***Eastman Organists’ Community Concerts return for the 2023 season***

The Eastman School of Music Organ Department kicks off a new season of Community Concerts — short organ recitals by Eastman students as part of the department’s ongoing initiative to bring outstanding organ music to the Rochester community. From October to April, students will perform in monthly concerts in local churches around Rochester, facilitating a musical connection between organists and the community beyond weekly Sunday services. Events are open to the public, and a free-will offering will benefit the Eastman Organ Department student travel fund.

The first Community Concert of 2023 will take place Sunday, January 29th at 4:00pm at First Universalist Church of Rochester, located at 150 Clinton Ave, downtown. The concert features the church’s very historically significant 1908 pipe organ built by pioneering English organ-builder, Robert Hope-Jones. This instrument is one of the only of its type in the world that remains essentially in its original condition, utilizing some quite advanced mechanical and electrical systems, many of which were pioneered by Hope-Jones, and became standard parts of organ building in generations since. Tonally, the instrument is conceived in a wholly orchestral style, meaning its many and varied sounds often mimic the sounds of orchestral instruments. Notably, Hope-Jones is credited with inventing the Wurlitzer theater-organ, which came to massive popularity in the 1920s silent film era, so this instrument is a rare look into Hope-Jones’ sound-world prior to the conception of the full theater-organ style. This year’s series will also feature instruments by Parsons Organ Builders, Delaware, and others.

The following churches have graciously offered to host Community Concerts:

**Sunday, January 29th, 4:00pm: First Universalist Church of Rochester**

150 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14604

**Sunday, February 26th, 4:00pm: Immanuel Lutheran Church - Webster**

131 W. Main St., Webster, NY 14580

**United Church of Canandaigua: Date/Time to be announced**

11 E. Gibson St., Canandaigua, NY 14424

**Sunday, April 16th, 4:00pm: Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd - Webster**

1130 Webster Rd. - Webster 14580

The variety of instruments to be showcased throughout the series is interesting for both performers and concert-goers alike. Since every pipe organ is noticeably different from the next, each program will offer a variety of sounds and colors that are sure to delight and satisfy the ear. Come hear what the King of Instruments can do, played by the talented and hard-working students of Eastman!

Held monthly at various churches around Rochester, upcoming concerts will be posted on the Eastman School of Music ‘Organ Events’ webpage. Please refer to the link below for up-to-date info on location, times, and performers.

For more information on the Community Concert Series, please visit <http://www.esm.rochester.edu/organ/events/>.