



Romantic Dreams

A CONCERT BY THE
Eastern Symphony Orchestra

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026
7:30 PM

THE DVORAK CONCERT HALL

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



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Choral Ensembles

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Eastern Symphony Orchestra

Jazz Ensembles

Jazz Combos
Jazz Ensemble
Jazz Lab Band

Music Theatre/Opera Ensemble

Percussion Ensemble

University Bands

Concert Band
Eastern Symphonic Band
Panther Marching Band
Wind Symphony

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™

PROGRAM

Romantic Dreams

Eastern Symphony Orchestra
David Commanday, Director & Conductor

Fanfare for the Common Man.....Aaron Copland
(1900 – 1990)

Concerto in E-flat for Alto Saxophone and String Orchestra.....Alexander Glazunov
(1865 – 1936)

Symphony No. 2 in D-flat Major, Opus 30 "The Romantic"Howard Hanson
(1896 – 1981)

- I. Adagio – Allegro Moderato
- II. Andante con tenerezza
- III. Allegro con brio

–INTERMISSION–

Cello Concerto in E Minor, Opus 85Edward Elgar
(1857 – 1934)

- I. Adagio – Moderato
- II. Lento – Allegro molto
- III. Adagio
- IV. Allegro – Moderato – Allegro, ma non troppo

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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.eiu.edu/doudnatix and purchase/print your tickets at home and skip the line all together!

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. 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 three 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. At Eastern Illinois University he is the cellist of the Eastern Piano Trio with colleagues Shichao Zhang and Ji Myung Kim.

2025-2026 CONCERTO/ARIA COMPETITION

Each Fall semester the EIU Music Department holds its annual Concerto/Aria Competition, in which student instrumentalists and singers, both Graduate and Undergraduate, enter in competition for the opportunity to perform their concerto or aria in concert with the Eastern Symphony Orchestra. Eminent musicians are invited from outside the university to serve as a panel of judges. This past November there was a very strong entry, necessitating two rounds of auditions, and making the final selection highly competitive.

The winners were **Kyle Rennier**, playing Glazunov's Saxophone Concerto, and **Paul Nau**, playing the Concerto for Vibraphone and Strings, by Emmanuel Séjourné. Unfortunately, due to logistical complications relating to the international publishing source for the Séjourné, it was not possible to secure the orchestral materials for that work, and so it cannot be included in tonight's concert.

BIOGRAPHIES



Kyle Rennier is a third-year Music Education student at Eastern Illinois University studying with Dr. Sam Fagaly. He graduated from Richland County High School in Olney, IL in 2023 where he was very active in the band programs. Having experience in multiple genres, Kyle currently performs with the EIU Wind Symphony, EIU Jazz Ensemble, and a Saxophone Quartet. He has also performed with the Olney Cummins Municipal Band, Marshal City Band, and the Sounds of Swing Band. Outside of performing, he currently serves as the Vice President of EIU's Kappa Kappa Psi and Illinois Collegiate Music Education Association chapters. After graduating, Kyle hopes to teach band in a rural school district but would be happy teaching any level of music.



Paul Nau is a second year master's degree student in jazz studies at EIU, primarily focused on jazz vibraphone. Born and raised in Tuscola, Illinois, just 30 minutes north of Charleston, he studied at the University of Evansville for two years before transferring to EIU and completing his undergraduate degree in music with a concentration on audio and recording technology (2023). Paul has a passion for creating music that incorporates jazz harmonies with electronic music elements like synthesizers, effects pedals, and live looping. The metallic, midrange timbre of the vibraphone is perfectly aligned with his desire to emulate the lo-fi, vaporwave sounds that have become increasingly popular with the more widespread appreciation of video game soundtracks and Japanese jazz fusion. Other musical passions include teaching, performing as an electric bassist in a reggae band, music production/recording, live sound, beat-boxing, and playing the didgeridoo.

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EVERY VOICE

SUNDAY | 2.22.2026

PRESENTED BY THE EIU DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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FINE ARTS CENTER

EASTERN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

David Commanday, Director

Cameron Craig, Graduate Conducting Assistant

Violin I

Dr. Ji Myung Kim,
Concertmaster

Eva Hall
Laurel Swenson
Karen Swenson
Jace Kim
Renee Wang- +

Violin II

Ezekiel Oyedeqi
Eun Namkung
Terry Coulton
Kimberley Boehm
Liz Fontana
Emellie Schout +

Viola

Diane Wuthrich
Dominika Targosz
Isaac Henry
Quran Woods
Elaine Fine
Ruth Riegel
Tanya Reed

Cello

Esmé Bryson
Barbara Hedlund
Mikayla Todd
William Schultz, Jr.
Daria Van De Loo
MJ Jarrell
Jennifer Murphy
Patrick Schout +

Bass

Race Brighton
Brad Decker

Piccolo

Kaity Harr

Flute

Aiden Payer
Elizabeth Rickfelder
Kaity Harr

Oboe

Evan Tammen
Ethan Schobernd

English Horn

Ethan Schobernd

Clarinet

Addie Willis
Maci Reed

Bassoon

Jay Dawson
Benjamin Schwarberg
Annie Mason
Isaiah Morris +

Horn

Katrina Herrera Zambrano
Alejandro Guzman
Jackson Christian
Joseph Goldstein

Trumpet

Brian George
Charles Koprowski-Barr
Luke Ferris

Trombone

Ross Oller
Aidan Gomez
Colin Lakatos

Tuba

Karson Landsaw

Percussion

Megan Garcia
Claire Kersh
Kayleah Colvin

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

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.

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