



Selected Coverage September 2009

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CBC (Sept. 12)

September 12 2009: Smart and Sassy

Jeff McLeod is a jazz pianist who has collaborated with many of Saskatchewan's top artists in a variety of genres. In the jazz and blues world he's teamed up with Jon McCaslin, Jack Semple, Dean McNeil, Mark DeJong, and Kris Craig, among others. He's a member of Jason's Plumb's band 'The Willing'. He's toured the country in Juno-award winning singer Serena Ryder's band, performed with Joel Fafard, Andrea Menard and many, many others. Suffice to it say he's one of the busiest piano and keyboard players in the province.

Jeff is currently living in Rochester, New York while he begins his Doctoral program in jazz studies at the famed **Eastman School of Music**. In this concert from the CBC Regina Galleria Jeff is joined by Carlo Petrovitch on uprighth bass and drummer Roy Sydiaha. (Also reported by The Regina Leader-Post)

Wall Street Journal (Sept. 15)

A Microcosm of Cutting-Edge Music

At a time when most longstanding jazz festivals are struggling, a relative newcomer, the New Languages Festival, is thriving. . . .

New Languages kicks off with a performance by the Respect Sextet, a group that has created one of the most compelling recordings of the year, "Sirius Respect: The Music of Sun Ra and Stockhausen" (Avant). Trumpeter Eli Asher, 30, said that the work of both composers—one a pioneer of avant-garde jazz and the other a key innovator in contemporary classical music—was informed by "mysticism, astrology, a self-constructed cosmology, intertwining compositional languages, and a total absorption into their personal worlds." In addition, both were early advocates of the synthesizer. There are many pieces by Sun Ra, a Chicago bandleader, that can be easily adapted to jazz sextet, but far fewer of Stockhausen's works have such flexibility. The group leaned heavily on the German composer's "Zodiac Suite." The recording's 13 tunes are presented with care and unity. By the final track, Mr. Stockhausen's "Capricorn" and Sun Ra's great "Saturn" mesh perfectly.

The band began eight years ago in Rochester, N.Y., where the musicians attended the **Eastman School of Music**, and it continued in New York, where at one point four members temped for Bear Stearns. "At one point there were 15 or so Eastman graduates working at Bear Stearns," said saxophonist Josh Rutner, 28, who now works at the private equity firm (and Bear Stearns spinoff) Irving Place Capital. "Every lunch break was a class reunion."

WXXI (Sept. 2)

Portrait of a Castrato

WXXI's Brenda Tremblay talks with Roger Freitas, author of *Portrait of a Castrato: Politics, Patronage, and Music in the Life of Atto Melani*.

His new book provides a rare glimpse into the social and political contexts of 17th-century music. Freitas is an Associate Professor of Musicology at the **Eastman School of Music**. The book is part of the series *New Perspectives in Music History and Criticism* from Cambridge University Press, which explores the conceptual frameworks that shape or have shaped the ways we understand music and its history.

Litchfield County Times (Sept. 3)

Rell Declares Sunday Music Mountain Day

Gov. M. Jodi Rell has designated Sept. 6 as "Music Mountain Day" across the state, and the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., where Music Mountain founder Jacques Gordon taught, and the Gordon String Quartet was in residence, sent best wishes for Music Mountain's continued success.

Douglas Lowry, Dean at the Eastman School of Music, said that "[Jacques Gordon] was an important force in string teaching and, as leader of the Gordon String Quartet, in chamber music performance."

In 1948, when Jacques Gordon died, Eastman School director Howard Hanson eulogized him as "a great artist and a great teacher, to whom both the Eastman School of Music and many of us as individuals were deeply indebted."

Ruth Watanabe said in the 1952 issue of the University of Rochester Bulletin that "when Gordon died the musical world lost one of its most brilliant violinists and the Eastman School of Music one of its most beloved teachers."

Gordon's presence at Eastman continues with the Jacques Gordon Collection of String Music in the school's Sibley Music Library, a collection that is considered to be one of the most outstanding chamber music collections in the country.

Chicago Tribune (Sept. 6)

Philip Blum, 1932-2009: Played cello with CSO for 54 years

Philip Blum played cello with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for 54 years, the last 12 of them while battling cancer. . . Mr. Blum, 77, died of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma on Monday, Aug. 31, at his Oak Park home, his wife said. . .

