

LIVING

FOR TODAY

Your guide to nourishing
your mind and soul

Harmonious halls

Eastman School of Music celebrates \$46.9 million project — with concerts, of course

ANNA REGUERO
STAFF WRITER

The Eastman Theatre was already one of the most visually stunning buildings in downtown Rochester, with its dramatic curve sweeping around the street corner. Its classic 1920s architecture shines especially at night, when golden, cinematic lighting illuminates the theater. But the University of Rochester has added even more drama with a new wing for its Eastman School of Music, the final stage of a \$46.9 million project that also included the renovation of the Eastman Theatre, which was completed last summer. The new six-story building adds a distinct visual element to downtown — with a glass-windowed atrium, adjacent to the Eastman Theatre. The project completes George Eastman's vision for the school: Original building plans in 1920 included an extra recital hall, but at the time there was not enough space to build it.

To celebrate the Eastman East Wing, the school is hosting a week-long New Eastman Evolution Festival that starts Monday.

Heidi Zimmer-Meyer, president of the Rochester Downtown Development Corporation, thinks the building will lead to an increased level of activity downtown.

"It also cements even further how important this whole central arts area is to the entire region," she says. "We have a real arts district right now and this just adds to the equation."

The building's exterior features an immense curved façade that faces Main Street. The architectural curve is meant to complement the Eastman Theatre's shape. "We were trying to find the one visual symbol that combines the old with the new," says Douglas Lowry, dean of Eastman, one of the most prestigious music schools in the country. The design was picked from about 50 different renderings from Chaintreuil Jensen Stark Architects, most of which imagined the building with a flat exterior.

Included in the building is

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Douglas Lowry, dean of the Eastman School of Music, helped oversee the \$46.9 million renovation project.

JAY CAPERS staff photographer

TREND WATCH THE LATEST THINGS TO KNOW

Layered classic

Classic pearls never go out of style. This holiday season, hot looks include long layered strands of pearls and pearls with link chains or leather.

"With a nod to Coco Chanel, layer pearls with open-link gold chains for a classic yet modern statement," says Nancy Mann, CEO of Mann's Jewelers in Brighton.

Pearls no longer have to be a formal fashion statement. Long pearls can be paired with a T-shirt and jeans for the casual look.

Coming Monday: Our annual 10 under \$20 gift feature.



Photo provided by Mann's Jewelers

Pearls can round out a classic or casual look.



Provided photo

Ying Quartet

Grammy watch

The Ying Quartet, which won a Grammy for best chamber music performance in 2007, has been nominated again.

Autumn: *In Moving Pictures*, from Billy Childs Ensemble and which features the Ying Quartet, is up for best large jazz ensemble album. Ying is the quartet in residence at the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music.

Also nominated for a second Grammy is Eastman alumnus Bill Cunliffe. He won last year for best instrumental arrangement and is nominated this year for best instrumental composition for his work "fourth stream ... La Banda." □

WORTH REMEMBERING

People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built.

— Eleanor Roosevelt

LOCAL OSCAR WINNER

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Robin Lehman

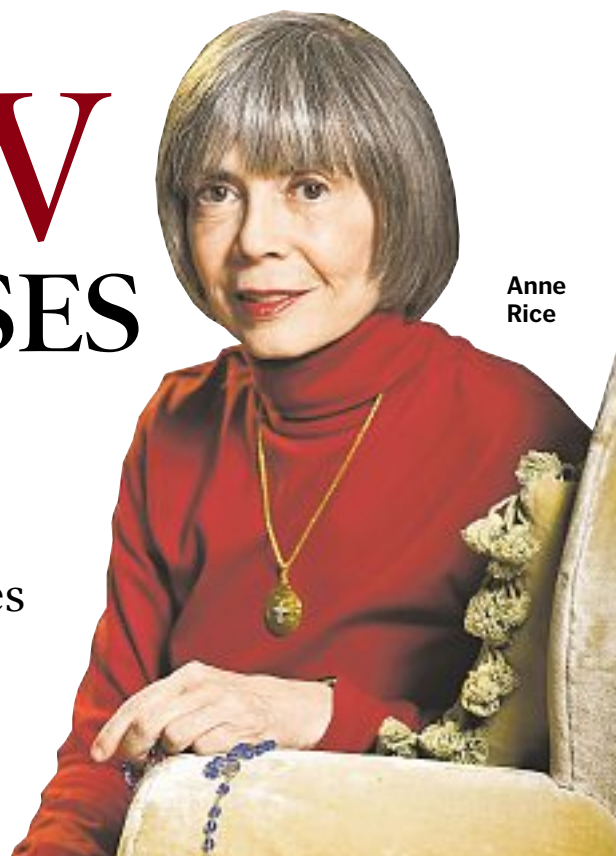
Eastman House paying tribute to documentary filmmaker living in Pittsford

Photo provided by George Eastman House

NEW RELEASES

Books by both Anne Rice and Patricia Cornwell have hit the shelves

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Anne Rice

Gannett News Service file photo

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Mamma Mia! returns to the Auditorium Theatre beginning Friday.
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www.rochesterinfocus.com



"In this economy, in my opinion, we did really well ... Fundraising has been a challenge for everybody."

