

# MUSIC NEWS

Arthur Satz Department of Music

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## Important Dates

- September 5** - Labor Day (No Classes)
- September 14** - Last day to add a course in UR Student
- September 21-28** - Instructor permission required to add a course
- September 28** - Last day to add/drop a course
- September 29** - First day to "W" from a course



## In The News

### Alex Johnson appointed seventh University Carillonist (from The University of Chicago)

The Rockefeller Chapel and Spiritual Life team are delighted to welcome to the University of Chicago Alex Johnson as the seventh university carillonist. Alex comes to us from Austin, Texas, where he teaches the University of Texas Guild of Carillonners in addition to advanced students of the Carillon Society at the University of Rochester. Our own dedicated student Guild of Carillonners, who perform regularly and lead tours during the week, have expressed unfettered enthusiasm for Alex as a performer and teacher, whose pedagogical skills have been honed by his stint as a math teacher at Eastside Early College High School in Austin.

Alex first learned to play carillon from Doris Aman while a student at the University of Rochester, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Physics, summa cum laude, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Having begun his musical career as a percussionist, Alex joined Eastman's Gamelan and Mbira ensembles. Alex also took up swing and modern dance, since the carillon is a whole-body instrument engaging both hands and feet. His love for the carillon led him to a fellowship at Bok Tower Gardens in Florida where he studied with virtuoso performer and composer Geert D'hollander before heading to Belgium to earn a Diploma with Highest Distinction at the Royal Carillon School "Jef Denyn."

Alex's capacity for pushing the boundaries of musical expression on a weighty, sometimes unwieldy percussive instrument is garnering a growing chorus of praise. In 2021, The Diapason magazine named him one of their 20 Under 30, twenty leaders under the age of thirty for his contribution to carillon performance and composition. He is one of two musicians from the USA to have taken First Prize at the International Queen Fabiola Carillon Competition in Belgium. There he also received First Prize for improvisation and the Prize for Best Performance of a Belgian Contemporary Work.

**Elective Spotlight** [All course offerings.](#) Electives give students the chance to study face to face with Professors who are experts in their fields in a small and interactive classroom environment.

## Stereo Microphone Techniques

**AME398** – Any students who have taken the AME recording classes (AME191, AME192) would be prepared for the course. Class meets Mon/Wed from 4:30-6 PM. This course is a hands-on, workshop style course devoted to the technology and art of spatial sound recording with a focus on stereo methods. The concept of audio stereophony and the practice of using microphone techniques to produce stereophonic sound recordings will be discussed and analyzed in detail, with an emphasis on critical listening. For the majority of the semester, one of the bi-weekly meetings will be on-site in the Strong Auditorium to explore the various techniques by making recordings of River Campus ensemble rehearsals. Students will be required to complete a final recording project utilizing at least 3 of the techniques discussed in class. Prerequisite: AME 192

## Jazz Combo

**MUSC 157A** - This semester Matt Erman and Emile Hamwey will be running and directing the jazz combos. At the moment the location and times are TBD as times are typically based on what works for the collective. The combos will be determined via auditions and while we hope to accommodate as many people as possible, dependent on the numbers not everyone may receive a placement in a combo. The audition format will be that similar of the jazz ensembles: Begin recordings with a brief introduction (name; year, and; instrument), followed by 1-2 tunes (Jazz standard, Blues, Rhythm Changes) of your choosing including the melody and 1-2 choruses. Upload the video to YouTube (set as "unlisted") and, email the video's URL / web address to [merman@u.rochester.edu](mailto:merman@u.rochester.edu) no later than 11:59PM EST Friday September 16, 2022. Information for uploading to YouTube and privacy settings ("unlisted") may be found on YouTube and on the web. Should you have any questions feel free to email Matt Erman or Emile Hamwey ([merman@u.rochester.edu](mailto:merman@u.rochester.edu) and [ehamwey@u.rochester.edu](mailto:ehamwey@u.rochester.edu), respectively) and we look forward to hearing your auditions.

Questions about  
Lessons?  
Practice Rooms?  
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[Visit our website](#)



## PIT ORCHESTRA OPPORTUNITY

WITH OFF BROADWAY ON CAMPUS

Are you an instrumentalist?

