

DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

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LIVING FOR TODAY

Your guide to nourishing your mind and soul

Harmonioushaus

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

ANA REGIERO
LIFE 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 1930s 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 first 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-walled 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.

Rafael Zimmerman-Meyers, president of the Rochester Downtown Development Corporation, thinks the building will lead to an increased level of activity downtown.

"It also connects 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 facade 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 Chalmersville-based Stark Architects, most of which imagined the building with a flat exterior.

Included in the building is

EASTMAN, 1942-43

Photo provided by George Eastman House

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.

Photo provided by Mann's Jewelers

Pearls can read out a classic or casual look, depending on how they are paired with a T-shirt and jeans for the casual look.

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

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.

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

Autumn In Moving Pictures, from Bill 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 Page 5C
Eastman House paying tribute to documentary filmmaker living in Pittsford

NEW RELEASES Page 7C
Books by both Anne Rice and Patricia Cornwell have hit the shelves

MORE INSIDE
Arts calendar: Matinee 444 returns to the Auditorium Theatre beginning Friday. PAGE 3C

MORE ONLINE DemocratandChronicle.com
Travel: Still need to book your holiday to-let? Here are tips for making the most of your money. PAGE 3C

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DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

ARTS & CULTURE

4C

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2010

"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



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 22-seat technologically advanced recital hall, named the Hatch Recital Hall, as well as a large ensemble rehearsal room, its 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 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 squiggly 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."



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, "every-one 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 Fall 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 its 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 \$32 million estimate. So far, the school has raised about \$32 million, including \$10 million from the state, \$10 million from Eastman Kodak Co. (with the main Eastman Theatre auditorium now Kodak Hall), \$1.5 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.

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 1995. 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 communication 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? Throw the Slew (Faber & Faber 2003) and Why Handel Waggled His Wig? (Faber & Faber 2006).

Denk is a satirist, writing humorous musical parodies 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, Faure, Liszt, Kurtág, Ravel and Albin on Tuesday in Kilbourn Hall. Tickets are \$10 to \$120. Call (585) 454-2100 or go to www.esm.rochester.edu/concerts.



Steven Isserlis



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, conductor by Brad Lubman.

Knussen is a British-born composer and conductor whose fame extends internationally. From 1986 to 1998, he ran the contemporary music department at Bangor, Wales. He's best known for his children's operas, 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.

Knussen is a fan of Britten's music. Knussen's compositions have been described as vivid and direct, having a "toy-box charm."

Music Nova will perform a number of Knussen's compositions and will be joined by SGNAL ensemble, a fast-moving 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 E. 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 Philharmonic, and Eastman-Rochester Chorus. Bach/Humboldt, Beethoven 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 Davidson, David Hogg and William Porter perform on the renowned Craighhead Saunders organ. Christ Church, 141 East Ave. Free.