



## Selected Coverage November 2009

### *HIGHLIGHTS*

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#### **National**

All About Jazz  
Boston Globe  
eJazzNews  
Jazz Times  
The New York Observer  
New York Times  
San Jose Mercury News  
The Seattle Times

#### **Local & Regional**

Batavia Daily News  
City Newspaper  
Democrat & Chronicle  
Messenger-Post Newspapers  
Syracuse Post Standard  
WXXI

#### **Other**

Battle Creek Enquirer  
Birmingham News  
Charleston Daily Mail  
Estes Park Trail-Gazette  
Hammond Daily Star  
Moultrie News  
Rutland Herald

#### *JazzTimes (Nov. 27)*

##### **Bob Brookmeyer To Be Honored in Concert at Eastman School of Music**

The Jazz Studies Department at the **Eastman School of Music** will present composer, valve trombonist and conductor Bob Brookmeyer in celebration of his upcoming 80th birthday and also for his lifetime achievement in jazz. In addition to his credits as a composer, arranger and musician, Brookmeyer has also taught several notable jazz composers including Maria Schneider and Jim McNeely. Brookmeyer, who worked regularly with Stan Getz, Gerry Mulligan, Jim Hall, Mel Lewis, Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra and also with Count Basie and Woody Herman, will be performing as part of the program with the Eastman New Jazz Ensemble, directed by Dave Rivello.

As a special highlight, there will also be five mini-premieres based on the musical material of "Happy Birthday", written by five different composers who are special friends of Bob's- Bill Holman, Jim McNeely, Dave Rivello, John Hollenbeck and Ryan Truesdell. Rivello will also be giving a pre-concert lecture at 7 pm on the evening of the concert.

The concert will take place on Wednesday December 2 in Kilbourn Hall at the **Eastman School of Music** at 8 pm. Admission is free (*also reported by eJazznews, City newspaper, Messenger Post Newspapers*)

#### *The New York Times (Nov. 11)*

##### **Business Plan Competition Guide**

A constantly updated list of business-plan and related competitions, this guide tracks their hosts, prizes, deadlines, and themes.

Eastman New Venture Challenge, Rochester

Held by the University of Rochester's **Eastman School of Music**. The Challenge offers one of four Eastman-student finalist teams a top prize of \$2,000 cash, along with advisory support from Eastman's Institute for Music Leadership.

***Democrat & Chronicle (Nov. 1)***  
**Secret in the CASTING - Nurturing young local talent is key to Eastman production's success**

Orphans tend to be a popular central character for musical theater. Take *Annie* or *Oliver!*, both based around homeless but extraordinary kids who ultimately find a bond to call family. An orphan is also the center of *The Secret Garden*, a Tony Award-winning musical based on the famous children's story that will be produced this week by the Eastman Opera Theatre.

"The story is a lot about healing and the healing of loss," says director Johnathan Pape. "It's the acceptance of the cycle of life and death, that you can't have life without death. It's understanding that this happens, and the whole metaphor is the garden."

There was just one problem with trying this musical theater production at the **Eastman School of Music**: The two lead roles are for children. *(also reported by Messenger-Post Newspapers, City Newspaper)*

***Rutland Herald (Nov. 1)***  
**New Ying string quartet introduces new work**  
The Ying Quartet, the formerly all-sibling string quartet, premiered a rich new work by Richard Danielpour on Friday at Dartmouth College's Hopkins Center — which proved the biggest success of the evening. Danielpour was on hand for the introduction of his String Quartet No. 6, written for the Ying Quartet and commissioned by the **Eastman School of Music**, where the Ying is in residence, and Hopkins Center.

The Ying Quartet has had a presence in Vermont since it conducted a weeklong residency in Montpelier in the early 1990s, involving itself with local schoolchildren as well as musicians. That was just after its groundbreaking yearlong residency in Jessup, Iowa, and a Naumburg Award. *(also reported by the Barre Times Argus)*

***Democrat & Chronicle (Nov. 2)***  
**RPO, trumpeter to honor vets with pops concert**

Rochester continues its 175th birthday celebration with a Veterans Day pops concert featuring the

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and trumpeter Byron Stripling. For Stripling, the event will be a homecoming, of sorts. The graduate of **Eastman School of Music** is well known in jazz circles as both a trumpeter and vocalist.

