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NEWS

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HIGHLIGHTS

New York Times (October 5) A Man of Many Talents, Eager to Use Them All

Early this summer Caleb Burhans cleared his performance calendar for the first time since 2001, when he graduated from the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester and moved to New York City. He wasn't taking a vacation, exactly. Lincoln Center and Alarm Will Sound, a new-music orchestra in which he plays violin, had commissioned him to write a work to be performed in March as part of the reopening festivities at Alice Tully Hall, and Mr. Burhans resolved to do nothing but compose.

But at the Bang on a Can Marathon in June, he played his "No," for violin and electronics, and performed with Alarm Will Sound and another new-music group, Signal. He also performed with Signal at the Ojai Music Festival in California. And in a three-day stretch in August, in New York, he sang with two chamber choirs (also conducting one of them), played and sang in a pop theater piece and gave a concert with itsnotyouitsme, his ambient rock duo.

At 28, Mr. Burhans has pursued a career path so logical that it seems almost foolproof. Just sing, compose and master several instruments (besides the violin he plays viola, guitar, bass, keyboards and percussion) and the New York freelance world is your oyster. But this is a new development. Until recently, the conventional wisdom went, musicians with diverse talents should specialize: decide whether they are better suited to composing or performing, singing or playing an instrument, working in classical music or a variety of pop. (Note: Eastman graduates are members of Alarm Will Sound and Signal. Also reported on musicandculture.blogspot.com)

Democrat & Chronicle (October 17) Craighead-Saunders Organ at Christ Church adds to Rochester's rich organ history

Rochester has a reputation as a city that loves pipe organs. George Eastman, the kind of enthusiast who hired an organist just to play while he ate breakfast, was at the center of this organ movement, planning for the **Eastman School of Music** to be a center for organ music.

Eastman would be smiling in his grave today as the project for the newest and most historically significant organ came to completion, part of the Eastman-Rochester Organ Initiative. Thursday night, the first official notes blew through pipes of the 15-ton, 2,000-pipe Craighead-Saunders Organ built in Christ Church.

The instrument is a replica of an organ from 1776, originally built in the Holy Ghost Church in Vilnius, Lithuania. It was one of the few remaining organs from the 18th century — Bach's time — that survived the Cold War. The project involved worldwide specialists in organ construction and research analyzing the organ in Lithuania and coming up with a model to build based on techniques from the 18th century. (Advance reports done by RNews, Channel 10, Canandaigua Daily Messenger, Rochester Business Journal.)

Pittsburgh Post Gazette (October 2) Music Preview: Mangione's debt to Dizzy

To much of the public, Chuck Mangione may be a pop star who made a name for himself with a couple of AM radio hits nearly three decades ago, playing an exotic instrument. But at his core, Mangione, who plays the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild this weekend, has always considered himself a disciple of "Dizzy." However, it wasn't until college that Mangione found what he considers his true voice.

"When I was at the **Eastman School of Music** as an undergraduate student, jazz at that time was not a style of music that the school taught or was in favor of," Mangione says. "Those of us who were into jazz would get together on Saturday afternoons; people who were into arranging would transcribe music that was happening at the time and would put together an ensemble [to play it]" -such as "Sketches of Spain" and "Porgy and Bess," which of course were collaborations between trumpeter Miles Davis and arranger Gil Evans.

By the late 1970s Mangione had already built a sizable following after recording several albums with both a small group and symphonic-type orchestras, for which he did all the writing. Most notable was 1970's Grammy-nominated "Friends and Love," which he recorded with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Democrat & Chronicle (October 3) Ed Harris taps Eastman grad to write score to Western

The classic Western is back on screen in the latest work from actor-director Ed Harris. Giving it support is a first-rate soundtrack by noted Eastman School of Music graduate Jeff Beal.

Jeff Beal was Harris' pick for the music, mostly because they had a good relationship when Beal created the excellent score for Harris' Oscarwinning Pollock.

A San Francisco native, Beal had studied jazz and orchestral composition at the **Eastman School of Music** and won an unprecedented 12 student awards from Down Beat magazine before his graduation in 1985. Along the way, he also developed a strong reputation as a jazz trumpeter,

though composing was also always important to him. He moved to New York City and then Los Angeles, constantly developing jazz performance, orchestral composition and, eventually, TV and movie soundtracks. Harris' Pollock was a major breakthrough.