Do you want more opportunities to practice your instrument?

Do you want to challenge yourself by learning a bunch of new music in a relatively short amount of time?

Do you like musical theater?

Do you want to help debut student-arranged versions of Broadway showtunes?

If you answered YES to any of the questions above, then we would LOVE to have you join the Pit Orchestra of Off Broadway On Campus (OBOC)!

For more info, please contact OBOC's Music Director, Caitlin Fitzpatrick at [cfitzpa4@u.rochester.edu](mailto:cfitzpa4@u.rochester.edu)



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## Meet Your Teaching Assistants



**Gerardo Miranda** is currently a First Year Classical Guitar DMA Student at the Eastman School of Music. He started his guitar studies at the age of 16 with Carlos Ciuro in the School of Fine Arts in Carolina, Puerto Rico, his native homeland. He was then admitted to the Department of Music from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, where he was under the tutelage of Eduardo Valdes and Juan Sorroche. In 2015, he finished his Bachelor Degree, graduating Magna Cum Laude and was awarded the Augusto Rodriguez Prize for his academic and artistic excellence. He proceeded then with his Master studies on 2017 at the Manhattan School of Music under the guidance of professor Mark Delpriora, where he graduated Suma Cum Laude. Through his career he has performed in venues like the Theater of the University of Puerto Rico, the Conservatory of Puerto Rico, City Hall in New York, the Festival of Gastronomy in Canóvanas Puerto Rico, among other private events, and has collaborated with young emerging guitarists such as Jesse Flowers, Mateusz Kowalski, and Emiliano Verrino. He has performed in Masterclasses for world renowned guitarists such as David Russell, Rene Izquierdo, Antigoni Goni, Judicæel Perroy, Alvaro Pierri, Eduardo Fernandez, Fabio Zanon, Allan Neave, David Leisner and Sergio Assad. Gerardo Miranda is a passionate pedagogue, and had the opportunity to teach throughout community schools with Internal Creations throughout New York City and in Public Schools with Ezra Guitar, where he taught students starting at 4 years of age. In addition he is fluent in 4 languages: Spanish, English, Portuguese and German. Gerardo will be teaching **MUSC 183-2**.



**Zach McRary** is currently pursuing a master's degree in jazz trombone performance at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. He holds a bachelor's degree in trombone performance from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. He is primarily a tenor trombonist, but occasionally doubles on the bass trombone. Recently, he was selected to participate in the Jazz at Aspen Snowmass Academy, a two-week intensive workshop under the artistic direction of eight-time Grammy award winning jazz bassist Christian McBride. Though he has a passion for performing and teaching jazz music, McRary has experience playing a range of musical styles. He has experience playing orchestral and wind ensemble works, along with chamber music repertoire of the brass quintet and trombone quartet. Outside of the concert stage, he has performed with pop, funk, and rock music groups. No matter the musical genre, his goal is to provide a quality musical experience for the audience. After Eastman, he plans to freelance as a performer and educator. When not performing or practicing, he enjoys cycling, reading, and cooking.



**Mason St. Pierre** (TA, University of Rochester Wind Symphony) is pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting at the Eastman School of Music, where he is a student of Mark Davis Scatterday. He is a proud recipient of the 2021-22 Donald and Polly Hunsberger Endowed Conducting Scholarship and the 2022-2023 Frederick Fennell Endowed Conducting Scholarship. St. Pierre's graduate teaching duties at Eastman include conducting the Eastman Wind Orchestra, assisting the famed Eastman Wind Ensemble, and teaching undergraduate conducting courses. St. Pierre also serves as a conductor of Ossia, a student-led Contemporary Music Ensemble. He holds additional degrees in Conducting, Trumpet Performance, and Music Education from the University of Sydney's Conservatorium of Music (MM) and Ithaca College (BM).



**Lauren Ganger** is a third year PhD student in musicology at the Eastman School of Music. She graduated summa cum laude from Mercyhurst University with a bachelor's in English and music and a minor in philosophy in 2020, receiving the President's Award for Excellence in the Arts upon graduation. Her research interests include the intertextuality between literature and music, operatic adaptations of literature, and the portrayal of music in literature.



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