



Selected Coverage May 2010

National

Baltimore Sun
Broadway World
Houston Chronicle
New York Daily News
New York Times
Northwest Asian Weekly

Local & Regional

Batavia Daily News
Canandaigua Daily Messenger
City Newspaper
The Daily Record
Democrat & Chronicle
Niagara Gazette
Pittsford Post
WXXI
YNN

Other

Dearborn Press & Guide
Indianapolis Star
Las Cruces Sun News
Music & Vision
NewOrleans.com
PhillyBurbs.com

HIGHLIGHTS

The New York Times (May 9)

Interactivity, Inside and Out, Creates Informal Feeling

Not so very long ago, when contemporary composers had to hustle and scratch for places to present their work, art galleries provided a crucial outlet. Even now that modern music is welcome in concert halls and nightclubs alike, galleries can still be particularly congenial spaces — a point made by the Look & Listen Festival, which opened at the Chelsea Art Museum on Friday night.

This lively annual event, inaugurated in 2002 by the composer David Gordon, presents jampacked concerts in Manhattan galleries; this year's series included concerts at the Chelsea Art Museum and at Gary Snyder/Project Space, also in Chelsea. Friday's performers — the **JACK Quartet**, the sextet Eighth Blackbird and the pianist Jade Simmons — were familiar names in new music circles, as were most of the composers involved. . . .

The final piece, "Five Memos" by **Carlos Sánchez-Gutiérrez**, was Look & Listen's first commission, financed by the Fromm Music Foundation for Eighth Blackbird. Inspired by Italo Calvino's "Six Memos for the Next Millennium" (only five of which were completed), the crafty, appealing five-movement work deals in vivid contrasts: manic energy and sudden stillness, sharp attacks and sustained tones, giddiness and sobriety. (*Note: the JACK Quartet is composed of **Eastman School** graduates John Pickford Richards, Ari Streisfeld, Christopher Otto and Kevin McFarland. Carlos Sánchez-Gutiérrez is associate professor of composition at **Eastman***)

Baltimore Sun (May 12)

Midweek comic relief: Breaking Wind Bassoon Quartet plays Lady Gaga

Thanks to the folks at the Baltimore Symphony (via a post on Facebook), I got wind of a fab YouTube clip featuring the Breaking Wind Bassoon Quartet (gotta love that name) from the Eastman School of Music, performing a medley of hits by giga-star Lady Gaga.

Democrat & Chronicle (May. 2)

Rochester Music Hall of Fame announces nominees

The Rochester Music Hall of Fame announced more than 20 nominees, including former Foreigner front man Lou Gramm, Grammy-winning flugelhorn player Chuck Mangione and Young Rascals founder Gene Cornish, during a launch party at the German House Friday.

Nominees include:

- George Eastman, founder of Eastman Kodak Co., philanthropist, and music aficionado.
- Howard Hanson, director of the **Eastman School of Music** from 1924 to 1964.
- Mitch Miller, **Eastman graduate**, professional musician, record industry executive and hit TV show host.
- Alexander Courage, Emmy Award winning television and movie composer who wrote the music for several TV shows.
- William Caesar Warfield, raised in Rochester, majored in voice at the **Eastman School**, performed on Broadway and in Europe.
- Doriot Anthony Dwyer, gifted flutist, **Eastman graduate**, the first woman to win a principle chair on a major orchestra in 1952.
- Charles Strouse, **Eastman School** graduate and winner of three Tony Awards, two Grammy Awards.
- Ron Carter, **Eastman graduate** and influential jazz bassists.
- Chuck Mangione, Grammy-winning flugelhorn player and composer.
- Steve Gadd, born in Rochester, attended the **Eastman School**, influential contemporary drummer.
- Jeff Tyzik, educated at the **Eastman School**, principal pops conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra for the past 16 years.
- Renee Fleming, Grammy-winning international opera and recording star, grew up in Rochester and finished her graduate studies at the **Eastman School**.

