

## **COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

### **MUSIC ON THE RIVER CAMPUS**

# **ENSEMBLES**

**Brass Choir** – About 30-45 members, including trumpets, horns, trombones, baritones/euphoniums, and tubas. This group plays anything and everything, from Renaissance pieces to modern arrangements. Highlights for the performance season include outdoor fanfares for October's Meliora Weekend and the 2010 Day of Brass in February. Rehearsals are held Friday afternoons. Audition required, contact director Josef Hanson for membership information.

**Chamber Orchestra** - About 40 students performing music from Baroque to contemporary, touring nationally and internationally to showcase UR students' versatility. Performs 4 concerts each year on campus and additional concerts in the Rochester community. Rehearsals are held twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. Audition required.

**Chamber Singers** - A versatile, select ensemble of 28-32 members that performs a cappella and chamber music dating from the 14th to the 21st centuries. The group tours often; rehearsals are held twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. Audition required.

**Gamelan** - Each year, Eastman's gamelan ensemble performs throughout the northeastern United States and in Canada in programs of traditional and contemporary Balinese music, presents interactive workshops for audiences of all ages, and engages in creative collaborations with Western musicians and composers. In recent years, the group has collaborated with Bobby McFerrin and the Paul Winter Consort, and has premiered new compositions by composers Wayne Vitale, Robert Morris, Jennifer Fontana Graham, Daniel Iannantuono, John Orfe, and Payton MacDonald. New members are welcomed into the Eastman gamelan ensembles each year, regardless of musical experience. **This ESM group is also open to River Campus students.** Rehearsal times TBA.

**Gospel Choir** - Specializes in a blend of traditional and contemporary gospel music; founded over 30 years ago. The group meets on Tuesday evenings. Open to any student, regardless of faith or religious background. Informal voicing required.

**Jazz Ensemble** - A 20-piece instrumental ensemble, this group performs a wide variety of music from standards to newly-commissioned works. Rehearsals are held twice a week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Audition required.

**Men's Glee Club and Women's Chorus** - The University of Rochester Men's Glee Club and Women's Chorus continue on a proud musical tradition that extends back almost 130 years. These groups are open to students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members that love to sing. Rehearsals are held Monday (Men's) and Thursday (Women's) evenings. Informal voicing required for women; no audition required for men.

**Mbira Ensemble** – Eastman’s Mbira Ensemble is devoted to the ancient and deceptively sophisticated musical tradition of the Zimbabwean mbira (sometimes called thumb piano).

Usually starting with a core group of three or four musicians, mbira performances become communal activities involving singing, various percussion instruments, rhythmic hand clapping and dancing. In the past two years, members of the ensemble have had the opportunity to work with visiting artists including Erica Azim, Cosmas Magaya, Beauler Dyoko, Musekiwa Chingodza, and Patience Chaitezvi. The ensemble is always welcoming new members and is open to all students, regardless of musical background. The beginning group meets on Monday evenings and more experienced players meet on Saturday morning.

**Percussion Ensemble** – Is a serious contemporary percussion ensemble directed by Matthew Witten. The ensemble performs works from the standard percussion ensemble repertoire, occasionally the less standard and brand new compositions for this genre. Some of the composers whose repertoire we have performed in the past consist of Hollinden, Rouse, Beck, Cowell, Peck, Cage, and Andriessen. Prior experience in percussion, the ability to read music and an audition are required. Students should contact Matt for meeting and class times; matthewawitten@yahoo.com

**Rock Repertory Ensemble** - New Fall 2009! Devoted to performing songs from the rock music catalog, with selections ranging from the early 1950s to the present day. The class is open to guitarists, bassists, drummers, keyboard players, and singers, with consideration given to wind and brass players depending on repertory for a given semester. Students must audition for the RRE at the beginning of each term.

**Symphony Orchestra** - Its blend of undergraduate and graduate students and community members have kept this group of 100 in existence and thriving for 50 years in performance of orchestral masterworks. The group meets on Tuesday evenings. Audition required.

**West African Drumming** - Led by Master Drummer Fana Bangoura, the West African Drumming Ensemble is dedicated to the dynamic percussive traditions of Guinea. The ensemble combines the iconic djembe hand drum with a trio of drums played with sticks, known as dunun, sangban, and kenkeni. The powerful, multi-part relationships established by this trio of drums provide a rhythmic foundation for the ensemble, enabling djembe players to develop technique in executing both accompaniment and solo parts. Drawing upon his experience as a soloist with the internationally acclaimed groups Les Percussions de Guinée and Les Ballets Africains, Fana engages ensemble players with a wide repertory of music from various regions of Guinea, including the rhythms of the Susu, Malinke, and Baga language groups.

**Wind Symphony** – A standard wind ensemble/concert band-style experience. About 120 members spread over two subgroups, performing standard and contemporary works and transcriptions from other genres; the group tours often. Rehearsals are held Monday evenings. Audition required.

*\*In addition to these ensembles, the Department of Music also has a chamber ensembles program and informally supports a wide variety of student-organized musical groups, including the popular a cappella singing groups: After Hours, Vocal Point, the Midnight Ramblers, and the Yellowjackets.*