Douglas Lowry, dean of Eastman School of Music



JAY CAPERS staff photographer

The Blue and Gold Chandelier by Dale Chihuly adorns Wolk Atrium and was commissioned by an anonymous donor. "It's a very 21st-century look," said Associate Dean Jamal Rossi.

Eastman

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a 222-seat technologically enhanced recital hall, named the Hatch Recital Hall, as well as a large ensemble rehearsal room, six new faculty studios and a state-of-the-art recording control room. Wolk Atrium is the building's open gathering space that includes a new box office and gift shop, brand-new, first-floor restrooms and a distinctive chandelier as its centerpiece.

The building is connected to the Eastman Theatre on every level through sets of double doors and transition hallways. And there is an entrance next to the East End parking garage, shortening chilly walks to the theater in the winter months.

The hope, UR says, is that the Wolk Atrium will be the focal social area before and after concerts and during intermissions.

The Blue and Gold Chandelier, commissioned from famed glass artist Dale Chihuly, is from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. It's designed from blue, golden and clear pieces of squiggling glass in different shapes, creating a fluid, modern look.

"I don't think everyone is going to love it, and that's OK," says Executive Associate Dean Jamal Rossi, who was the lead on the expansion project. "It's a very 21st-century look."

The main draw of the building for musicians (which, of course, is the intended audience) will be Hatch Recital Hall. About half the capacity of Kilbourn Hall, the school hopes that Hatch will become the premiere venue for student and faculty solo and chamber music recitals. The stage can fit about 13 performers, the size needed to perform Copland's chamber score of *Appalachian Spring*, which was used as a sizing metric.

The recital hall's acoustics are live and crisp, and can be adjusted because of banners behind the walls. It also includes technological elements, outfitted with sound recording and Internet 2 capabilities — a special Internet band for higher-education institutions that allows for real-time, inter-



JAY CAPERS staff photographer

Hatch Recital Hall will be ideal for student, faculty solo and chamber recitals. It is smaller than Kilbourn Hall but its acoustics are adjustable.

active master classes and concerts.

"I really think it's going to be one of the great recital halls in the country," Rossi says.

Kilbourn Hall, however, will still host the majority of concerts for Eastman's guest artist series because of its larger size.

"We really didn't want another Kilbourn Hall, and didn't need that," says Rossi.

Because of the increasing size of the student body and school activities, Kilbourn Hall has been stretched to a scheduling limit. Usually the first choice pick for student degree recitals, Kilbourn Hall's limited availability has forced many students to conduct recitals in the Eastman dorms on Gibbs Street or find alternate space in churches and other venues around Rochester.

Now, says Rossi, "everyone will have a chance to play in world-class halls." He believes that Hatch Recital Hall will become the in-demand hall for recitals.

Lowry believes the recital hall will also have a positive impact on student recruitment. It's already being shown on admissions tours.

The new large ensemble rehearsal room — outfitted with all new percussion instruments and a new grand piano — fills another need for the school.

"It's huge, beautiful, and it has adjustable acoustics so we can record in there," says Lowry. A new recording station controls not only the recording equipment in Eastman's East Wing, but in all the recording spaces around the entire school. The large ensemble room will become the default

recording space for the school. And six new faculty studios also will help alleviate the school's space crunch.

The \$46.9 million price tag for the project was much higher than the original \$35 million estimate. So far, the school has raised about \$32 million, including \$13 million from the state, \$10 million from Eastman Kodak Co. (with the main Eastman Theatre auditorium now Kodak Hall), \$2.5 million from the Davenport-Hatch Foundation (which came with naming rights for the new recital hall), \$2.2 million from the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and \$1.5 million from the Louis S. & Molly B. Wolk Foundation (which came with naming rights for the East Wing's atrium). The remainder has been financed.

"In this economy, in my opinion, we did really well," says Lowry. "Fundraising has been a challenge for everybody. We did a lot of talking to people in the lower gift area."

He says that support, despite the fallen economy, was due to an increasing interest in downtown development. "They have seen this as a symbol of the community."

Most of this week's concerts celebrating the new space will actually be held in the old part of the school because of audience or ensemble size.

Sunday will be the chance to hear the new hall in action in an all-day chamber music marathon. People will experience for themselves if the changes sound as good as they look. □

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New Eastman Evolution Festival

Highlights are the Kilbourn Series concert on Tuesday, the Musica Nova concert on Thursday and the dedication concert series on Friday that features all of the school's ensembles.

Monday

■ 6:30 p.m.: Tour of the Eastman East Wing. Meet in the Kodak Hall Oval Lobby in Eastman Theatre. Free.

