



## Selected Coverage November 2008

### National

New York Times  
Jazz Police  
The Plain Dealer (Cleveland)  
The Santa Barbara  
Independent  
Columbus Ledger-Enquirer  
Fairbanks Daily News  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
Seattle Post Intelligencer  
Toronto Star  
Fairfax Times

### Local

Democrat & Chronicle  
Messenger Post Newspapers  
Rochester Business Journal  
RNews  
WHAM-TV  
WHEC-TV  
WROC-TV

### *HIGHLIGHTS*

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#### *The New York Times (November 9)*

##### **The Weill (Almost) Nobody Knows**

On Thursday the fog that hangs over “Marie Galante” will lift as Opéra Français de New York presents the American premiere at Florence Gould Hall, with Isabel Bayrakdarian in the enigmatic title role. Yves Abel will conduct; the chamber production is by the directing team of Jean-Philippe Clarac and Olivier Deloëuil. And in March the Collegiate Chorale will rekindle “The Firebrand of Florence” in a concert performance at Alice Tully Hall starring Nathan Gunn as the flamboyant 16th-century Florentine goldsmith and sculptor Benvenuto Cellini, the firebrand of the title. Both projects are music to the ears of the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music in New York, which lends enthusiastic support to scholars and performers in the form of grants, advice and access to its indispensable archives. As Kim H. Kowalke, the president of the foundation, explained recently, “Weill’s insistence on seeing each stage work as a new challenge and a new approach to the art of musical theater inevitably means that hearing a complete show gives songs a dimension that they lack when taken out of context.” (Note: Kowalke is Professor of Musicology at the **Eastman School of Music** and the University of Rochester’s Richard L. Turner Professor in Humanities. Regional auditions for the annual Lotte Lenya Competition will be held in the Eastman School’s Kilbourn Hall on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009; the final round and Winner’s Concert are Saturday, April 18, 2009, in Kilbourn Hall.)

#### *Seattle Post Intelligencer (November 10)*

##### **Innovation is part of the Ying Quartet repertoire**

Among the phenomena of the international music scene today are the dozens upon dozens of string quartets with active performing careers. Despite the venerability of this musical ensemble of two violins, viola and cello, it remains innovative and forward-thinking because of musicians like those in the Ying Quartet. On Wednesday night the group returns to Seattle for the first time since its 1995 debut at Meany Hall to participate in the Seattle Symphony Orchestra’s all-Beethoven quartet cycle mounted in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Benaroya Hall.

By definition, a string quartet -- or trio or quintet -- is a close-knit affair. With the Ying, it is even more so because the four members are siblings, six years apart in age with David, the cellist, the oldest, and Janet, the second violinist, the youngest. The others are Timothy, first violin, and Phillip, viola. They were reared in the Chicago suburb of Winnetka.

Phillip said they began to play together officially in 1988, when Janet entered the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., where her brothers already were enrolled. The older two were in graduate school. They mark their professional beginning in 1992, the year before they won the Naumburg Chamber Music Award and began to tour and record.

***The Plain Dealer (November 1)***  
**Cleveland Orchestra cellist relishes chance to lead and follow**

It's hard to imagine, but Richard Weiss, a veteran member of the Cleveland Orchestra, was once the baby in the group. When Weiss, a cellist, joined the orchestra in 1974, he was just 21 years old, sitting at the bottom of the section. Now, he stands firmly as one of its pillars, anchoring the orchestra as first assistant principal.

Weiss got a lot closer to Cleveland studying at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y. He attended on a full scholarship, earned in part by prizes from the Tanglewood Festival and the Music Teachers National Association. While still at Eastman, Weiss won a seat in the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. But his membership was not long-term. During his senior year, the cellist auditioned in Cleveland, assuming the experience would be merely educational, not life-altering.

***Democrat and Chronicle (November 2)***  
**Manasse/Nakamatsu Duo to perform at Chamber Music Rochester concert**

Pianist Jon Nakamatsu and clarinetist Jon Manasse have a lot in common. For one, and most obviously, they share first names, including spelling. It's a minor coincidence, but perhaps an early clue to what was to come. Secondly, despite active high-profile careers that have them traveling around the world, both have long-standing associations in Rochester.