(Also reported by WXXI, All Voices, Canandaigua Daily Messenger)

New York Daily News (May 3)

Break of Reality in Concert

An American instrumental cell-rock crossover group, Break of Reality consists of three cellists and a percussionist, including cellists Martin Torch-Ishii, Patrick Laird, and Philip Borter, and percussionist Ivan Trevino. Formed at the **Eastman School of Music** in 2003, the band is filling concert venues around the country with fans eager to hear “cello rock.”

The Scene Newspaper (May 4)

DownBeat Magazine honors Fred Sturm, student band Fatbook with music awards

For more than 30 years, Fred Sturm has devoted his life to enthusiastically sharing his love of jazz with aspiring musicians. That dedication was not lost on the editors of DownBeat magazine, who have named Sturm a recipient of its 2010 Jazz Education Achievement Award as part of its annual Student Music Awards. . . . Sturm’s student jazz ensembles at Lawrence and the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., where he spent 11 years, have won nine DownBeat awards during his career.

Corvallis Gazette Times (May 6)

Pianist Zhang Zuo to give Mother's Day performance

Internationally acclaimed piano player Zhang Zuo, a 2009 Van Cliburn competitor and winner of the 2006 International Piano Competition of China, will give the final performance of Oregon State University’s 2010 Steinway Piano Concert Series at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 9, at LaSells Stewart Center.

A senior at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., 21-year-old Zuo’s time is divided among school, her parents’ suburban apartment near Shenzhen, China, and performances in cities from New York to Salzburg. In addition to solo recitals, she has performed with the Shanghai and the Shenzhen Symphony orchestras, the Hong Kong Youth Philharmonic and Sinfonietta, the Kharkov Philharmonic, the Beijing Symphony and more.

Broadway World (May 7)

**SIGNAL To Perform At Merkin Concert Hall
5/27 2010/05/07**

On Thursday May 27th at 7:30 pm, SIGNAL, a large ensemble comprising some of **Eastman School of Music's** most gifted and innovative alumni, will perform the World Premiere of Stabat Mater by Nico Muhly. Celebrated as "one of the next great hopes for the future of classical music" by New York Magazine, Muhly has worked with Philip Glass, Björk and Antony and The Johnsons and composed the score for the 2008 film The Reader. Conductor Brad Lubman - co-founder of SIGNAL and a member of the Eastman faculty - will lead the concert program.

Music & Vision (May 8)

Lenya Competition Winners

Out of two hundred and thirty contestants from twelve countries – more participants than in any previous year – seven outstanding singer-actors won prizes in the 2010 Lotte Lenya Competition, held on 17 April 2010 at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, New York, USA.

Edwardsville Journal (May 8)

Blasingame wins Rodland National Organ Competition

Benton Blasingame, a sophomore at the University of Rochester's **Eastman School of Music** and a former Collinsville resident, won the \$8,000 top prize in the John R. Rodland Memorial Scholarship Competition on Saturday, April 10, in Ridgewood, N.J. Sponsored by the Northern New Jersey American Guild of Organists Chapter, the Rodland Scholarship is the largest and one of most competitive church music scholarships in the nation. Blasingame was one of three finalists selected from candidates throughout the United States. *(Also reported by Montclair Times)*

Dearborn Press & Guide (May 12)

U of M conductor pens book

Considered one of the world's greatest conductors, Gustav Neier is leaving his legacy in a detailed book about conducting. He has taught at Yale University, **Eastman School of Music**, Tanglewood Music Center and the University of Michigan.

Hudson Hub Times (May 12)

WRA Grad returns to alma mater for series finale

Western Reserve Academy graduate John Buffet is returning to his alma mater to perform in the Music from the Western Reserve concert series finale May 16 at 5 p.m. in the WRA Chapel. Buffet, a baritone and 2002 WRA alum, earned a master's degree in music in May 2009 from **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y. Russian born pianist Tatiana Vassilieva will accompany Buffett on the piano. Vassilieva earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from **Eastman**.

Indianapolis Star (May 12)

City pianist reaches finals of jazz awards

Jeremy Siskind, 23, New York City. At 20, Siskind was a finalist in the APA's 2007 jazz piano competition. The California native picked up composition early, then added jazz, winning a scholarship to the **Eastman School of Music**.