■ 8 p.m.: Eastman Wind Ensemble and Wind Orchestra perform. Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre. Free.

Tuesday

■ Noon to 1:30 p.m.: Master Classes Live From Norway. Eastman students interact with faculty and students from the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo via Internet 2. Hatch Recital Hall. Free.

■ 3:30 p.m.: "The History and Future of Eastman School of Music," a lecture by Robert Freeman, former director of the Eastman School of Music from 1972 to 1996. Hatch Recital Hall. Free.

■ 6:30 p.m.: Tour of the Eastman East Wing. Meet in the Kodak Hall Oval Lobby in Eastman Theatre. Free.

■ **8 p.m.: Kilbourn Concert Series** featuring cellist Steven Isserlis and pianist Jeremy Denk. One would be hard-pressed to find musicians more original than Isserlis and Denk. Both draw not only on a keen intellect but possess powerful communicative abilities that have brought them popularity as performers and collaborators (both collaborate with violinist Joshua Bell). And both musicians are also skilled writers: Isserlis has written two children's books about music, *Why Beethoven Threw the Stew* (Faber & Faber 2001) and *Why Handel Wagged his Wig* (Faber & Faber 2006).

Denk is a satirist, writing humorous musical musings in his blog, Think Denk (www.jeremydenk.net). Among many creative topics, he has written an imagined interview with Sarah Palin about Beethoven's "*Hammerklavier*" Sonata. Isserlis and Denk will perform works by Saint-Saëns, Fauré, Liszt, Kurtág, Ravel and Adès on Tuesday in Kilbourn Hall. Tickets are \$10 to \$20. Call (585) 454-2100 or go to www.esm.rochester.edu/concerts.



Provided photo

Steven Isserlis



Provided photo

Jeremy Denk

Wednesday

■ 6:30 p.m.: Tour of the New Eastman East Wing. Meet in the Kodak Hall Oval Lobby in Eastman Theatre. Free.

■ 7 p.m.: The Architect's Vision: Craig Jensen, CJS Architects. An overview of the Eastman Renovation and Expansion Project by its lead architect. Hatch Recital Hall. Free.

■ 8 p.m.: Eastman New Jazz Ensemble. Kilbourn Hall. Free.

Thursday

■ 7:30 p.m.: Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra with the Rochester Oratorio Society. Handel's *Messiah*. Christopher Seaman conducts. Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre, 60 Gibbs St. Tickets are \$20 to \$75. Call (585) 454-2100 or go to www.rpo.org.

■ **8 p.m.: Musica Nova**, featuring guest composer Oliver Knussen, conducted by Brad Lubman.

Knussen is a British-born composer and conductor whose fame extends internationally. From 1986 to 1998, he ran the contemporary music activities at Tanglewood, the Boston Symphony Orchestra's idyllic summer home. He's best known for his children's opera, *Where the Wild Things Are*, which was premiered by the New York City Opera in 1987. It will get a second performance there in 2011. Largely influenced by Britten's music, Knussen's compositions have been described as vivid and direct, having a "toy-box charm."

Musica Nova will perform a number of Knussen's compositions and will be joined by SIGNAL ensemble, a fast-rising contemporary music ensemble from New York City, with many Eastman grads.

This is a free concert in Kilbourn Hall.

■ 8 p.m.: Eastman Repertory Singers and Women's Chorus. Performing works by Haydn, Holst and Brahms. Reformation Lutheran Church, 111 N. Chestnut St. Free.

Friday

■ Noon.: Eastman Holiday Sing. Main Hall, Eastman School of Music. Free.

■ **8 p.m.: Grand Opening Dedication Concert:** Eastman Wind Ensemble, Eastman Philharmonia, and Eastman-Rochester Chorus. Bach/Hunsberger *Toccata and Fugue in D minor*; Strauss' *Don Juan*; Stravinsky *Symphony of Psalms*. Kodak Hall, Eastman Theatre. Free.

Saturday

■ 6:30 p.m.: Tour of the New Eastman East Wing. Meet in the Kodak Hall Oval Lobby in Eastman Theatre. Free.

■ 8 p.m.: Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra with the Rochester Oratorio Society. Handel's *Messiah*. Christopher Seaman conducts. Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre, 60 Gibbs St. Tickets are \$20 to \$75. Call (585) 454-2100 or go to www.rpo.org.

Next Sunday

■ 11:30 a.m.: Tour of the New Eastman East Wing. Meet in the Kodak Hall Oval Lobby in Eastman Theatre. Free.

■ Noon: Chamber Music Marathon. Hatch Recital Hall. Free.

■ 8:30 p.m.: Candlelight Concert. Eastman School faculty organists Hans Davidsson, David Higgs and William Porter perform on the renowned Craighead Saunders organ. Christ Church, 141 East Ave. Free.



Provided photo

Oliver Knussen