Manasse's Rochester connections come from his faculty position at the **Eastman School of Music** as an associate professor of clarinet, a post he's held since 1995. He maintains a modest studio at Eastman and makes weekly flights in from his home in Manhattan, where he is principal clarinet of the American Ballet Theatre Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's and the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, and a standby for all of New York's major classical music institutions.

***MPNnow (November 4)***  
**In rhythm in the pool and musically**  
Sarabeth Ford has spent most of her life trying to hit the right notes whether she is playing the piano or the flute. The Palmyra-Macedon senior has

shown that she is far more than a versatile musician.

Ford is wrapping up an outstanding career with the Red Raider girls swimming team. It's a career that has featured a Section 5 Class C title in the 100 backstroke last year and has seen her emerge as one of the most talented swimmers in the Finger Lakes League.

Ford has played the piano since second grade and takes flute lessons at the **Eastman School of Music**.

***Democrat & Chronicle (November 6)***  
**Students cheering Obama victory arrested**

Ten people — including eight students of the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester — were charged with unlawful assembly Wednesday morning after they marched through the streets of downtown Rochester celebrating the election of Barack Obama as the nation's 44th president. *(Also reported by Inside Higher Education, WHAM TV ABC, WHEC TV NBC, City, MPNnow)*

***Democrat & Chronicle (November 6)***  
**Music, tale hauntingly morose**

Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* is a morose ghost story of a haunted house, possessed children, strange deaths and innuendos of illicit sex. But **Eastman Opera Theatre** puts an additional dark twist on this fascinating tale: It has the main character looking back at the sorry years later from an insane asylum.

Director Steven Daigle based this unusual production on the original novella by Henry James, the source for Britten's work, about a woman who is hired for an overwhelming job — becoming the governess for a house with an eerie past. It's a detour from the **Eastman School of Music's** 2000 production of the opera, which Daigle produced as a strictly psychological ghost thriller.

***Democrat & Chronicle (November 6)***  
**Star of the Sitar**

One of Shankar's most successful students, Kartik Seshadri, performs in the **Eastman World Music Series** on Monday. Like his teacher, Seshadri has a role in keeping Indian classical music relevant and

has adapted the tradition so that Indian music could persevere in a modern world.

***Santa Barbara Independent (November 6)***  
**Enter the Allosphere**

Take a little ride with me, now, from downtown into a lattice of atoms. First head north on 101 to Ward Memorial, then west under the Henley Gate, past the new pre-postmodern mural, and deep into the University of California at Santa Barbara. ... Up on floor two is the Media Arts and Technology (MAT) graduate program, where we now follow the Xeroxed paper signs: This Way to the Allosphere.

“There’s nothing like it in the world,” says host JoAnn Kuchera-Morin, the brain-parent of this enormous round room, this gateway to immersive media experiential bliss. She’s not exactly right — there have been large immersive theaters since the early 1990s — but the Allosphere is both more immersive and less subjective, according to its proponents, as you will soon see.

She may seem a little science-nerdy, but Kuchera-Morin is mostly about the music, and thus her road to the Allosphere seems unlikely. ... Yet Kuchera-Morin, against impossible odds, got into the **Eastman School of Music**, where she studied composing and was caught between the acourant John Cage torturing of instruments and a love of great performances. That led her to an almost chance epiphany about computer music, where instrument and performance became one. “We were like a bunch of apes gathered around the monolith,” she laughed, speaking of her peer group encounter with the digital possibilities. Somehow this unlikely string of events landed her a teaching post at UCSB — not in the music department, but in engineering. “They had all these people from Stanford, from MIT, and they hired me! A composer from Eastman. All these glorious blunders!”

***Mountain Mail (November 6)***  
**2nd Presidential Chamber Music Concert Features Piano Quartets**

Piano quartets by Robert Schumann and Joaquin Turino are on tap for the second of this year’s series of Presidential Chamber Music Concerts. Violist Willy Sucre is joined by violinist

Mark Rush, cellist James Holland and pianist Arlette Felberg. Holland is the Santa Fe Symphony’s new assistant principal cellist. He holds a master’s of music from the **Eastman School of Music** and a bachelor’s from the University of Alabama.