***Hammond Daily Star (Nov. 2)***  
**Capital Steps, astronaut in Hammond**  
The Capitol Steps, astronaut Robert "Hoot" Gibson, a 75th anniversary gala and a mezzo-soprano highlight the third week of Fanfare, Southeastern Louisiana University's annual October-long arts festival.

Alumni singers will join eight students for a program of opera and Broadway solos and scenes with a live orchestra will lead the way. Returning alumni include San Francisco Opera mezzo-soprano Daveda Karanas, **Eastman School of Music** Opera department Chair Steven Daigle, Southeastern voice faculty Joy Ratliff and Kay Schepker, and vocalists Amanda Tarver, Tyler Smith, Krassen Karagiozov, Jacqueline Brecheen, Sara Osterberger, Betty Turner, Christina Babin, Brian Martinez and Jessica Davis Bryan, among others.

***Democrat & Chronicle (Nov. 3)***  
**Irondequoit parents, students and teachers band together**  
Lia Rossi, a ninth-grader at Dake, played with her father, Jamal, who teaches saxophone at the **Eastman School of Music**.

***Moultrie News (Nov. 4)***  
**Prize honoring Donald J. Shetler Awarded at Eastman School of Music**  
The very first Donald J. Shetler Prize in Music Education, established to honor the contributions of Mount Pleasant resident Donald Shetler, was recently awarded at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y.

Dr. Shetler is professor emeritus and former chair of the music education department at the **Eastman School**, where he taught from 1965 until his retirement from full-time teaching in 1988. The Shetler Prize will be awarded annually to a graduate student in music education at the **Eastman School of Music** who exhibits outstanding musical performance, scholarship,

and leadership in the music education profession. The recipient of the first award is Lisa Caravan, a cellist and educator who is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

***Battle Creek Enquirer (Nov. 6)***

**Brass Band of Battle Creek perform holiday concert Dec. 5**

Be a part of the “Brass Capital of the World” as Jeff Tyzik, celebrating his fifteenth season as Principal Pops conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, will appear as guest conductor.

Jeff has earned a reputation as one of America's foremost conductors. A consummate musician, Tyzik is recognized for his brilliant arrangements, original programming, and engaging rapport with audiences of all ages. Tyzik also begins a new role as Principal Pops Conductor of the Oregon Symphony and continues to serve as Principal Pops Conductor of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. In addition to his titled posts, Tyzik is highly sought after as a guest conductor across North America, with recent guest appearances including the Boston Pops, the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center and the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl. Tyzik holds Bachelor of Music and Master degrees from the **Eastman School of Music**.

***Democrat & Chronicle (Nov. 7)***

**Concert review: RPO sparkles with guest conductor**

Ever since substituting for Yoav Talmi last spring, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra has been taken under Norwegian conductor Arild Remmereit's spell, a freelancing guest conductor known for final-hour rescues for ill conductors. Remmereit's performance with the RPO last season was electrically charged, similar to pick-up chamber music where first-time combinations of musicians just click and sparks fly.

Sparkle, a jazzy work composed by **Eastman School of Music** graduate Shafer Mahoney, opened the concert with a snapshot of the Empire State Building in New York City's morning rush, the pulse of the city provided by a conglomerate of percussion instruments including bongos, castanets and sandpaper blocks.

***NewsOK.com (Nov. 8)***

**Oboist continues search for perfect reed**

The first thing you notice when you enter Johanna Cox's studio at the University of Oklahoma is a table filled with cane, knives and twine, the tools of the trade for those who make their living playing the oboe. ... Like many professional musicians, Cox divides her time between teaching and performing. In addition to being assistant professor of oboe at OU, Cox plays oboe and English horn with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic. She's also a chamber music coach for three university woodwind quintets and two trios.

Cox grew up in Rochester, N.Y., home to the prestigious **Eastman School of Music**. At age 17, she won her first music competition and got to perform Ralph Vaughan Williams' oboe concerto with the Rochester Philharmonic. Cox earned a bachelor's degree and a performer's certificate from Eastman before pursuing a master's degree at Chicago's Northwestern University.

***The Boston Globe (Nov. 10)***

**String along**

The **JACK Quartet** gets its name from members John Pickford Richards (viola), Ari Streisfeld (violin), Christopher Otto (violin), and Kevin McFarland (cello). The Boston- and New York-based string ensemble met at the **Eastman School of Music** and is all about contemporary music. The quartet is on a mission to spread the word about new music through its workshops with young university composers and educational presentations. Tonight's concert will feature works by Felipe Lara, Kota Nakamura, Adam Roberts, and Roberto Toscano.

