

MUSIC NEWS

Arthur Satz Department of Music



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Important Dates

September 4 - Labor Day (No Classes)

September 13 - Last day to add a course without permission

September 27 - Last day to drop a course

October 16-17 Fall Break

Elective Spotlight

Introductory Mbira Ensemble

AAAS165/MUSC165 - Introductory Mbira Ensemble: The Eastman Mbira Ensemble provides a hands-on introduction to the ancient and sophisticated musical tradition of the Shona mbira of Zimbabwe. Visiting Zimbabwean guest artists will also offer students the opportunity to delve more deeply into traditional musical practices and their cultural and spiritual context. Songs are taught aurally so no musical experience or training is required. 1 Credit - [Contact Professor Glenn West](#) at Eastman for more information.

West African Drumming

MUSC 168-1/AAAS 168-2/ENS 215-2 West African Drumming: Ensemble dedicated to dynamic percussive traditions of Guinea, combining 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, enabling djembe players to develop technique in executing accompaniment and solo parts. 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. 1 Credit - [Contact Director Kerfala Bangoura](#) for more information.

Gospel Choir

MUSC 158 meets Tuesdays from 6:15 - 7:30 PM in Hutchison 140 with Director Julius Dicks. No experience or ability to read music required. One rehearsal per week. Two concerts per semester. In addition, there may be off-campus performances in local colleges, churches, and other venues in the greater Rochester community. 1 Credit

MUSC 124 - Signed Sealed and Delivered - The Deals and Innovations that Changed the Music Industry Forever - 2 Credits, Meets Tuesdays 5-7 PM for 6 weeks - A look at the historical deals and innovations that have impacted the music business between 1877 to present. From ground breaking inventions to brilliant marketing initiatives to hushed back-room deals, this course will expose the key moments where the record industry changed forever, both for good and bad.

Intro to Sound Art



Humans and machines, infrastructure and architecture, community, and culture: how do these relationships shape our imagination of sounds and music? Through practice-based research, we will explore the aural environments generated by the industrial and post-industrial history of cities along the Rust Belt, studying, for example, how Industrial Fordism's merger of human and machine informed the rise of sample culture and machine-based rhythm and music. Using Detroit as our case study, we will examine how African-American arts, culture, and history, combined with the rise of the automobile industry, produced Detroit Techno as way for artists to respond to the sonic architecture of their environment. Meanwhile, we will be making our own field recordings of our local urban environments and electronically processing them into tones and beats, and then sequencing and mixing our research into sonic productions using non-screen-based hardware devices. Not open to seniors. Studio Art lab supply fee applied.

MUSC 163 - Musical Theatre Skills - is a course designed to provide intensive practical experience with both scene-and-song work in the American Musical Theatre repertoire. Students will receive weekly coaching and rehearsal, with emphasis on characterization, acting and singing skills, and idiomatic performance practice. While this course has a few readings and writing assignments, emphasis is on performance preparation. This course may culminate in a public showing of work studied over the course of the semester. Permission of instructor (by audition). Previous musical theatre experience is preferred, but not required. [Email Zachary Peterson](#) for more information.

Pit Orchestra Opportunity (Student Activity)



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? If you answered YES, OBOC's Pit Orchestra would love to have you! For more information, contact OBOC's Music Director, [Luna Trumble](#)

Questions about Lessons?
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MUSIC NEWS

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Meet Your Teaching Assistants



Emma Gierszal is a percussionist, educator, and arts leader living in Rochester, NY.

While earning her doctorate at the Eastman School of Music, she teaches percussion at the Hochstein School of Music and is president of the board for the new music ensemble, fivebyfive. She may also be found performing with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Emma's passion for promoting new music began with the John Psathas Percussion Project, a multi-year recording project led by her undergraduate professor, Omar Carmenates. In 2022, Emma performed Viet Cuong's new concerto, Re(new)al for percussion quartet in front of the Albany Symphony Orchestra. Emma appears in premiere recordings of Michael Burritt's, spero and Iunctio and John Psathas' Koolish Zein, and in 2023 commissioned and recorded Austin Keck's *Evanescence* as a co-founder of the trio 3D Percussion. Emma has attended summer festivals including the Lucerne Festival Academy (2023), Grafenegg Academy (2021, 2022), National Repertory Orchestra (2021) where she performed in front of the orchestra, and the Chautauqua Summer Music Festival (2019). In 2018 she won the Mary Ann Starring Memorial Award and performed at Sigma Alpha Iota's national convention. Emma holds an M.M. degree in Percussion Performance and Literature and an Arts Leadership Certificate from Eastman as well as a B.M. degree in Music Education from Furman University in Greenville, SC. Emma Gierszal is a proud Malletech artist.



Jillian (Zhilin) Zhang is a music educator and flutist with a multicultural background. Originally from China, she played with the Henan Flute Ensemble for two years and served as a music teacher in Chinese public schools. Her journey then led her to the University of Michigan, where she completed her master's studies in Music Education. She gained diverse experiences in general music and ensembles in both China and the U.S. Currently in her first year as a Ph.D. student at Eastman, she is poised to delve deeper into her passion for fostering cross-cultural connections within music education and performance. She also aspires to consolidate and synthesize interdisciplinary knowledge to inspire more people through music teaching.



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).



Jack Snelling is an American composer, pianist, and bassoonist, whose influences span many genres from Oscar Peterson and Brad Mehldau to Earth, Wind, and Fire and Ben Folds. Hailing from St. Louis, Jack is currently a graduate student at the Eastman School of Music, pursuing a Master's degree in Jazz and Contemporary Media. He recently graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Composition from the University of Missouri-Columbia where he was a recipient of the MNMI Composition Scholarship. His works have been played by a variety of groups, including the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Mizzou Wind Ensemble and Concert Jazz Band, the 442's, Quatuor Diotima, Khemia Ensemble, Tesla Quartet, Matt Wilson, the Mizzou New Music Ensemble, and more. In addition to serving as principal bassoonist and pianist in several of Mizzou's ensembles, Jack also founded a woodwind quintet, as well as professional jazz quartet Sharp the Nine. His other passions within music include arts administration,

and in April 2021 he collaborated with the University Concert Series and the Zeta Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia to produce that year's "1322: Music in America" concert, which he reprised in 2023. He also served as the orchestra manager for the Columbia Civic Orchestra, and as Program/Production Coordinator for the 2023 Missouri International Composers Festival. When not playing music, Jack is an avid traveler and a lover of geography, a huge follower of St. Louis sports, and a fan of strategy games. This academic year, he'll be teaching MUSC 201: Basic Jazz Theory and Improvisation I & II.



Hunter Krolow is a composer, arranger, and trumpeter beginning the second year of his masters degree in Jazz and Contemporary Media at the Eastman School of Music. He earned his bachelor's in Jazz Studies with a minor in Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. Hunter is also an ASCAP composer and publisher who plans to write, play, and teach music and jazz for community enrichment and the development of future generations of musicians. Outside of music, he enjoys disc golf, yoga, and tabletop games. Students taking MUSC 101 - Elements of Music will have the opportunity to work with Mr. Krolow.