Batavia Daily News (May 13)

Singers stretch their voices with Chamber music group

Patricia Alexander admits to experiencing her "morning voice" while talking about an upcoming concert. It's understandable, given her eight-hour days teaching voice at **Eastman Community Music School** and night-time rehearsals for the Eastman Community Chamber Singers, which performs 7 p.m. Saturday at Castile United Church of Christ, 4 Washington St., Castile.

Pittsford Post (May 13)

Musica Spei: Presenting seldom-heard music, since 1995

For their 15th anniversary concert this weekend, the members of sacred-choral group Musica Spei have set themselves a prodigious task. They've explored music from England, the Low Countries, the Slavic lands and more, with much of the music courtesy of the **Eastman School of Music's** Sibley Music Library.

WXXI (May 14)

Restoring a Masterpiece: The Renovation of the Eastman Theatre on WXXI-TV

Restoring a Masterpiece: The Renovation of the Eastman Theatre, a WXXI production, premieres on Tuesday, June 1 at 8 p.m., and again at 9:30 p.m. on WXXI-TV (DT21.1/cable 1011 and 11). (Also reported by the *Democrat and Chronicle*)

YNN (May 14)

If You Are, Ever Were, or Will be a Teenager, See This Show

Growing up. How can anyone who has done it resist a story about it? The musical "13" features music and lyrics by Tony Award winner Jason Robert Brown, an **Eastman School of Music** graduate. . . . The story of "13" addresses many of the issues of being a teen -everything from dating to peer pressure. The group 'A Magical Journey Thru Stages' is bringing this musical to Rochester for the first time.

Sayre Morning Times (May 14)

A chance of a lifetime

She had already seen the e-mail, but Nathan Kendricks mother, Sharon, wanted her then 16-year-old son to find out for himself. After all, acceptance as a voice student into the Music Horizons Program, held each summer at the University of Rochester's prestigious **Eastman School of Music**, was something he really wanted.

NewOrleans.com (May 14)

Former Saenger silent movie organist Rosa Rio dies at 107

Rosa Rio, who started playing piano as a 4-year-old prodigy in New Orleans, has died at the age of 107 in Tampa, Florida. Rio first performed at the age of 9, to her father's disapproval because he felt the theatre was "no place for a girl." . . . The video below is of the 2007 Tampa commemoration at which she accompanied a Buster Keaton silent film at the age of 105. Until that event she had kept her age a secret. Her origins are also a mystery, her first name was Elizabeth but she adopted Rosa Rio as a stage name according to the *New York Times*.

Rio began performing locally before moving to Syracuse, New York, to play as a professional organist for some of the earliest moving pictures.

This has to give her one of the longest musical careers on record. Rio attended the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, New York, established by Eastman Kodak's George Eastman, and studied motion picture accompaniment. Her first husband was her professor there, John Hammond. (Also reported by *UPI*, *The Boston Globe*, *All About Jazz*, *The New York Times*, *Tampa Tribune*, *SouthCoastToday.com* and others)

Las Cruces Sun News (May 14)

Butler's last concert

Musical legend Oscar Butler takes up the baton for the last time at his retirement concert with the New Horizons Symphony Orchestra at 3 p.m. Saturday at New Mexico State University's Atkinson Music Center. The first New Horizons Band was created in 1991 by Roy Ernst of the **Eastman School of Music**.

St. Petersburg Times (May 20)

Florida Pro Musica winds up season with familiar piece

Florida Pro Musica winds up its 11th season by returning to one of its most successful pieces, John Paul Russo's *Missa pro nova aurora (Mass for a new dawn)*, which the group premiered in 2008.

Sunday afternoon, music director Larry Kent will conduct a 14-voice choir in the a cappella work, whose composer is a Capuchin-Franciscan friar. Russo, a former Tampa resident living in New Jersey, dedicated the Mass to Pope Benedict XVI. The friar – known as "Brother John" – is an accomplished composer who attended the **Eastman School of Music** and Indiana University and studied composition with Samuel Adler, Joseph Schwantner, Claude Baker, William Bolcom, Earl Brown, George Tsontakis, Jacob Druckman and others.

