

# Eastman Chamber Jazz Ensemble

Gary Versace,  
*director*

John Ellis,  
*saxophone*

Tuesday, March 31, 2026  
Hatch Recital Hall  
7:30 PM

~ PROGRAM ~  
Eastman Chamber Jazz Ensemble  
Gary Versace, *director*

*Program to be announced from the stage*

**John Ellis** is one of New York's premiere tenor saxophone voices. With more than 150 album credits as a sideman, John has recorded with a wide variety of artists such as Charlie Hunter, Robert Glasper, Darcy James Argue, Helen Sung, Kendrick Scott Oracle, Dr. Lonnie Smith, and Sting. John was the 2nd place winner of the prestigious Thelonious Monk Saxophone Competition in 2002, he was the recipient of three composition grants through The Jazz Gallery for the creation of new work ("Dreamscapes", "The Ice Siren", and "MOBRO") and he was selected as the 2014 Make Jazz Fellow by the 18th Street Arts Center in Santa Monica. John has released fourteen albums as a leader, three of those featuring his New Orleans-centered band Double-Wide, which has toured extensively and was featured on the Main Stage of the 2012 Newport Jazz Festival. He co-produced the music for the children's book series "Baby Loves Jazz" with Aaron Goldberg, and he wrote the theme music for the NPR podcast, "Rough Translation." His latest album, "Bizet: Carmen in Jazz", was released on Blue Room Music in December of 2023 and features Reuben Rogers, Gary Versace, and Jason Marsalis.



Eastman School of Music

~ **PERSONNEL** ~  
*Eastman Chamber Jazz Ensemble*

**Ensemble #1:**

Wyatt Pepper, *trumpet*  
Sam Streeter, *trombone*  
Daniel Zawel, *piano*  
Erin Famous, *bass*  
Kai Leeftang, *drums*

**Ensemble #2:**

Juan Saus Ruiz, *alto saxophone*  
Sam Chandler, *piano*  
Danica Rebudiao, *bass*  
Coleman Breining, *drums*

*We acknowledge with respect the Seneca Nation, known as the “Great Hill People” and “Keepers of the Western Door” of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We take this opportunity to thank the people whose ancestral lands the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester currently occupies in Rochester, New York.*



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