Democrat & Chronicle (October 5) Rochester could see an explosion of creativity over the next 25 years

For Chris Van Hof of Bloomfield, Ontario County, the local classical music scene, as well as other genres in Rochester, is a healthy one in comparison with other cities of our size. In his vision of Rochester 2033, downtown would be healthy, too: A centralized area where artists can present their art and people can go and enjoy themselves.

"The two cities I've spent a lot of time in — Grand Rapids (Michigan), my hometown, and Kalamazoo, where I went to college — both had a central location where there was a really healthy mix of residential, commercial business and venues to perform," says Van Hof, 25, the afternoon host of the WXXI-FM (91.5) classical music broadcast. He recently earned his master's degree in trombone performance from the **Eastman School of Music**.

Democrat & Chronicle (October 8) Tickets for Maria Schneider concert at Eastman go on sale Friday

Tickets go on sale Friday for the Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra concert on Jan. 23 at the Eastman Theatre. Schneider is an **Eastman School of Music** graduate and became the first artist to win a Grammy Award (2005 best jazz album for Concert in the Garden) without a major record label, distributing her music only over her Web site.

WXXI AM (October 15) New Organ Unites 18th, 21st Centuries

Finishing touches are still being put on the 30-thousand pound Craighead-Saunders organ in Christ Episcopal Church on East Avenue before it debuts for the public in a series of concerts this coming weekend. It's what experts call a "scientific recreation" of a 1776 original in Vilnius, Lithuania.

David Higgs is chair of the Organ Department at the **Eastman School of Music**. He says this is the result of eight years of study and effort in both Europe and the United States -- studying what gave the original Baroque organ its sound and how to build a modern instrument with the same materials and methods. That extends to food operated bellows that provide air to the organ (it has an electric pump, too if two people can't be found to stand in the wind chamber behind the organ, stepping onto wooden beams to pump the bellows with their weight. Even screws and the hinges in the organ were hand-forged.

The public will be able to hear the Craighead-Saunders organ October 16-20 as part of the EROI Festival. (Also reported by RNews, Channel 10, Canandaigua Daily Messenger, Rochester Business Journal.)

Democrat & Chronicle (October 15) UR to honor jazz great Brubeck

The University of Rochester will award jazz legend Dave Brubeck an honorary doctor of music degree on Saturday, part of the **Eastman Weekend** festivities that run Thursday to Sunday.

Connect Savannah (October 14) Sounding like one pianist rather than two

Marina Lomazo believes she knows the reasons so many classical musicians find themselves romantically linked to others in the same profession: proximity, opportunity and a sense of simpatico.

"Young people meet in college and musicians usually don't venture far outside their music world," the critically acclaimed concert pianist explains. "They practice all the time! Also, musicians understand each other's need to practice for hours on end."

Her own husband, Joseph Rackers, surely understands the discipline and dedication required of touring concert pianists, as he himself is one as well. Over the past decade, they have become one of the more celebrated duos on the classical music scene, and this weekend, they'll appear together at the Lucas Theatre in a recital presented by the Savannah Concert Association.

Since the couple first met 18 years ago at the famed **Eastman School of Music**, they —alone and together— have dazzled audiences and earned critical raves throughout the USA and Europe.

Morris Daily Herald (October 17) Community Briefs: Music teachers to focus on 'technique through listening'

The Joliet Area Chapter of Illinois State Music Teachers Association will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Friday Oct. 17. Members will gather at the home of Ms. Chris Siegel to view a video presentation of "Technique Through Listening" by Nelita True. Ms. True is a Master Teacher from the **Eastman School of Music** in New York.

Boston Globe (October 17) Wee Trio members are thinking big

They're called the Wee Trio, but there's nothing small about these three guys straight from the eclectic Brooklyn scene. Not their music, a free-spirited brew that works in Nirvana and Sufjan Stevens covers beside Thelonious Monk classics. And not their personality: From the Wee ones, who visit the Lily Pad tonight, emanates the goofy, endearing feel of buddies whose chemistry carries well off the bandstand.