At 15 he was the first cellist with the Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest and soloed in a Young People's concert at Orchestra Hall. He continued his music studies at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., and played with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra while a student.

Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin (Sept. 10)

Singer to perform at Second Sunday event

This Sunday, soprano Jill Gardner will perform as part of Phelps Mansion Museum's Second Sunday Series. Gardner -- accompanied by Benton Hess on piano -- will share songs by

Verdi, Puccini, Strauss Lieder and others. . . . Hess is part of the faculty of the **Eastman School of Music** at the University of Rochester as well as the music director for Eastman Opera Theatre.

The Sentinel (Sept. 10)

Organist brings new sounds of Europe to Carlisle

It's only been a year since Brenda Lynne Leach performed in Carlisle. . . . But it's all the places she's been to in between that makes the former area resident a little more than a local performer.

From Russia to many of the western European countries, Leach is a popular organist and conductor and recitals and symphony halls. It wasn't too big of a leap for Leach, who studied at top music universities in America and abroad.

"There's great education systems in both America and Europe," Leach said. "I learned the organ at **Eastman School of Music** with David Craighead. For conducting, I studied in Russia at the St. Petersburg Music Conservatory. I've been really lucky with the teachers I've had. Europe is steeped in tradition, and I think experiencing both (educations) in the United States and Europe helped broaden my musical view."

Democrat & Chronicle (Sept. 13)

New spark for 2009 season classical music: Kodak Hall and adventurous lineup await

Classical music concerts in Rochester get a venue upgrade this year when the second stage of Eastman Theatre renovations comes to completion for the hall's opening weekend starting on Oct. 8. Renovations feature an expanded lobby area, box seating and upgraded amenities.

Audiences will get a first glimpse when the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra opens the now Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre with Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 (Oct. 8, 10 and 11). Also featured is the world premiere of the Dean of the **Eastman School of Music** Douglas Lowry's work *Geo*. The Eastman Philharmonia also takes a go in the new hall the same weekend, performing Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 (Oct. 9). . . .

It's the Eastman School of Music that hosts some of the most exciting concerts on the classical music calendar. On the Eastman-Ranlet series, the Grammy Award-winning Pacifica Quartet (Oct. 25) performs, as does Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society's string quartet-in-residence the Orion String Quartet (April 11) with celebrated concert pianist Peter Serkin.

Democrat & Chronicle (Sept. 13)

Classical voices boldly take Rochester-area stages

Opera and vocal concerts round out this year's classical music calendar with a wide range of offerings. Opera's up-and-coming talent is showcased each year at the **Eastman School of Music** — ticket prices are inexpensive to hear who could be the next Rene Fleming. But first, you might find students who are Broadway bound when the Eastman Opera Theatre produces *The Secret Garden* (Nov. 5 through 8). Spring's major opera production in Eastman Theatre will give its

student singers a chance to learn core repertoire with a potpourri of scenes from operas by Rossini, Donizetti, Verdi, Gounod, Strauss, Mozart and Puccini (March 26 and 28) — fully staged and costumed.

Democrat & Chronicle (Sept. 13)

Rochester scene alive with jazz and world music

Rochester is spoiled, and perhaps overloaded, with nine days of jazz ecstasy each June during the Rochester International Jazz Festival. But the same top-shelf artists visit year round. Adding to some of the incredible jazzers to come through the area, world music concerts also step it up a notch this season.

An international world music phenomenon, pipa player Wu Man (Jan. 22), will be a not-to-miss concert at the **Eastman School of Music** this winter. Turkish instrumentalist Omar Faruk Tekbilek (Oct. 13) also invites world influences to Kilbourn Hall.

Perhaps the most significant concert will be a touching Eastman Theatre concert to honor the late saxophonist Gerry Niewood (Oct. 14), who was aboard the plane that crashed outside of Buffalo last February. Niewood was an Eastman graduate and the original lead alto of the Eastman Jazz Ensemble under Chuck Mangione. Jazz celebrities gathering to pay tribute include Mangione, whose band Niewood was a member of, and saxophonists Pat LaBarbera and Lew Soloff. Proceeds from the concert will go toward an Eastman scholarship in Niewood's name.

Democrat & Chronicle (Sept. 13)

Curtain rises on a new year; Season begins with opening of arts center

Dancers in Rochester this season will no longer risk running into lighting fixtures or damaging their joints when the Nazareth College Arts Center reopens this month after extensive renovations. Thanks in part to the new theater, dance offerings this year are plentiful and abound with creativity. . . .

