

doudna
FINE ARTS CENTER

To the New World!

FROM OLD WORLD TREASURES TO NEW WORLD VISIONS

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025
7:30 PM
THE DVORAK CONCERT HALL

1860 7TH STREET | CHARLESTON, IL 61920 | (217)581-3110 | DOUDNATIX.COM



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

BARBARA BONNEKESSEN, DEAN

MICHAEL CORNEBISE AND CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL, ASSOCIATE DEANS

DEPARTMENTS

Art + Design
Biological Sciences
Chemistry & Biochemistry
Economics
English
Geology/Geography
History
School of Communication & Journalism
Math & Computer Science
Music
Philosophy
Physics
Political Science
Psychology
Sociology, Anthropology, & Criminology
Tarble Arts Center
Theatre
Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
World Languages & Cultures

CHAIR/DIRECTOR

Chris Kahler
Tom Canam
Ed Treadwell
Linda Ghent
Angela Vietto
Jim Davis
Grant Sterling
Matt Gill
Andrew Mertz
Shellie Gregorich
Grant Sterling
Steve Daniels
Karen Swenson
John Mace
Don Holly

Nick Shaw
Jeannie Ludlow
Christiane Eydt-Beebe

DOUDNA FINE ARTS CENTER STAFF

Dennis Malak, Director of Programming,
Publicity, and Promotions
Conor Baltz, Director of Operations
Kevin Di Bella, Audio Engineer
Rucker Parsons, Box Office Manager
Estela Guzmán, Assistant Technical Director

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES STAFF

Jennifer Spracklen, Assistant to the Dean
Kim Pope, Office Manager
Angie Cawthon, Graduation Certification

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS
& SCIENCES



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™

PROGRAM

David Commanday, Director
With the EIU Choral Ensembles
Howard Eckdahl, Director
&
Oladapo Okunmuyide,
Graduate Assistant Conductor

Piano Concerto No. 27 in B-flat Major K. 595.....Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756 – 1791)

Anila Aliu, Solo Piano

- I. Allegro
- II. Larghetto
- III. Allegro

epitaph for a romantic woman.....Marybeth Kurnat
(b. 1987)

Orchestrated and Conducted by Howard Eckdahl

Happy, Happy, Shall We Be, from Semele.....George Frederic Handel
(1685 - 1759)

Oladapo Okunmuyide, Conductor

- Intermission -

Symphony No. 9 in E Minor, "From the New World".....Antonín Dvořák
(1841 - 1904)

- I. Adagio, Allegro molto
- II. Largo
- III. Scherzo
- IV. Allegro con fuoco

BIOGRAPHIES



David Commanday, Director

Director of Orchestral Activities and Instructor of Applied Cello at Eastern Illinois University, Professor Commanday is also Artistic Director and Conductor of the Heartland Festival Orchestra, and an active guest conductor. He brings great depth of experience to his post at EIU, since his career combines international accomplishment as professional conductor, national prominence as a leader in the youth orchestra field, and distinction in the Academy of higher education. Among many awards received, the Illinois Council of Orchestras recognized Commanday as Illinois Professional Conductor of the Year.

Professor Commanday has a distinguished record of accomplishment with young musicians. As Music Director of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras, he received two ASCAP Awards for innovative programming of American music and for works he commissioned and premiered.

Professor Commanday is a cum laude graduate of Harvard College, and was awarded highest honors in his State Diploma of Orchestral Conducting at the University of Vienna. He has taught and conducted at Harvard, MIT, Boston University, Montclair University, Eureka College, and Bradley University, and was tenured Associate Professor on the faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University.

As a cellist, Commanday often plays in chamber music performances with visiting artists—including among others Yo-Yo Ma, Bobby McFerrin, Matt Haimovitz, Adam Neiman, Rachel Barton Pine, Jason Vieaux, and Michael Stephen Brown. At Eastern Illinois University he is the cellist of the Eastern Piano Trio with colleagues Shichao Zhang and Ji Myung Kim.



BIOGRAPHIES



Anila Aliu, Solo Pianist

Kosovar pianist Anila Aliu has rapidly established an international concert career throughout Europe, Asia, and the Americas. With an extensive social media following and a recent slate of glowing concert reviews, Ms. Aliu is emerging as a rising star “giving Kosovo a voice all over the world.”

