

Gibbs Street becomes Jazz Street

By Russell Scarbrough

JAZZ LOVERS IN Rochester filled the streets once again this past June for the fourth annual Rochester International Jazz Festival (RIJF). The eight-day festival took place in Eastman's performance halls, in nearby clubs and outdoor stages on Gibbs Street. Once again, Eastman musicians were at the heart of the festival, which is one of the nation's fastest growing annual music events.

Eastman students were also featured in the now-traditional Sunday night concert in the Eastman Theatre, emceed by jazz studies and contemporary media department Chair Harold Danko. The award-winning Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra, led by Associate Dean for Community and Continuing Education Howard Potter, featured several graduating students who were awarded scholarships to attend Eastman this year. Current and recent students Brian Shaw, Shirantha Beddage, Kirsten Edkins, Clarence Hines, Mamiko Kitaura, Dan Loomis, and Jared Schonig made up the "Jazz Performance Workshop Honors Unit." Hines, a trombonist and arranger, and Schonig, a drummer, were presented *Down Beat* Magazine Student Music Awards.



The Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra headlined a "heluva good" RIJF concert.

The Eastman Jazz Ensemble, directed by Eastman Professor Bill Dobbins, performing arrangements by Dobbins, current student Russell Scarbrough, and alumnus Bill Cunliffe (MM '81). They were joined by saxophone soloist Bob Sheppard (MM '77), one of the first musicians to graduate from Eastman with a degree in Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media.

The critically acclaimed Trio East (featuring trumpeter Clay Jenkins, drummer Rich Thompson, and bassist Jeff Campbell) and the Harold Danko Trio were both featured acts, and guitarist Bob Sneider led a nightly jam session. Alumni drummers Dave Mancini (BM '74) and Ted Poor (BM '03), and pianist Toby Koenigsberg (MM '03), each returned to Rochester to led their own groups.

"Piano Man" Billy Joel endows Eastman scholarship

GRAMMY- AND TONY-AWARD winning musician Billy Joel may be known for "Piano Man," "Just the Way You Are," "Movin' Out," and many other pop hits, but he's also a committed—and generous—advocate for music education. Eastman, along with several other eastern music schools, saw his generosity this fall.

In addition to having sold more than 100 million records over the past 25 years, Billy Joel also has long encouraged collaboration among the performing arts, as well as the advancement of "crossover" learning and performance among the various genres of music. The Billy Joel Endowment Fund has given Eastman a generous gift of \$320,000,



Billy Joel



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to support a scholarship for a current student, and to establish an endowed Billy Joel Scholarship at the Eastman School to benefit "extraordinarily talented music students who are exploring relationships between classical

and popular music genres in years to come."

Eastman's first Billy Joel Scholar is Russell Scarbrough. A Baltimore native, Russell received his master's degree in jazz composition from Eastman, and currently is working on his doctoral degree in jazz and contemporary media.

An accomplished trombonist, Russell has also written numerous arrangements for pop vocalists. He is writing a piece for the Eastman Studio Orchestra with several jazz soloists, to be performed in March 2006.

"What an honor it is to be the first recipient of the Billy Joel Scholarship at Eastman!" says Russell.