***New York Times (Nov. 10)***

**Gongs, Bamboo Flute and the Unexpected from China**

Coming to grips with a great deal of unfamiliar contemporary music is a lot to ask of any group of musicians, but the New Juilliard Ensemble seems to take such things in stride. Consider the concert the group presented on Monday night at Alice Tully Hall: “Composers Living and Working in China Today,” among the final offerings in Carnegie Hall's extensive festival Ancient Paths, Modern Voices. ...

Of the six works on the program, one, Li Shaosheng's "Skyline on the Moon," was entirely new. Zhu Jian-er's Symphony No. 4 ("6.4.2-1") was billed as a Western Hemisphere premiere; Ye Xiaogang's "Nine Horses" received its first New York performance. . . . swing rhythms. . . . Mr. Ye's work, written for a Pittsburgh ensemble by a composer who spent time at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, was a lean, zippy post-Minimalist romp.

***WXXI (Nov. 10)***

**Backstage Pass with Arabesque Winds**

Julia Figueras welcomes the Arabesque Winds to the Henry Epstein studio. Recent winners of the 2008 International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition, the Arabesque Winds are dedicated to the performance of contemporary wind music. In May of 2009, they represented the **Eastman School of Music** at the Kennedy Center's "Conservatory Project," where the Washington Post described them as having "skill and depth beyond their years...but it was the unanimity of their ensemble phrasing that took the breath away."

***The Daily News (Nov. 11)***

**Future stars shine in voice competition at Eastman School**

The finals of the annual Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition at the **Eastman School of Music** are scheduled for 3 p.m. Nov. 21, in Kilbourn Hall, during the first-ever celebration of National Opera Week. More than 90 organizations across the country, including professional companies and educational institutions, are participating in National Opera Week Nov. 13 through 22. . . . At the **Eastman School**, National Opera Week also features a master class given by Willie Anthony Waters, adjudicator of this year's Friends of Eastman Opera (FEO) Competition.

***Estes Park Trail-Gazette (Nov. 11)***

**Beethoven, Britten and Strauss up next for music fest**

The Estes Park Music Festival will present an exciting new addition to the Music Festival Winter Series featuring Jerilyn Jorgenson, violinist and Cullan Bryant on piano.

Jorgensen is adjunct professor of violin and chamber music at the Lamont School of Music of the University of Denver and a member of the performance faculty of Colorado College. For 24 years she was first violinist of the Da Vinci Quartet, and as a member of that ensemble she has performed throughout the United States, been a prizewinner in the Shostakovich International String Quartet Competition and finalist in the Naumburg Chamber Music Competition, and appeared on PBS's News Hour with Jim Lehrer. She holds bachelor of music degrees from the **Eastman School of Music** and the Juilliard School, and a master of music degree from Juilliard. Her major teachers have included Zvi Zeitlin, Joseph Fuchs, and Leonard Sorkin. She has also studied with Burton Kaplan.

***Charleston Daily Mail (Nov. 12)***

**Organist to present recital on Sunday**

Internationally acclaimed organist Peter DuBois will present his Orgelfest Recital at 3 p.m. Sunday at First Presbyterian Church of Charleston. DuBois is currently the director of music and organist at Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, N.Y. and the director of the sacred music diploma program at the **Eastman School of Music**. He has hosted the two-hour WXXI radio program "With Heart and Voice," a favorite of West Virginia Public Radio audiences, since July. He has performed across the U.S. and in Europe.

***Washburn Review (Nov. 11)***

**For whom the harp tolls**

Duo brings the unconventional to a conventional instrument with Metallica tribute

A great many people cringe at the very mention of a tribute band. . . . But out there in the tribute band world of something old, nothing new there is a glimmer of intrigue and surprise in the harp duo Harptallica. You read that correctly, Harptallica: the all harp tribute to thrash band Metallica. Both bombshell members of the duo are classically trained musicians in harp performance, but know how to rock out to the most famous hits of the band that ruled the airwaves in the '90s. . . .

Flash forward to 2006 when Ashley Toman, a then graduate student at the **Eastman School of**

**Music**, decided to arrange Metallica's "Fade to Black" for two harps. That first venture developed into a full CD compilation of songs played by Toman and former Harptallica member Patricia Kline.