***BlueRidgeNow.com (November 9)***  
**BRCC presents pianist Joel Schoenhals**

The Blue Ridge Community College Concert Series will present pianist Joel Schoenhals at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17, in Thomas Auditorium. Steinway artist Schoenhals is associate professor of piano at Eastern Michigan University and since 1998, he has been on the faculty of the Summer Piano Program at the Chautauqua Institution in New York. Schoenhals holds a master’s of music, doctoral of musical arts and performer’s certificate from the **Eastman School of Music**, where he was a student and teaching assistant of Rebecca Penney.

***Columbus Ledger-Enquirer (November 9)***  
**New York based company brings “The Pirates of Penzance” to Columbus**

David Wannan is a busy fellow. He’s the managing director of the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players ([www.NYGASP.org](http://www.NYGASP.org)), where he does the booking and marketing. On top of that, he’s a singer and actor. “It’s a full-time job,” he said during a recent telephone interview. “I wear many hats.” ... Wannan is playing the Pirate King in “The Pirates of Penzance” and Bergeret is conducting the orchestra. Wannan got a degree in voice from the **Eastman School of Music** and after graduation, “I came down to New York to do the whole singer/ actor musical theater thing,” he said. “This company gave me my New York debut.”

***Democrat and Chronicle (November 9)***  
**Tubas herald return of Christmas to Canandaigua**

The weather outside was clammy, but the sound of tubas performing Christmas music warmed the inside of a former department store Saturday. Canandaigua held its first Tuba Christmas — carols played by tuba and euphonium players in what began as a tribute to a beloved music professor in 1974 and has grown to a worldwide series of concerts over the Christmas holiday.

"These low instruments are just going to fill you up from the inside out," Marcia Bornhurst Parkes, chairman of the New Horizons Music Program at the **Eastman School of Music**, said as she introduced the program to an audience of more than 100.

***Toronto Star (November 13)***

**Learning music not just for youngsters**

Beth Cada, 66, played the piano as a child – "I got my Grade 8 piano" – but felt it was a lonely way to make music. She spent her working years as a librarian, always wanted to be a musician, but life took her in other directions – until she retired.

In 2001, she joined the New Horizons Band in London, Ont. The band is part of a widespread music program that was started at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., in 1991 by Ray Ernst. He figured that learning to play music wasn't just for youngsters and that older people should be able to enjoy the pleasures and intellectual stimulation of music.

***St. Louis Post-Dispatch (November 16)***

**Symphony hires new administrator**

After a long wait, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra has a new vice president for artistic administration. Bret Dorhout will take the job that's been open since Peter Czornyj left at the end of the 2007-08 season. Dorhout comes to St. Louis from Philadelphia, where he is director of artistic planning and has held several other positions. An organist by training, he has a master's degree in music from the **Eastman School of Music**. He's a graduate of the League of American Orchestras' management training fellowship program, and worked at the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra from 2000 to 2005.

***Fairfax Times (November 17)***

**Charles Castleman Master Class**

Charles Castleman, one of the world's foremost violinists and pedagogues, will hold a violin master class at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Castleman is chair of the **Eastman School of Music's** string department and has conducted master classes from London to Tokyo. An internationally acclaimed recording artist and performer, the former child prodigy has been soloist with U.S. orchestras from New York City

to San Francisco and with international orchestras from Moscow to Hong Kong.

***RNews (November 19)***

**Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition**

Eight **Eastman School of Music** students will take center stage Saturday. It's the finals of the "Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition." The students are competing for a \$1,000 prize. The event is free and takes place this Saturday at 3 p.m. in Kilbourn Hall on the Eastman campus. *(Also reported by the Rochester Business Journal)*

***Democrat & Chronicle (November 22)***

**A sense of family in a local orchestra**

David Harman, conductor and musical director, laughs when he's asked if running the 80-piece-strong Penfield Symphony Orchestra isn't a bit like herding cats. "In any musical organization, you have those things to a greater or lesser degree," he says. "But they all choose to be there. No one's forcing them to come.

A California native who's lived here for 16 years, and has a doctorate in jazz clarinet from the **Eastman School of Music**, Harman has plenty of batons in the air. Besides entering his eighth season conducting the Penfield Symphony Orchestra, after several other abbreviated stints there, he is also a professor of music and Director of Orchestral Activities at the University of Rochester River Campus, with its 100-piece orchestra. And music director of the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. And he's taking the UR Chamber Orchestra to South America. And he's recently added the Music on My Mind Chamber Orchestra to his conductor's podium; that's a group of medical professionals from the department of neurology at Strong Memorial Hospital.

