the state of the CBC and the Spenglerian decline of our commitment to high culture," Silverman says. He is reluctantly prepared to acknowledge something of a milestone when he presents a oneman-show 70th birthday recital May 25 in the Chan Centre's Telus Studio Theatre. Born in Montreal, Silverman studied at McGill University, at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., and in Vienna. In 1973 he accepted a position at the University of B.C. School of music, and Vancouver became the home base of a touring pianist in mid-career.

#### Providence Business News (May 22) Beauchesne to lead RI Philharmonic

The Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School today named David Beauchesne, previously the director of education and community partnerships, to serve as its executive director. Before joining the Philharmonic staff in 2006, Beauchesne served as associate director of the Center for Educational Partnerships in Music at Georgia State University in Atlanta. He previously held administrative and teaching positions at both the Georgia State and the Eastman School of Music at Rochester University. He also has performed professionally as a trombonist with groups including the Montreal and Chautauqua Symphony Orchestras. A music graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where he also went on to earn a Master of Music Education degree, Beauchesne has completed the coursework for a Ph.D. in music education from Georgia State.

#### Messenger Post News (May 22) New Horizons band unveils new work in tribute to late leader

Music was the love of her husband's life, says Deborah Mizma. That's why she thinks he'd be particularly honored to know that a new musical work, written in his memory, will receive its premiere next week — and be performed by the band he led for more than 10 years, until his sudden death July 17, 2007, from an apparent heart attack. He was 73. Ed Mizma joined the New Horizons Band in 1993 after his retirement from Eastman Kodak Co., and became its conductor and director in 1987. The band, originally founded for people age 50 and older who had either never played an instrument or were picking up one again, is affiliated with the community education division of the Eastman **School of Music**. Membership in the band is now not age-limited, but members are still mostly older adults. There is also now a New Horizons Chorus, which Deborah's husband also led, a New Horizons Orchestra and other ensembles.

#### North by Northwestern (May 28) Studying under legends, NU trumpeters play to the tune of success

Every Wednesday, a uniquely Northwestern family gathers in the basement of Regenstein Hall for some high-pressure bonding time. The parents

are Barbara Butler and Charles Geyer, a real-life couple who head the trumpet program at Northwestern. Their "children" are the five freshman trumpeters who have been accepted to study under them. ... But this isn't your typical horn studio. The instructors are considered two of the best in the country, and these five students, along with the 17 other trumpeters, have each beat out dozens of other people for their spot at Northwestern. The pair, who are both Northwestern alums, married while in orchestras on opposite sides of the country and taught separately until joining forces at the Eastman **School of Music** in New York for 18 years. They then moved to Northwestern, where they have been teaching for 10 years. Geyer and Butler's Eastman reputation, which includes three of the four trumpets in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, is compounded by the recent success of Northwestern graduates. This reputation, along with Northwestern's school of music and the music culture of Chicago, brings the best players to audition, Geyer said.

### NPR Music.org (May 29) A New Label for Music's New Blood

Guitarist Grey McMurray and electric violinist Caleb Burhans are itsnotyouitsme — two 27-year-olds who met at the **Eastman School of Music**. Burhans says they sent their first record, *Walled Gardens*, to Bang on a Can's Cantaloupe label and got no reply. So they signed with New Amsterdam. "And what Judd was talking about for the New Amsterdam community just sounded so wonderful and appealing," Burhans says. "Plus, like, we're friends with everyone in the group. It just made so much sense to do it like that. Especially at this stage, with the big record companies going down, and downloads being the thing."

### Catholic Courier.com (May 29) Cathedral to welcome new organ

The space at Sacred Heart Cathedral recently vacated by a loaned organ will soon be filled by a new 40-foot-tall organ featuring nearly 4,000 pipes. The instrument was built by Paul Fritts and Company Organ Builders of Tacomah, Wash. A Brombaugh organ on loan to the diocese from Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, Calif., was removed from Sacred Heart in April and reinstalled at Rochester's St. Michael Parish.

Sonoma State bought the organ three years ago from the now shuttered Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Toledo, Ohio, but is still in the process of building a performing-arts center in which the organ ultimately will be housed. John Brombaugh built the organ for the Toledo church in 1972, said organ builder John Boody, a former Brombaugh employee who now co-owns the organ manufacturer Taylor and Boody. He noted that interest in and purchase of organs in Rochester has taken off recently due to the Eastman School of Music's Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative, which is supporting efforts to update and restore the city's catalogue of new and historically significant organs. The project's goal is to enable Eastman organ students to practice and perform on high-quality instruments.

