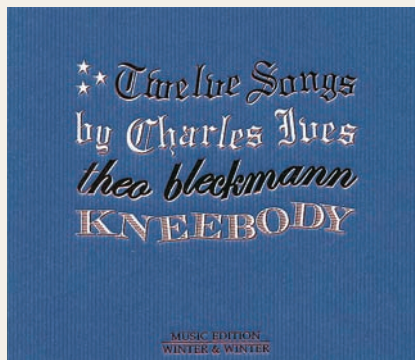


And the Nominees Are...

Ten Eastman alumni have a shot at a Grammy Award this year. The 52nd annual Grammy Awards will be held in Los Angeles on January 31. Nominees, announced in December, include:

- Soprano **Renée Fleming** '83E (MM), Best Classical Vocal Performance, for her album of arias, *Verismo* (Decca), and Best Classical Crossover Album, for her role on *Yo-Yo Ma & Friends: Songs of Joy and Peace* (Sony Classical).



NOMINEE: Kneebody's *Twelve Songs by Charles Ives*.

- Also for Best Classical Crossover Album, saxophonist **Ben Wendel** '99E, trumpeter **Shane Endsley** '97E, bassist **Kaveh Rastegar** '01E, and keyboardist **Adam Benjamin**, members of the quintet Kneebody, for *Twelve Songs by Charles Ives* (Winter & Winter).
- Tenor **Anthony Dean Griffey** '01E (MM), Best Classical Album, for his performance on *Mahler: Symphony No. 8; Adagio From Symphony No. 10* (SFS Media).
- Mezzo-soprano **Faith Sherman** '03E, Best Opera Recording, for her performance on *Volpone*, by composer John Musto (Wolf Trap Recordings).
- **Kristian Bezuidenhout** '01E, '04E (MM), Best Small Ensemble Performance, for his performance on the harpsichord and organ on *Vivaldi: Concertos* (Deutsche Grammophon).
- Percussionist and composer **John Hollenbeck** '90E, '91E (MM), Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album, for *Eternal Interlude* (Sunnyside).
- **Bill Cunliffe** '81E (MM), Best Instrumental Arrangement, for "West Side Story Medley," on *Resonance Big Band Plays Tribute to Oscar Peterson* (Resonance Records).

Economic Literacy, Hawaiian Style

Kristine Krause Castagnaro '92, executive director of the Hawaii Council on Economic Education, wants to see every student in Hawaii graduate with the tools to make good financial decisions.

By **Karen McCally '02 (PhD)**

IT SEEMS SIMPLE enough: Teens who are getting credit card solicitations should know the meaning of compound interest.

But many don't, says **Kristine Krause Castagnaro** '92, executive director of the financial literacy nonprofit organization, the Hawaii Council on Economic Education. And neither, sometimes, do the adults around them.

"Often people are not prepared to make financial decisions," says Castagnaro, who majored in economics at Rochester. The American economy has developed in ways that make borrowing and investing both more necessary and more complex than in the past. Yet very few schools teach economic literacy.

Confusion extends to many areas of personal finance, including gauging how much home you can afford, knowing how to take advantage of employer or government benefits, or realizing why the earlier you save, the better (again, think compound interest).

As director of the council for the past seven years, Castagnaro says the nonprofit has grown from "a little bitty struggling organization to a thriving place." She and her staff of two, with the support of an active board of directors and a growing list of private and public partners, have created workshops for K-12 teachers, statewide contests for students, and a *Na Wai Puapua i* ("Care for the Future") K-12 curriculum that links financial literacy to native Hawaiian culture.

Leisha Bento, a high school social studies teacher, met Castagnaro through a college instructor. Bento had already incorporated economic concepts into her classes on world history. But with knowledge gained from a council workshop, she created an entire course in economics. "It really helped me with the pedagogy part—with how to teach economic concepts," Bento says.

Castagnaro stresses that economic concepts can be taught at any age. Take, for

example, opportunity cost, which is "the most valuable alternative you give up when you make a decision," she says. "With kids, you can talk about that in terms of selecting a candy bar." For teens, who are better equipped to understand the future consequences of decision making, the discussion might be about whether to hang out with friends or do your homework, she adds.

Castagnaro says the organization would like to see every high school student in Hawaii graduate with a course in economics. Yet reaching everyone is a challenge.

Castagnaro stresses that economic concepts can be taught at any age. For teens . . . the discussion might be about whether to hang out with friends or do your homework.

Hawaii, like most states, does not require students to take economics or personal finance. "Teachers have an uphill battle," says Castagnaro.

Over the past few years, the council has branched out to form alliances with banks and insurance companies that have an interest in reaching adults at various life stages who are in the midst of making major financial decisions. This past summer, the council organized a statewide 2009 Personal Finance Expo, in which over 80 exhibitors offered free seminars such as "Reverse Mortgage Basics" and "Money & Mom: Handling Your Parents' Finances as they Age."

Castagnaro and her husband, Russell, a computer consultant, met in Atlanta and were seeking a new adventure. After a plan to live and work in New Zealand fell through, they decided to settle in Honolulu,



where the couple now lives with their two young daughters. Castagnaro had been working on special events for the March of Dimes when she met David McClain, the dean of the business school at the University of Hawaii, and the chairman of the council's board of trustees.

▲ **BANK ON IT:** As director of a Honolulu-based nonprofit, Castagnaro helps kids as well as adults learn to make good financial decisions.

"Kristine is a self-starter, remarkably creative and an out-of-the-box thinker," says McClain, now the president emeritus of the University of Hawaii system. "She is able to bring people together from a wide variety of professions and from all ages, and to catalyze their energies in support of a common goal."

For now, that goal is to continue expanding the Council's services, its reach, and, Castagnaro adds, planning for another, even larger expo in 2011. 

In the News

JIMMIE REYNA '75 HONORED BY MEXICAN GOVERNMENT

Jimmie Reyna '75, a partner in the international law section of the Washington, D.C., office of Williams Mullen, has received a 2009 Ohtli Award from the government of Mexico, the highest honor awarded to non-Mexicans. The Ohtli awards—ohtli means "pathway" in Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs—recognizes people who have helped to advance the Mexican and Latino communities abroad. Reyna is a past president of the Hispanic National Bar Association.

DORIAN DENBURG '76 ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Dorian Denburg '76, general attorney at AT&T, was elected president of the National Association of Women Lawyers at its annual meeting in July. An expert in law related to public and private rights-of-way, Denburg is the past vice president of the organization, founded over a century ago to advocate for women's legal equality and women in the legal profession.

RICHARD MELTZER '69 APPOINTED POLICY DIRECTOR FOR HOUSE SPEAKER

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California has appointed **Richard Meltzer '69** as her policy director. Meltzer was most recently a principal at Washington Council Ernst and Young, and had served as a transition coordinator for Pelosi in 2006, when she assumed the speakership after the election of a Democratic majority to the House.

ATHLETICS ADMINISTRATOR JACKIE BLACKETT '81 RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Jackie Blackett '81, an associate athletics director at Columbia University, was one of eight women named Administrator of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators this fall. Now in her 19th year at Columbia, Blackett was honored for her work as campus liaison for student-athletes. At Rochester, Blackett was a three-time MVP on the women's track and field team, and after graduation, she coached the women's track and field and cross country teams.