It makes for a winning debut, as heard on the group's album "Capitol Diner, Vol. I" - and all the more so for the instrumentation. With James Westfall on vibraphone, Dan Loomis on bass, and Jared Schonig on drums, the Wee lineup is one seldom seen in jazz.

Though forged in Brooklyn - where Loomis and Schonig moved after being roommates at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., and where they found Westfall living across the street - the Wee Trio is at root a road band. In fact, though the three were already gigging together on the New York scene, Westfall proposed forming the trio for the specific purpose of going on a Rust Belt tour of provincial venues.

WROC-TV (October 18) Jazz Musician Dave Brubeck Receives Special Honor

A legendary jazz composer and performer received a special honor at the **Eastman School of Music** Saturday night.

Dave Brubeck received an honorary Doctor of Music from the University of Rochester. Brubeck's considered a living legend and continues to be one of the most popular musicians in the jazz and classical world.

He's gathered a number of honors for his work, including a Grammy lifetime achievement award.

WROC-TV (October 21) Eliza Minster

Our Scholastic Arts Spotlight shines on a local high school senior who's the official bugler for the Geneseo chapter of the VFW - but that's just one of a whole list of accomplishments that make Eliza Minster so special. Sure, she plays the trumpet, but Eliza loves the cello. In fact, she's the principal cellist in the Geneseo High School orchestra. But trumpet is her first love. Besides her commitment to school music, Eliza plays in the prestigious Rochester Philarmonic Youth Orchestra. She studies at the **Eastman School of Music** - and she gives back with her work with the Geneseo chapter of the VFW.

Broadway World (October 21) Maltz Jupiter Theatre Company Announces 'We Create Art' Series

The Maltz Jupiter Theatre highlights its "We Create Art" season campaign with the Emerging Artist Series in Musical Theater Playwriting. Launching the new series will be Academy, which will be performed on Thursday, October 30, 2008 at 6:30pm.

Academy's book, music and lyrics are written by John Mercurio. With degrees from the **Eastman School of Music** and NYU, Mercurio was a member of the BMI Advanced Musical Theatre Workshop. As a recipient of awards from both the Jonathan Larson and the Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Musical Theater Foundation for his work in musical theatre, Mercurio also had his musical, Myth, developed at the Eugene O'Neil National Music Theater Conference and received the Georgia Holof Award for lyric writing.

20watts.wordpress.com (October 21) Keep it Classical: Red, White, and Blue Kazoo Russia's is the accordion. Mexico's is the marimba. Finland's is the violin. Spain's is the guitar. But what is the national musical instrument of the United States?

Sadly, we don't seem to have one as of yet, but Barbara Stewart is pushing for an unlikely candidate: the kazoo. A classically trained singer who studied at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, NY, Stewart dedicated her life's work to the kazoo when a professor told her that he believed everyone should be an expert at something. Stewart formed the five member kazoo ensemble, Kazoophony, which has performed renditions of classical music at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and on "The Tonight Show." She also authored the book, How to Kazoo: A Complete User's Guide and Practitioner's Manual, and maintains a website and blog at www.howtokazoo.com.

Leader-Telegram (October 22) Celebrated piano player headlining ragtime concert

Bob Milne was classically trained on the French horn, performing with the Rochester (N.Y.) Philharmonic and Baltimore Symphony by age 21. He studied at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., where students frequented a local saloon to unwind.

"There was a student bar we used to always go to that had a sing-along piano player in it," said Milne, 66. "The guy didn't show up one night. So I just started playing the tunes that people would sing, and they hired me." Dropping the French horn, Milne became a full-time pianist by age 22. Four decades later, he has performed ragtime piano for audiences and dignitaries around the world. (Also reported by SooToday.com)

Artvoice – Buffalo (October 22) Classical Music: The Ying Quartet comes to Slee this weekend

No other city in America, including New York City, has hosted an annual performance of the complete Beethoven quartets for as long as Buffalo. Thanks to the good taste, the foresight, and the generosity of the late Alice and Frederick Slee, the 53rd annual performance of the complete Beethoven string quartet cycle begins this Friday, October 24 at 8pm in Slee Hall with a concert by the Ying Quartet.