Toman began playing harp and studying music at 15 in Traverse City, Mich. Three years later she was accepted to the prestigious **Eastman School of Music** where she earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in harp performance and served as a harp teaching assistant. Since moving to Louisiana, Ashley has appeared with the Baton Rouge Symphony, the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra and the Louisiana Philharmonic. She now resides in Baton Rouge, La., where she maintains a busy freelance schedule and teaches privately.

### ***Knoxville Metro Pulse (Nov. 11)***

#### **UT Opera's "The Crucible" Reveals the Cost of McCarthy-era Paranoia**

As human beings, we like to believe that we learn from our past mistakes. But do we? We also like to tell ourselves that our obsessions and outrages are always honorably motivated. But are they? Those are two basic questions at the symbolic heart of *The Crucible*, both the play by Arthur Miller, and the opera based on Miller's play by Robert Ward, which is being offered this weekend by the University of Tennessee Opera Theatre.

Ward's opera, with a libretto by Bernard Stambler, was commissioned and premiered by New York City Opera in 1961. The opening night was a huge critical and audience success, and public praise grew over the subsequent performances. In that theatre season, it earned the 1962 Pulitzer Prize for music and a New York Critics Circle Citation.

Because of the issues of setting vocal music to a stylized drama, Stambler's libretto cuts some of Miller's text, consolidates some of the characters, and adds a number of ensemble parts. But otherwise it's completely faithful to the spirit of the play. In Ward's score one might detect the influence of two American composers: Howard Hanson, with whom he studied at the **Eastman School of Music**, and Aaron Copland. Yet Ward's style is distinctive—a contemporary lyricism combined with American folk idioms and moments of hymn-like solemnity.

### ***City Newspaper (Nov. 11)***

#### **BEST OF '09: Critics' Picks - Best Torchbearer: Betty Strassenburgh**

When the **Eastman Theatre** reopened this October as the renovated Kodak Hall, it was the realization of many dreams in the Rochester arts and cultural community. But it was perhaps most satisfying for Betty Strassenburgh, who had spent the previous decade fervently pushing for the project, never giving up hope even when prospects looked bleak. She says she couldn't give up - after all, she'd been entrusted with the plans as part of the designer's dying wish.

### ***The Daily News (Nov. 12)***

#### **Chamber recital features works by Venetian masters**

Music by six composers who worked in the thriving musical environment of 17th century Venice will be featured during a chamber music recital at the Italian Baroque Organ in the Memorial Art Gallery, 500 University Ave. Titled "Venetian Masters," the program will be presented at 5:30 p.m. Sunday and features violinists Boel Gidholm and Bin Huang, cellist Christopher Haritatos, and Ulrika Davidsson, organ.

Davidsson is assistant professor of historical keyboards at the **Eastman School of Music**. She maintains a performance career on the piano, fortepiano, clavichord, organ, and harpsichord, appearing in concert in the United States, Canada, Japan, and Europe. She has toured with many chamber music ensembles and served on the music faculty of the University of Gothenburg

### ***MPNnow.com (Nov. 12)***

#### **'Opera is Love' -- a night of passion at Kodak Hall**

Four singers from the next generation of American opera stars will take the stage of Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre this weekend for "Opera is Love!" They perform in conjunction with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra under Principal Pops Conductor Jeff Tyzik.

Mezzo-soprano Jami Tyzik, Jeff Tyzik's daughter, made her solo debut at 17 and earned her bachelor's degree from the **Eastman School of Music**. She has been a soloist in Mozart's "Requiem," Handel's "Messiah," Bach's "Magnificat" and other works with numerous

orchestras, and made a recent debut with Aspen Opera Theatre in the title role in "Carmen." Earlier this month, she performed with the RPO and Rochester Oratorio Society in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

### ***MPNow.com (Nov. 12)***

#### **Q & A: From Scotland to Gates, in a few easy notes**

Eastman School musicians Andrew Dunlop, who is the new director of music at Elmgrove United Methodist Church, Quinn Patrick and Colin Stokes will be performing at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, at the church, 1500 Spencerport Road. Andrew Dunlop became Elmgrove United Methodist Church's new director of music in September, but the Scotland native is already growing accustomed to his new role with the church and a new country — although he's lagging a bit on his plan to start running soon.

Dunlop, who will be performing at the church Saturday night, is studying for his doctorate of musical arts in piano performance at the **Eastman School of Music**.