The Arts Center's dance friendly renovations — which includes a sprung floor, extra wing space and a fly system to store and move sets — will be a boon to the area dance groups that call Nazareth its home: Garth Fagan Dance and the Rochester City Ballet.

Both dance organizations will perform for the Arts Center opening (Sept. 26). Garth Fagan Dance will take the spotlight with a premiere of a new work based on recently composed Chinese classical music, performed by the **Eastman School of Music's** string quartet-in-residence, the Grammy Award-winning Ying Quartet.

Parkersburg News (Sept. 14)

Symphony takes listeners on musical journey

Taking people on an emotional journey though music was the goal of the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra during a performance Sunday and for a composer working with area students today. . . . The concert featured Ludwig van Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No. 4 in G, Op. 58" and Johannes Brahms' "Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68." The performance also featured a piece, titled "3 Machines," by modern composer Marc Mellits, who was present Sunday during the performance.

Mellits describes his musical style as an eclectic combination of driving rhythms, soaring lyricism and colorful orchestrations that all combine to communicate directly with the listener. He studied music at the **Eastman School of Music**, Yale School of Music, Cornell University and Tanglewood.

NOVARS Research Centre Blog (Sept. 16)

New work for the JACK Quartet, New York, Feb 11 2010; Society of the Americas

NOVARS-based composer Mauricio Pauly to premiere his new work for the Jack Quartet in New York, alongside the five Altavoz composers.

Praised for its "powerhouse playing" by the Chicago Sun-Times and its "extraordinary precision" by the Boston Globe, the JACK Quartet has quickly established a reputation for giving high-energy performances of today's most demanding works for string quartet. The New York Times called the quartet's performance of Iannis Xenakis' complete string quartets one of the "most memorable classical music presentations of 2008," and in 2009, the quartet received an ASCAP/Chamber Music America Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music. . . .

The members of the quartet met while attending the **Eastman School of Music**, and they have since studied closely with the Arditti Quartet, Kronos Quartet, Muir String Quartet, and members of the Ensemble Intercontemporain.

Rochester Business Journal (Sept. 16)

Eastman School names alum as associate dean

The Eastman School of Music has named alumnus Matthew Ardizzone to serve as associate dean for admissions and retention.

Before joining Eastman, Ardizzone was assistant director for admissions for the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre and Dance. A classical guitarist, he has pursued a career combining performance, teaching and arts and higher education administration. (*Also reported by the Democrat & Chronicle*)

The Pine Log (Sept. 21)

SFA pianists to present Copland and Gershwin recital

John Roberts, new director of the SFA School of Music, and his wife, Jean, will present "Music of Copland and Gershwin for Two Pianos" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Cole Concert Hall.

The couple, both of whom have degrees from the **Eastman School of Music** and Yale University, will perform three works by Aaron Copland during the first half of the program. Copland's "Danzon Cubano," makes use of four melodically simple but rhythmically complex Cuban dances, and "El Salon Mexico" is a series of moods or impressions from Copland's visit to the dance hall known as Salon Mexico, John Roberts explained.

Indian Express (Sept. 23)

True tunes

The city received a taste of world class music when it played host to Nelita True, professor of piano at the **Eastman School of Music**, University of Rochester, New York and recipient of the prestigious Music Teachers National

Association Achievement Award, an award given to honour those who have made a lasting contribution to music and music instruction in America. True was in Pune last week on account of a national level piano festival cum competition, MusiQuest, organised by the Academy of Music. True explains, "MusiQuest was unique and I was part of an eminent panel of music savants who played adjudicators rather than simple judges. Not only did we have to judge but also had to guide, teach and interact with the participants in an effort to give them a complete experience. Even though there was short listing involved throughout the week, it wasn't your regular American Idol format."

Business Gazette (Sept. 23)

Fairfax native leads Argos Trio from Rochester to Strathmore

When it comes to fine arts, Rochester, N.Y., may not register as a place rich in tradition. But that's where the Argos Trio ended up. And it wasn't accidental.

"It's a very cultural city with the Eastman School, and I think there are four or five other colleges," says violinist Liana Koteva Kirvan. "People of all ages support classical music and go to all of our concerts. It's a wonderful place to be."