#### TimeOut New York (May 29) Signs of progress

New York City is positively awash in excellent new-music ensembles right now—to a point. Small groups of four, six and even ten members are everywhere, catering to composers of every stylistic inclination. New bands are popping up at a head-spinning pace. But what the city—and, in fact, the entire country—still lacks are mixed ensembles of the 20- to 30-member size. Think of the impact that prominent European institutions such as the London Sinfonietta and Ensemble Intercontemporain have had on the development of modern music, and the need for such groups here becomes evident.

In recent years, the still-young Alarm Will Sound has made a huge splash in the local pool with its omnivorous mix of minimalists, maximalists, ambitious rockers and electronica knob-twirlers. The upstart Manhattan Sinfonietta and the Argento Ensemble (a nonet that swells as needed), meanwhile, have served as stalwart gardeners of thorny modernism. Now, into the fray hurtles a promising newcomer: Signal, a 22-piece chamber orchestra headed by music director Brad Lubman and cellist—executive director Lauren Radnovsky. The group makes its local debut during Saturday 31's Bang on a Can Marathon, performing Steve Reich's Daniel Variations at the stroke of midnight.

A regular presence on European podiums—including those of the London Sinfonietta,

Ensemble Modern and musikFabrik—Lubman is best known here for his work with the American Composers Orchestra and the Brooklyn Philharmonic. Since 1997 he has taught conducting at the **Eastman School of Music**; among his students was Alarm Will Sound's Alan Pierson. The spark that led to Signal was touched off in June 2007, when Lubman was asked to form an ensemble to play an all—Steve Reich concert for the June in Buffalo festival. He and Radnovsky summoned the best players available, drawing from Alarm Will Sound, Newspeak and Anti-Social Music, not to mention the entire lineup of So Percussion. (*Note: Radnofsky is an Eastman alumna. Also reported by the New York Times*)

## Democrat and Chronicle (May 29) Big Easy meets Flower City: The Po'Boys wants to be Rochester's brass band

Erik Jacobs was shooting pool at New Orleans' Old Point Bar a few years ago when he first heard a local favorite, Bonearama. "I wanted to be in an orchestra, in a jazz band," says Jacobs, then a trombonist in the New Orleans-based Marine Band. "And I'm being told, 'You're playing an instrument that's a dying breed; it's not something 19-year-olds want to hear." Yet here was Bonearama with four trombones, all right out front. Since then, "it's been a dream of mine," Jacobs says of trombone-powered jazz. "Now that I'm at Eastman, I have the material to do it." The Po'Boys, New Orleans brass fueled by Eastman School of Music students, opens "Fifteen Fridays" this week at the Village Gate Square courtyard. The series will feature free music by local bands every Friday through the summer. "I'm obviously not the average student," he says. He's 26, married with a family and lives off campus. "Eastman almost has its own bubble around itself. You can separate yourself and be just Eastman. We live in Irondequoit, and my neighbors are great. ... We're a bunch of Eastman guys, but we want to be Rochester's brass band. We want to develop a relationship with Rochester. We're New Orleans-inspired, but we want people to know we're a Rochester band."

# The Baltimore Sun (May 30) Season finale to honor local musical lights: Columbia Orchestra's 30th year

When it comes to musical luminaries from Maryland, few stars shine brighter than Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Christopher Rouse. Born and raised in Mount Washington, Rouse - a nephew of James W. Rouse - attended the Gilman School and went on to earn degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and Cornell University. He has taught at the University of Michigan and the **Eastman School of Music**, and teaches at the Juilliard School. Having recently moved back to Baltimore, Rouse also will join the composition faculty at the Peabody Conservatory next year.

#### Democrat & Chronicle (May 30) Gene Bertoncini: Concert (review)

Bertoncini's playing is like the right glass of Pinot noir. It's light and the flavors are subtle, yet it's complex and refreshing. Bertoncini, who used to teach at the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music, has performed with a slew of jazz greats from Benny Goodman to Paul Desmond and had a stint in the band for Johnny Carson's Tonight Show. He's known for seducing a sweet and intimate tone out of his acoustic guitar, preferring not to use amplification, and keeps any harshness at bay with nylon strings. His newest disc, which combines him with bassist David Finck, backdropped with a string quartet, pulls together all the things Bertoncini does best: jazz with classical and Latin mixed in. (Note: David Finck is an Eastman alumnus.)

(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.)