Democrat & Chronicle (May 20)

New Horizons ensembles more than music

Until she joined the New Horizons chorus, says Judy Pilletteri, "I forgot how much I love to sing." She was a choral singer all through high school, but at 67, the retired Webster town clerk had gotten a little rusty. Her husband, a tuba player, had joined the New Horizons band, so she gave the chorus a look.

The program, launched in 1991 at the **Eastman School of Music**, is part of the **Eastman Community School of Music** offerings. It was designed for seniors, but there is no minimum or maximum age, or ability requirement. Many players are experienced musicians, some of whom put music on the back burner of their lives during busy professional and family careers. But beginners are very welcome.

Jamestown Post Journal (May 20)

Larry R. Thompson 1937 - 2010

On May 17, 2010, Larry left Red Lodge for a better world, peaceful at last and free of pain. The world is a better place for having known this talented, kind and gentle man. Born on March 3, 1937, to Raymond and Geraldine Thompson in Warsaw, N.Y., he attended a one room school in Curriers, N.Y., and at the age of nine moved to Falconer, N.Y., attending Falconer High School, where he began his music career. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Fredonia State University School of Music, and then went on to graduate school at **Eastman School of Music**. His career as a symphony musician covered 43 years, playing with the Dallas Symphony for seven of those years and then with the Houston Symphony for 36 years as their English horn player and oboist.

PhillyBurbs.com (May 21)

Warminster welcomes world-class trumpeter

It took all of 10 minutes. When his father, a self-taught trumpet player, began instructing him on the horn that he would play around the house, along with his harmonica, Allen Vizzutti knew within minutes of his first lesson that he had found the instrument that would potentially shape his future. . . .

Today, the Missoula, Mont., native is one of the world's most celebrated trumpet players. He's appeared with a host of artists and orchestras across the globe, from Chick Corea and Chuck Mangione to the New Tokyo Philharmonic and the Budapest Radio Orchestra; composed for instrumental solos and full symphony orchestras; performed on more than 150 movie soundtracks and video games, including "Back to the Future" and "Scary Movie 4"; released multiple classical and jazz recordings; and written several well-regarded books for trumpet study. . . .

Though he received little jazz exposure growing up in Missoula, he benefited from a strong musical education community, where he was able to participate in the University of Montana jazz ensemble as first trumpet while still in high school. He also attended two summers' worth of music programs at the prestigious Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan. But it was really at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in music and received the only Artist's Diploma ever awarded a wind player, that he truly began studying jazz.

Niagara Gazette (May 21)

Falls' Christina Custode getting a lot of recognition

Christina Custode just graduated this week from the prestigious Rochester **Eastman School of Music** with of Bachelor's in Music Education, however, it's her voice that has proven to be an achievement all its own.

This past month Artvoice released its "Best of" Buffalo awards and when it came to "Best Female Artist of the Year," Custode took the honor back with her to her home in Niagara Falls.

Northwest Asian Weekly (May 28)

Baritone David Won overcomes language barrier to pursue his dream as an opera singer

No matter how lyrics are sung or what language they are sung in, there is one sure thing: baritone David Won is a rising star in the international opera world. After attending the Manhattan School of Music, he trained at the **Eastman School of Music** and Juilliard's graduate programs.

Democrat & Chronicle (May 29)

Music teacher passing baton to follow her own dreams

After more than two decades of helping make children's musical dreams come true, teacher Dina Alexander is leaving Buckman Heights Elementary School to pursue a dream of her own. Alexander, who has taught music at the school since 1987, is going back to school herself, to the **Eastman School of Music**, where she will pursue her doctorate in music education.

Houston Chronicle (May 30)

Frank Hangs' the new violinist in town

There was a time when Frank Huang, the Houston Symphony's new concertmaster, would rather have been playing basketball. For the past year, he has been on the faculty of the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., and first violinist of the Ying Quartet.

(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.)