Ms. Aliu began her performance career at age eight, subsequently capturing top prizes at competitions across the Balkans, as well as at the Golden Classical Music Awards Competition (New York), International Piano Competition (Bangkok), San Dona di Piave (Venice), and the International School of Culture and Art in Lugano (Switzerland). As a concerto

soloist, she has performed with such orchestras as the Kosovo Philharmonic Orchestra, Balkan Mediterranean Orchestra in Italy, and Xalapa Filarmonia Orchestra in Mexico. Her recital tours have spanned the United States, Kosovo, Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Mexico, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, and Malaysia, and she has been featured as a soloist and chamber musician at prominent festivals, including the Bonner Schumannfest, Chopin Piano Fest, Piano Loop Festival, DAM Festival, Klassik zu Gast bei Coppeneur, Vienna International Pianists, Fest 62, European Music Institute Vienna, IPSIA Italy, Pro Klassik Deutschland, ESMA Western Balkans, International Festival Brescia, Asia Pacific Arts Festival, Salvatorberg festivals, among others.

Ms. Aliu has been featured in masterclasses with noteworthy pedagogues throughout Europe and America, including Natalia Trull, Dmitri Alexeev, Sabine Weyer, Dragomir Bratic, Andreas Frölich, Stephan Möller, Milana Chernyavskaya, Winston Choi, Michal Drewnowski, Ruben Delibaltayan, Jason Moy, and Chi-Chen Wu. She is an in-demand adjudicator for prominent international music competitions, and her previous season included solo recital debuts in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Brescia, Italy and Chicago, USA.

Currently pursuing a Performance Diploma under the tutelage of Professor Adam Neiman at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, Ms. Aliu remains grateful for the opportunities that music affords her and the joy of sharing her artistry with audiences worldwide. For more information, visit her website at www.anilaaliu.com.

BIOGRAPHIES



Marybeth Kurnat, Composer

Marybeth Kurnat (b. 1987) is a rising voice in modern choral music. Her debut work, *Epitaph For A Romantic Woman*, premiered with the St. Charles Singers in October 2021. Her composition *I, Lover* won True Concord's 2021-22 Stephen Paulus Emerging Composers' Competition. She debuted *The Lagoon* as a 2023 Composition Fellow for the PREMIERE|Project Festival in Southern California, and she will be featured in New Music Chicago's 2025 Ear Taxi Festival. In a remarkable trajectory, sixteen of Kurnat's new choral works received world premieres throughout 2023 and 2024 across six states. Her commissions include works for soprano Elizabeth Shuman,

Chicago Choral Artists, Baker Memorial Church of St. Charles, The Giving Voices Collective, Northern Illinois University, the Spectra Choir, Constellation Men's Ensemble, DeKalb High School, Vox Venti, Choir of the Ascension, and New Music Chicago.

Described as "transcendent" and "otherworldly," Kurnat's compositional voice, deeply influenced by her background as a jazz saxophonist, is distinguished by its colorful, adventurous harmonic vocabulary and fluid command of rhythm, and her piano writing has garnered particular acclaim. Drawing inspiration from Brad Mehldau, Wayne Shorter, Jacob Collier, Rollo Dilworth, and Ivo Antognini, her arranging portfolio spans jazz ensemble, concert band, chamber music, string orchestra, and commercial a cappella. Kurnat earned her Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Northern Illinois University in 2011 and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Composition at Washington State University. She serves as a music educator for the DeKalb School District and as a District 8 Representative for the Illinois Music Education Association. She was a Student Composition Track clinician at the 2024 and 2025 ILMEA All-State Festivals, and has presented professional development on integrating composition into secondary music education.

Beyond teaching and composing, Kurnat is an accomplished poet and maintains an active performance schedule as a choral singer and soprano soloist in the greater Chicago area. She performs regularly with the St. Charles Singers, Chicago Choral Artists, and the Grant Park Music Festival Chorus. She holds memberships in ACDA, AGMA, and ILMEA. An ASCAP-registered composer and publisher, Kurnat's music is available through direct purchase, MusicSpoke, or Graphite Publishing's *Compose Like A Girl* Series.

ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

Violin I

Ji-Myung Kim, Concertmaster
Ezekiel Oyedeji
Kimberly LaMonto +
Karen Swenson
Renee Wang +
Hyun Jim Baek
Emma Long +
Hanna Woo

Violin II

Terry Coulton
Eun Namkung
Basia Latawiec
Kaity Parker
Sha'Dawn Edwards
Emellie Schout +

Viola

Dominika Targosz
Ruth Riegel
Elaine Fine
Grace Schubkegel
Tanya Reed

Cello

Bill Schultz
Barbara Hedlund
Joshua Lee
Patrick Schout +
Kirsten Landowne
Jennifer Murphy

Bass

Evan Irvin
Brad Decker

Flute

Elizabeth Rickfelder
Aiden Payer

Oboe

Ethan Schobernd
Evan Tammen

Clarinet

Addison Willis
Hope Eagan

Bassoon

Jay Dawson
Annie Lyle Mason

Horn

Dan Mack
K Herrera Zambrano
Jay Larson
Brooks Wallace

Trumpet

Charles Koprowski-Barr
Brian George

Trombone

Ross Oller
Aidan Gomez
Colin Lakatos

Tuba

Caden VanSwol

Piano

Ethan Hayward

Timpani

Gary Reed

Percussion

Megan Garcia

+ Playing in the Symphonic
Honors Initiative Program
for exceptionally gifted pre-
college musicians.

CHORAL PERSONNEL

Concert Choir

Soprano

Charlotte Hedberg
Sommer Jones
Bella Kokonas
Maria Ochs
Emily Ritter
Olivia Theirl
Cameron Voyles
Amelia Williams

Alto

Allison Cooke
Katie Chumbley
Kayla Fleshner
Chloe Hempel
Grace Kirkpatrick
Lia Rigdon
Faith Worthington

Tenor

Chris Andrus
De'Angelo Barlow
Apollo Gary
Harrison Hahn
Mason Kurtz
Angelo Ochoa
Michael Warren

Bass

Tim Anderson
Carter Davis
Mitch Cox
Hunter Holaway
Owen Hough
Oladapo Okunmuyide
Channing Ratcliff
Xander Rice
Matthew Skelley

University Chorus

Soprano

Ashley Bunting
Alexis Highland
Neamoni Jarrett
Ellen Wang
Maycie Wilson

Alto

Ryley Cline
Sha'Ron Edwards
Yazira Sanchez
Nessa Sarmiento
Claire Steiner

FRIENDS OF DOUDNA

Concourse Level

Doug & Joann Meyer
Ann Sidwell
Severson Family
Tim & Melanie Mills
Mary Lou Hubbard & Don Dawson

Dvorak Level

Glenna Murphy
Linda K Keeler
Mike & Barbara Watts
Randy Wells
Cynthia & Thomas Seputis

DOUDNA STAFF

Doudna Crew

Paul Nau - GA
Piper Rhoads
Zak Wagner
Connor Mellott
Karrin Estes
Maelee Greenwood
Jemma Allen
Megan Heise
Caden VanSwol
Gage Matthews
Andrew Whalen
Piper Reynolds
Tim Anderson

Doudna Front of House

Jessica Bailey
Caylee Conway
Corbin Cox
Allie Drees
Mackenzie Fehrenbacher
Peyton Hayes
Chloe Heineman
Rob LeCates
Molly Neff
Emily Ritter
Joash Saha
Laura Severson
James Schnitzler
Ethan Schobernd

FOR TICKETS TO FUTURE EVENTS

Call the Doudna Fine Arts Center Box Office at 217-581-3110! The Box Office is open Tuesday - Friday 11:00am - 5:00pm and one hour prior to every ticketed event. You can also visit www.doudnatix.com and purchase/print your tickets at home and skip the line all together!



I'M NOT A COMEDIAN
I'M LENNY BRUCE

AUG 30 2025



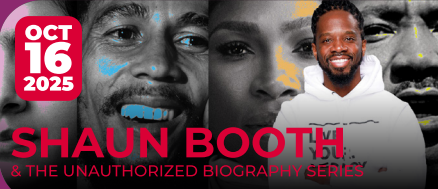
SEPT 12 2025

CULTURAL CROSSROADS:
DVORÁK IN AMERICA



SEPT 20 2025

SIXXAPPEAL



OCT 16 2025

SHAUN BOOTH
& THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY SERIES



JAN 24 2026

IMMUNITY



JOHN CLAYTON

FEB 06 2026

66TH ANNUAL JAZZ FESTIVAL



EAGLEMANIA
The world's greatest Eagles Tribute Band

FEB 14 2026



BRIGHT STAR

FEB 27 THRU MAR 8 2026

WRITTEN BY
STEVE MARTIN & EDIE BRICKELL



KORESH DANCE:
MASQUERADE

APR 11 2026

2025-2026
PREMIER EVENTS

 [GO.EIU.EDU/DOUDNATIX](https://go.eiu.edu/doudnatix)
GROUPS OF 4+ SAVE \$5 A TICKET