### ***The Jerusalem Post (Nov. 12)***

#### **Medicinal melodies**

With Omar Farouk Tekbilek you can always bank on getting a lot more than just top-grade musical entertainment. You don't need to hear more than a snippet or two of any of the 58-year-old Turkish-born multi-instrumentalist's growing discography - 14 as leader or coleader to date, with significant contributions to around 70 more productions - to get a clear idea of the spiritual ethos of the man and the artist.

Born in Adana, Turkey, and now a longtime resident of Rochester, New York, Tekbilek was something of a child prodigy, and got his first practical experience in music when he picked up a kaval (Middle Eastern piccolo flute) in an instrument store at the age of eight. . . . In fact, when Tekbilek crossed the Atlantic for the first time, he had his heart set on honing his skills in Western improvisational music, until logistics intervened. "I wanted to study jazz at Berklee [College of Music in Boston], but it was too far away from where I was living at the time. I went to **Eastman School of Music** [in Rochester] but there were no jazz studies there back then."

### ***Blue Ridge Times News (Nov. 13)***

#### **String quartet to perform concerts**

The Opal String Quartet will bring its unique musical voice to downtown Hendersonville tonight at Black Bear Coffee Co., with a concert featuring the works of Ravel, Mozart and contemporary composer Philip Glass. Opal String's members Amy Lovinger and Qiao Solomon play violin, while Kara Poorbaugh is on viola and Franklin Keel on cello.

Original members Lovinger, Poorbaugh and Keel, all principals in the Asheville Symphony Orchestra, met in 2006 and they discovered something in common. "We realized we were all graduates from the **Eastman School of Music**" in Rochester, N.Y., Lovinger says. "It was pretty funny we all ended up here in Western North Carolina."

### ***Birmingham News (Nov. 15)***

#### **Organist David Higgs offers surprises, meets challenges at Independent Presbyterian Church recital**

Independent Presbyterian Church continued its three-part November Organ Recital Series with a brilliant performance by David Higgs. Higgs's playing was crisp, bright and filled with surprises. His programming was eclectic -- in turns fun and whimsical, and serious and searching. In between pieces, Higgs, who chairs the organ department at the **Eastman School of Music**, offered accessible, engaging commentary.

### ***All About Jazz (Nov. 15)***

#### **Jade Visions: The Life and Music of Scott LaFaro**

When it comes to musical analysis, she turns over the reins to Jeff Campbell, an **Eastman School of Music** professor and bassist for Trio East, and Phil Palombi, a young bassist who transcribed all of LaFaro's solos from the Bill Evans Villabe Vanguard sessions. While Campbell's chapter requires some musical knowledge, it's fairly readable by the layman.

### ***The Post-Standard (Nov. 15)***

#### **Syracuse Symphony Orchestra oboe player tunes the orchestra**

"It's my biggest solo — every concert," jokes Anna Petersen Stearns, the new principal oboist of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra. . . . At 25, life

seems to be on an increasingly upward path for Stearns. Growing up in Waukesha, Wis., she learned flute first but switched to oboe after hearing Sergei Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf." Music took her to the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, where she earned a bachelor of music with a performer's certificate in Oboe.

***Democrat & Chronicle (Nov. 18)***  
**Po' Boys Brass Band**

Group of geeks is getting attention with an uncommon blend of jazz, funk and rock

Self-proclaimed band geeks, the members of the Po' Boys Brass Band have turned trombones and tubas cool with their original blend of New Orleans jazz, funk and rock. Nick Finzer (trombone), Mike Frederick (guitar), TJ Ricer (sousaphone), Chris Teal (drums), Chris Van Hof (trombone) and Erik Jacobs (trombone) — have no qualms about their geekiness. "I have a doctorate in tuba performance — that's about as geeky as it gets," Ricer says.

Named for the classic New Orleans sandwich, the Po' Boys — performing at Abilene Bar and Lounge on Nov. 21 — is a group of current and former **Eastman School of Music** students with a love of brass instruments and what they all came to Eastman for — musical performance.

***San Jose Mercury News (Nov. 18)***  
**'People's diva' Renee Fleming is 50 years young – and heading for Bay Area**

Q. Your mother still teaches voice?

A. She does, in continuing education at the **Eastman School** in Rochester. She has 40 voice students. She's a powerhouse. Everyone in my family is off the charts.