The Ying Quartet is very probably the only currently professionally touring string quartet in the world made up of four siblings. Growing up in a suburb of Chicago, all five children in the family learned to play the piano, but the piano not being conducive to social music making, all five eventually ended up playing string instruments. Timothy and Janet became violinists, Phillip a violist, and David, the eldest, a cellist, while Daniel, who is now a pastor, played double bass. They all studied at separate colleges before arriving at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, where they studied, played, and taught. Encouraged by the members of the Cleveland String Quartet, the Yings formed their own quartet, winning the International Cleveland Quartet Competition in 1989 and the Naumburg Chamber Music Award in 1993.

Democrat & Chronicle (October 24) Eastman Wind Ensemble, Canadian Brass release CD

A new Eastman Wind Ensemble recording will be released Tuesday of its first collaboration with the Canadian Brass. The CD, Manhattan Music, will be available from the online classical music retailer ArkivMusic (www.arkivmusic.com).

The CD, recorded in the Eastman Theatre in the fall of 2007, includes Bramwell Tovey's Manhattan Music; Michael Sweeney's Suite from Bernstein's Mass; Eastman Wind Ensemble Director Mark Scatterday's arrangement of Shaker Suite by Rayburn Wright, a former director of jazz studies at Eastman; and the premiere recording of New York CityScape by Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra principal pops conductor and Eastman alum Jeff Tyzik.

Chuck Daellenbach, tuba player with the Canadian Brass, was a member of the Wind Ensemble in the 1960s and holds an honorary doctorate. He, along with Wind Ensemble alum Dixon Van Winkle, a well-known recording producer and engineer, came up with the idea for a joint recording. Daellenbach and Scatterday decided on the recording project when Daellenbach was in Rochester to receive the honorary doctorate in 2006.

The St. Petersburg Times (October 24) Key to success

Learning to play the piano was originally antistress therapy for blind Incan musician Hwaen Ch'uqi but his talent has made him a recognized globe-trotting performer, most recently the winner of a special prize at the Second International Sviatoslav Richter Piano Competition in Moscow in June.

Born in Lancaster, Peru, Ch'uqi was abandoned by his parents and later adopted at the age of five by George and Inez Tomlinson, who took the boy to the U.S. and introduced him to the piano. "There were some deeply personal traumas in my early childhood that I could not easily communicate to anyone so I found my comfort in sharing the emotions with the instrument, confiding them to the piano," Ch'uqi said.

Ch'uqi had his first piano lessons from Cindy Wittenberg of the "Silver, Wood and Ivory" ensemble on a Suzuki piano stipend. Eventually the musician moved on to study under the emigre Russian professor Natalya Antonova at the respected **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, New York.

The Leaf Chronicle (October 28) APSU announces winners of Composer's Competition

Winners in the 2008 Young Composer's Competition were announced recently by the Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts at Austin Peay State University.

First prize was awarded to Andrew Allen, of Rochester, N.Y., for his "Breakbeat Mechanima" for chamber ensemble. Second place was awarded to Lauren Wells, of Kansas City, Mo., for her sonata for cello and piano. Third prize was awarded to Justin Hoke, of Lancaster, Pa., for his "Lacuna" for chamber ensemble.

Allen holds a formal degree from the University of South Carolina, where he studied under John Fitz Rogers in acoustic composition and Reginald Bain in computer music. He currently attends the **Eastman School of Music** where he also works as a teaching assistant and webmaster for the Eastman Computer Music Center as well as a board member and webmaster of Eastman's

student-run new music ensemble, Ossia. He currently studies composition under Robert D. Morris.

Hoke currently is pursuing a B.M. degree from the **Eastman School of Music**. His composition teachers have included John Carbon, Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez and David Liptak and currently Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon. Studying piano since the age of 5, he has been a student of Joann Wagstaff, Elizabeth Keller and presently works with Tony Caramia. Hoke's piece, "Che si sgretola," received a BMI Student Composer Award in May 2008. Also this year, he received the Bernard Rogers Memorial Prize from the Eastman School of Music.