Kirvan and pianist Linda Boianova both emigrated from Bulgaria as teenagers and earned advanced degrees from the **Eastman School of Music** in the upstate New York town. Kirvan found a home with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and Boianova landed teaching jobs at Nazareth College and SUNY Geneseo. To satisfy their desire to play more music, they formed a piano trio with cellist Meredith Blecha in 2006.

Belmont Citizen-Herald (Sept. 23)

Powers welcomes new faculty

Powers Music School is pleased to welcome two new faculty members: Jing Li and Arunesh N. Nadgir. Li will teach cello and Nadgir will teach piano. Both instructors are dedicated musicians with experience teaching students of all ages.

Nadgir recently moved to the Boston area after finishing his Doctorate in Musical Arts in piano performance and literature from the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y. Mr. Nadgir also holds degrees from New England Conservatory and the Juilliard School in New York City. Most recently, he taught piano at the Palisades School of Music in Fort Lee, N.J., and the Blue Lake Arts Camp in Michigan. In addition to Powers, Nadgir is currently teaching at New England Conservatory's School of Preparatory and Continuing Education.

Moultrie News (Sept. 23)

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.

Ashland Daily Tidings (Sept. 24)

Tipton opens 'Year of the Search'

Chelsea Tipton II remembers the first classical composer who got seriously into his head. It was Tchaikovsky, and he was 12 years old. Itzhak Perlman performed the Tchaikovsky violin concerto on television. "I saw the music in the store and said I wanted to get it," he says. "My dad said, 'Why? You play the clarinet.'"

These days Tipton is a conductor who has guest-conducted with many of the top symphony orchestras in America, has led the Boston Pops in its annual Gospel Night Concert and has twice conducted the Sphinx Competition Showcase at New York's Carnegie Hall, which promotes diversity in classical music.

"That's a very important aspect of my career," he says.

But he still plays the clarinet, having performed with the Rochester (N.Y.) Philharmonic, the Heidelberg Festival Opera Orchestra in Germany and the Chicago Sinfonietta, as well as recording with Wynton Marsalis and James Galway.

Tipton is one of five guest conductors being looked at by the Rogue Valley Symphony in the "Year of the Search," RVSO's search for a conductor and music director to replace Arthur Shaw, who retired. Tipton will conduct the orchestra this weekend in a series of concerts featuring music by Beethoven and Berlioz. . . .

Tipton was born 45 years ago in Guthrie, Okla., and moved to Greensboro, N.C., with his music-teacher parents. He started playing clarinet in the fourth grade, earned a bachelor's degree in clarinet performance at the **Eastman School** in Rochester, N.Y., and a master's in conducting at Northern Illinois University.

EURweb (Sept. 24)

Thelonius Monk Int'l Jazz Competition & Gala

The Thelonius Monk Institute of Jazz today announced its 22nd annual Thelonius Monk International Jazz Competition and all-star Gala Concert will take place at the Kennedy Center Eisenhower Theater at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 11.

Competition Semifinalists

David Baron grew up in West Hartford, Connecticut and began studying bass at age nine. He attended the Banff International Workshop, where he studied with Scott Colley and Dave Douglas. Baron won the DownBeat award for Outstanding Jazz Soloist Performance in 2006 and Outstanding Performance with a Jazz Group in 2007. He has performed with Wycliffe Gordon and saxophonist Bill Evan, with whom he toured Russia this summer. Baron is currently a student at the **Eastman School of Music**.

The Valley News (Sept. 26)

Lisa Caravan first to receive new award at Eastman School of Music

Lisa Caravan, a native of Fulton now living in Rochester, is the first recipient of the Donald J. Shetler Prize in Music Education at the **Eastman School of Music**. She was presented the award in a ceremony Sept. 3 at the school.

The prize was established to honor the contributions of Dr. Shetler, professor emeritus and former chair of Eastman's Music Education Department and an internationally known scholar in fetal music response and arts education curriculum development.

The Shetler Prize was established for annual presentation 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."

Salisbury Post (Sept. 27)

Catawba Community Music announces new faculty

Peter Zlotnick joins the Community Music faculty as instructor of percussion.

He is the principal timpanist of the Greensboro, Winston-Salem and Salisbury Symphony orchestras. Zlotnick has been a featured soloist with the Greensboro Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, Salisbury Symphony, and Northwestern University Contemporary Music Ensemble. He serves as education manager for the Greensboro Symphony and percussion instructor at Catawba College. Zlotnick holds degrees in percussion performance and music education from Northwestern University, where he studied with Michael Burritt, and the **Eastman School of Music**, where he studied with John H. Beck.