***eJazzNews (Nov. 22)***

**CD Reviews: Dave Rivello Ensemble, "Facing The Mirror"**

An educator at the **Eastman School of Music** and former student of legendary composer and arranger Bob Brookmeyer, Rivello's large ensemble has been playing regularly for the past eight years at the renowned Village Vanguard. Pared down from a 17-piece orchestra to a 12-piece light ensemble, The Dave Rivello Ensemble makes its recording debut performing eight original compositions and arrangements on the

sparkling new CD "Facing The Mirror." Not your typical big band sound, Rivello's music is modern mainstream material layered with sophisticated harmonies a-typical of traditional swing or classical big band music.

***The New York Observer (Nov. 24)***  
**John Hollenbeck Only Looks Like a Jazz Musician**

It's hard to pin down the drummer-composer John Hollenbeck stylistically. You can frequently find him playing gigs as a sideman at clubs like the Village Vanguard and the Jazz Standard. This would suggest rather strongly that Mr. Hollenbeck is a jazz musician.

Mr. Hollenbeck studied classic percussion and jazz composition at **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester. He moved to New York City to play jazz, and was drawn to the downtown music scene, where jazz rebels like John Zorn rubbed shoulders with new music iconoclasts like Ms. Monk.

***The Business Gazette (Nov. 25)***  
**More than a concert**

Most days, you can find Chris Vadala at the University of Maryland. As the Director of Jazz Studies, he guides young musicians and helps emerging woodwind players learn the finer elements of their instruments.

Before joining the school 15 years ago, Vadala toured with the Chuck Mangione Quartet for more than a decade. He played saxophone on his fellow **Eastman School of Music** alum's 1977 breakout, "Feels So Good." The woodwind virtuoso has appeared on some 100 recordings, and now enjoys both academia and letting loose on stage.

***All About Jazz (Nov. 26)***  
**Right on Time**

Memo to all those folks who insist that "real" jazz is dead, or at least on life support: do check out the leader/producing debut of 23-year-old guitarist Graham Dechter. His Right on Time supplies irrefutable evidence that the tradition is not only alive, but flourishing, because of young artists like Dechter who are both able and eager to carry the torch.

The first thing you notice is Dechter's warm, round tone; what registers next are his great time, technique, and expressiveness. Dechter has filled the guitar chair in the peerless Clayton Hamilton Jazz Orchestra since the ripe old age of 19, when he was plucked from the **Eastman School of Music** by drummer and co-producer Jeff Hamilton, and his band mates here are three of the CHJO's leading lights. It could be argued that there's no better drummer, bassist, or pianist working today than Hamilton, John Clayton, and Tamir Hendelman, and after four years together Dechter clearly holds his own in that artistic company.

***The Seattle Times (Nov. 29)***

**From the Prince of Wales to Lou Reed: Renée Fleming sings on many stages**

Special to Renée Fleming, the extraordinary American soprano performing at Benaroya Hall on Friday as part of Seattle Symphony's Distinguished Artists series, has known more than one instance of musical statesmanship. She has performed for the Supreme Court, the Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace, at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing and the televised "We Are One: The Obama Inaugural Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial" last January.

That list doesn't include singing with the co-founder of a seminal rock band at an important celebration for a once-Soviet-bloc nation. But that's precisely what Fleming did on Nov. 17, when she participated in an unlikely but powerful duet with Lou Reed at a Prague concert noting the 20th anniversary of the former Czechoslovakia's nonviolent overthrow of its Communist government.

Fleming's ravishing, awe-inspiring voice is more typically present in the great opera houses and concert halls of the world. Growing up in Rochester, N.Y., her parents were both voice teachers who talked every night at the dinner table about singing. While attending State University of New York, Fleming began singing jazz at a bar, bringing her to the attention of saxophonist Illinois Jacquet.

Jacquet invited her to tour with his band, but instead Fleming took up graduate studies at the **Eastman School of Music** and the Juilliard

School. In the late 1980s, she won numerous international prizes as a vocalist. Debuts at the Houston Grand Opera, Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera in New York and the Opéra de la Bastille in Paris — among many other companies — were not far behind.

***The Daily News (Nov. 30)***

**Channel Surfing: 'The Eastman' stars in new doc**

WXXI-TV, channel 21 in Rochester, offers a sneak peek at its next local production "Restoring a Masterpiece: The Renovation of the **Eastman Theatre**," with a preview at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

The documentary tells the story of the historic building, originally built as a silent movie theater, and documents its recent restoration.

*(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.)*