Democrat & Chronicle (October 29) Violist guest on radio program

Eastman School of Music's new chairwoman of the viola department, Carol Rodland, will be a guest on the WXXI-FM (91.5) show Backstage Pass at 1 p.m. Friday with host Julia Figueras. Rodland joined the faculty this fall, following long-time viola professor John Graham's retirement in the spring. The program will repeat at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Before joining Eastman, she was on the faculty at the New England Conservatory in Boston. . Rodland performs internationally and has solo recordings on the Crystal and Neuma labels. She is a graduate of the Juilliard School and the Musikhochschule in Freiburg, and is a Fulbright scholar.

*Top40-Charts.com (October 29)*Bill Cunliffe - The Blues And The Abstract Truth, Take 2

With his new album, The Blues and the Abstract Truth, Take 2, pianist Bill Cunliffe doesn't so much reinvent a modern jazz classic as open it for incisive interpretation. Working with clean, uncluttered arrangements and a stellar cast of improvisers, Cunliffe explores Oliver Nelson's beloved 1961 album for Impulse! And the results are consistently riveting. Putting a personal spin on Nelson's six original tunes, including the standard 'Stolen Moments,' Cunliffe creates a state-of-the-art jazz statement, while contributing two superb compositions of his own at the end of the session.

The winner of the 1989 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition, Cunliffe started gaining recognition as a student at the **Eastman School of Music** when he won several Down Beat Awards.

Messenger Post Now (October 30) Midlakes grad returns with trombone, ensemble

Lisa Albrecht's musical career has brought the trombonist to positions with orchestras from Minnesota to Honolulu; to projects shared with artists such as Rosemary Clooney, Mel Tormé and Joni Mitchell; to a controversial visit to North Korea with her current orchestra, the New York Philharmonic.

Albrecht returns to Ontario County this weekend for a concert at The Presbyterian Church in Geneva. She will perform as a soloist, and then with her colleagues in The Excelsior Trombone Ensemble. Rochester organist Paul Frolick will accompany both Albrecht and the ensemble.

A 1982 Midlakes High School graduate, Albrecht also graduated from the **Eastman School of Music** — where she received the Remington Scholarship and Performer's Certificate — and now serves as the associate principal trombonist with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

The New York Times (October 31) The Music Is Classical, and the Bar Is Busy

In some ways, it was a familiar New York scene: a crowd of people, mostly young, seated at tables in a no-frills, black-walled Greenwich Village music club on Wednesday night, sipping drinks and listening to a group playing its first set. What was different was the music: the complete works for string quartet by the intensely complex modernist composer Iannis Xenakis (1922-2001), performed by the adventurous Jack Quartet. That club is Le Poisson Rouge, which opened this summer on the site of the former Village Gate.

You could argue that the players of the Jack Quartet, who met as students at the **Eastman School of Music**, presented Xenakis in an almost anti-intellectual manner. There were no program notes and no spoken introductions to the pieces, except for a few teasers from the cellist, Kevin McFarland, who talked of the "insanity level" or

the "computer-generated chaos." Yet these musicians and the proprietors of Le Poisson Rouge are on to something. What is most essential is for audiences just to show up and listen.

WXXI (October 31)

Backstage Pass presents Carol Rodland

On the next Backstage Pass, host Julia Figueras introduces listeners to the new Viola Chair at the **Eastman School of Music**, Carol Rodland, from the Henry Epstein Studio. Backstage Pass featuring Carol Rodland airs Friday, October 31 at 1 p.m. and repeats Sunday, November 2 at 2 p.m. on Classical 91.5/90.3/HD 91.5-1.

Praised by Fanfare magazine for her "delicious" playing and for her tone, which is "larger than life, sweetly in tune, and infinitely variegated," Carol Rodland enjoys an international career as a concert and recording artist and pedagogue. Recent performances have taken her to Brazil, Germany, and throughout the United States, and her solo recordings on the Crystal and Neuma labels have been critically acclaimed. A Fulbright Scholar, she received degrees with highest honors from the Juilliard School and the Musikhochschule Freiburg, where she studied with Karen Tuttle and Kim Kashkashian. She made her solo debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra as a teenager. Rodland has held professorships at the Musikhochschule "Hanns Eisler" Berlin, Arizona State University, and as guest faculty at the Juilliard School. Before joining the Eastman School of Music, Rodland was on the viola faculty of the New England Conservatory, where she received the Krasner Award for Excellence in Teaching.

(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.)