***R News (November 23)***

**Eastman Students Play Messiaen**

A concert in Rochester celebrated one of sacred music's most famous composers. The works of Olivier Messiaen were performed at St. Mary's Church in Washington Square Sunday. Students from the **Eastman School of Music** performed the pieces. They included organ music and Messiaen's most famous chamber piece, "Quartet for the End of Time."

***Jazz Police (November 24)***

**Maria Schneider Orchestra at the Jazz Showcase November 25th - 30th**

The Maria Schneider Orchestra performs at the Jazz Standard November 25th through the 30th (except for November 27th when the club is closed for Thanksgiving). After landing the 2nd Grammy Award of her career this year for "Best Instrumental Composition" (Cerulean Skies), Maria Schneider "now has become entrenched among the ranks of America's leading composers. ... For Schneider, the question is no longer whether she can sustain the heights she has attained on earlier recordings; it is now how far her musical journey will take her." (DownBeat)

Maria Schneider's music has been described as evocative, majestic, magical, heart-stoppingly gorgeous, and beyond categorization. Born in Windom, Minnesota, Schneider arrived in New York City in 1985 after studies at the University of Minnesota, the University of Miami and the **Eastman School of Music**. She immediately sought out Bob Brookmeyer to study composition, and at the same time became an assistant to Gil Evans, working on various projects with him.

***WROC-TV (November 24)***

**Scholastic Arts Spotlight - Sean Smith**

From his classroom studio at the **Eastman Community Music School**, Sean Smith is taking his vocal talent to new levels. This Dansville High School senior is fiercely committed to his music. He studies in Rochester once a week, and has been a member of the Eastman Youth Chamber Choir for four years. He's starred in school plays and musicals, plays the saxophone in the school band, and composes music as well.

Eastman vocal teacher Derrick Smith has worked with Sean for two years. "Most of my students are pretty good. But he's exceptional because he really loves music. I mean he loves it, loves it, loves it. I see him as a complete musician and by that I mean someone who can sort of do it all. And that's what I see in his future."

***Fairbanks Daily News (November 28)***

**Percussion great to join UAF ensemble in concert**

Most, if not all, of Morris Palter's percussion

students — members of the University of Alaska Fairbanks' percussion group Ensemble 64.8 — know all about the work of percussionist Bob Becker. Now they will get to do what many young musicians never dream of: perform with this professional mentor.

Becker himself considers his career one of logical progression: He started playing the marimba at age seven while growing up in Pennsylvania; he switched to snare drum in grade school and continued learning new, interesting percussion instruments as he made his way through school. Eventually earning bachelor's and graduate degrees from the **Eastman School of Music**, his education opened the doors for the successful career he now enjoys. His time in college connected with him with a long string of fellow talented musicians and composers — William G. Street, John H. Beck, Warren Benson and Aldo Provenzano — and fueled his curiosity to learn about as many styles of music as possible.

***Democrat & Chronicle (November 29)***

**Popular saxophone player and Rochester native Joe Romano dies at 76**

Joe Romano, a fun-loving jazz saxophonist for hire who played with the likes of Woody Herman and Chuck Mangione, died on Wednesday.

Mr. Romano was a Rochester native who had been living in Portland, Ore., the past four years. He'd also lived in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, New York City and countless hotel rooms over his long career before returning home to Rochester after he was diagnosed with lung cancer on Aug. 1. He was 76.

"He was a part of an amazing upstate group of Italian-heritage horn players," said Gap Mangione, who played with Romano, often alongside brother Chuck Mangione, many times over the years. "Sal Nistico, Larry Covelli, Don Menza, Sam Noto, Chuck, of course, Sal Amico from Ithaca and Joe Magnorelli, from Syracuse. They all hit at about the same 10-year period."

Life was Mr. Romano's main music teacher. As a kid, a couple of aunts took him to see Buddy Rich playing with the Tommy Dorsey Band at Rochester's Palace Theater. He dropped out of Benjamin Franklin High School in the 10th grade

and attended classes in clarinet, his first instrument, at the **Eastman School of Music**. But, "He was on the road since he was 17, said his partner of 15 years, Judy Tarte. "He wasn't a schooled player. He was more of a 'heart' player."

*(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.)*