doudna
FINE ARTS CENTER

1860 7TH STREET | CHARLESTON, IL 61920 | (217)581-3110 | [GO.EIU.EDU/DOUDNATIX](https://go.eiu.edu/doudnatix)

DOUDNA FINE ARTS CENTER

PATRON SERVICES GUIDELINES

Usher Staff

Ushers are located at the entrance of the venue. If you have a question or a problem, please let them know and they will contact the House Manager.

Ticket Policies

Please note that all ticket sales are final, and refunds will not be given.

Late Arrival

During classical concerts, late seating will only take place during the first convenient pause in the program.

During jazz, folk, world, or pop concerts, late seating is more casual, but ushers may ask you to wait to be seated between pieces. Please check with an usher regarding when you may enter the venue.

Mobile Devices, Photography and Recording

Please turn off all light-illuminating or sound-emitting devices. Mobile phone use is strictly prohibited inside all venues. Text-messaging and the taking of photographs or videos by phone are not permitted.

The use of cameras - with or without flash - and recording devices is a violation of copyright law and discourteous to other audience members.

Failure to comply will result in being asked to leave the performance without a refund.

Doctor and Parent Emergency Calls

If you are a medical professional/parent with a sitter at home, please put your phone on silent and wait to take the call until you are out of the performance venue.

No Smoking

Eastern Illinois University is a tobacco-free campus. Smoking of any kind, including electronic cigarettes, is prohibited on all university property.

Food and Beverages

Food is not allowed inside any of the venues. Only beverages in the special Doudna drink cup, with a secured lid, are permitted in the venues.

Accessibility

Special seating areas for wheelchair accessibility are available. Contact the Box Office in advance to secure a seat in these areas. Audio amplification is available for the hearing-impaired free of charge. A driver's license or other identification is all that is required for deposit.

In the Event of an Emergency

Emergency exits may be found outside of the venue and are marked accordingly. The lighted "Exit" sign nearest your seat is the shortest route out of the building.

Families

The Doudna welcomes patrons of all ages to experience and enjoy the arts. Please carefully consider whether a performance is appropriate for children before planning to attend with young people. If you have concerns or questions about a specific event, please call the Box Office at (217) 581-3110.

Please be considerate of others in the audience and your young person's comfort. Children who are disruptive will not be allowed to remain in the venue.

Lost and Found

Found items should be left with an usher. To determine whether a personal item has been turned in, please call the Box Office at (217) 581-3110 or the Programming, Publicity, & Promotions Office at (217) 581-8513.

WWW.DOUDNATIX.COM
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THEODOUDNA
INSTAGRAM: @DOUDNAEIU



BECOME A FRIEND OF THE DOUDNA

FRIEND LEVEL \$25+

- 1 ticket to a Doudna non-premier performance

RECITAL LEVEL \$100+

- 2 tickets to a Doudna premier performance

PROSCENIUM LEVEL \$250+

- 2 tickets to 2 Doudna premier performances
- 2 reusable Doudna cups

DVORAK LEVEL \$500+

- 2 tickets to 2 Doudna premier performances
- 2 reusable Doudna cups
- Recognition in program

CONCOURSE LEVEL \$1,000+

- 2 tickets to 4 Doudna premier performances
- 2 reusable Doudna cups
- Recognition in program
- Recognition on Lobby Screen
- Backstage Tour

DOUDNA LEVEL \$5,000+

- 2 Doudna premier season tickets
- 2 reusable Doudna cups
- Recognition in program
- Recognition on Lobby Screen
- Backstage Tour
- Doudna Insider Experience
 - Attend a rehearsal/sound check or join the group for dinner.
 - Arranged by the Doudna Fine Arts Center