The Island Packet (Sept. 27)

Symphony's season opens with night of Russian music

Music Director and Conductor Mary Woodmansee Green will begin the 28th season of the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra with a gala performance Oct. 5 featuring the year's theme, "Art and Music." Modeste Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition," based on drawings by his friend Victor Hartmann, will be the centerpiece of the all-Russian opening night. The concert will feature Marina Lomazov, the 1998 Hilton Head International Piano Competition winner, in two piano concerti: Sergei Prokofiev's "First" and Dmitri Shostakovich's "Second." . . .

Since immigrating to the United States in 1990, Lomazov has earned degrees from the Juilliard School and the **Eastman School of Music**. She is associate professor of piano at the University of South Carolina School of Music, where she is also founder and artistic director of the Southeastern Piano Festival.

Broadway World (Sept. 28)

Matt Florio to Host An Evening Of Music and Comedy VI At Don't Tell Mama's, Features Leaming, Antonino, Meisner

Comedian Matt Florio of Comedy Doctors Inc. will host An Evening of Music and Comedy VI at Don't Tell Mama. This showcase and variety show will feature singers Analisa

Leaming (Annie - National Tour), Gabriella Marie Antonino, and Zander Meisner (National Tours of Annie and CATS). . .

. . . Analisa Leaming most recently was on the national tour of Annie (Grace Farrell) and prior to that the Asian tour of The Sound of Music (Sister Sophia, Maria u/s). Favorite roles include Cinderella in Into the Woods, Blanche Ingram in Jane Eyre, Hodel in Fiddler on the Roof, Elizabeth in Robert and Elizabeth, Princess Sophia in Call Me Madam, Squeaky Fromme in Assassins, and Yum-Yum in The Mikado. Analisa was a winner of the Lotte Lenya Competition for Singers and received her B.M. from the **Eastman School of Music**.

Democrat & Chronicle (Sept. 29)

Music makes a life in Brighton: Nun teaches in house where she grew up

Mary Fran Hansen's weekly piano lessons with Donna Cucci are always fun, the 12-year-old says. . . . For her instructor, the best part of teaching piano is getting to work with kids like Mary Fran.

The kids are "great," said Cucci, 58. "There's spontaneity, and their joy for music, their love of music. The children love the music." Cucci — who has master's degrees in music education and piano performance from the **Eastman School of Music** — has been teaching piano for about 20 years.

For her, the lessons are not just a side gig; they're part of her ministry. Cucci is a nun with the Sisters of St. Joseph in Rochester, and she gives the money from her lessons to the order.

The Batavian (Sept. 30)

Concert in Byron

Mitzie Collins and "Striking Strings", the Hammered Dulcimer Ensemble of the Eastman Community School, will be performing at the Byron Presbyterian Church on Sunday, October 4, at 2:00 PM. . . . Mitzie Collins is a world-renowned recording artist, performer and teacher. She is currently on the faculty of the **Eastman Community Music School** in Rochester. The Hammered Dulcimer Ensemble is composed of Mitzie's students. Mary Ann Blair, one of the Ensemble members, is a member of the church, and made the arrangements for the concert.

Democrat & Chronicle (Sept. 30)

Crane comes back to hometown

Annie Crane is multi-tasking, speaking on her cell phone while walking three dogs in New York City. It is not a difficult assignment: they're small dogs, two Westies and a Boston terrier. "I've worked every possible day job that's flexible," says the professional dog walker and singer-songwriter.

A Brighton High School graduate, the 27-year-old Crane closes out the three-day Rochester Independent Music Festival with an 11 p.m. Saturday show downstairs at the German House, 315 Gregory St. It's her hometown debut. Now living in Brooklyn, this summer Crane released her first CD, a relaxed, country-folk collection called Through the Farmlands & the Cities.

"I had always written my own stuff, just playing my guitar in my bedroom," she says. "When I decided to move to New York it was, 'Do it or don't' time."

Crane can do it. She did study at the **Eastman School of Music** while in high school and sang in church and assorted school choirs, and has a beautifully pure voice to show for it. But she majored in liberal arts while going to school in Toronto, and describes her attitude toward playing out there with a common euphemism for poultry waste products.

(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.)