

ensemble connect

**Artistry.
Education.
Advocacy.
Entrepreneurship.**

Ensemble Connect is a two-year fellowship program for the finest young professional classical musicians in the United States that prepares them for careers that combine musical excellence with teaching, community engagement, advocacy, entrepreneurship, and leadership. It offers top-quality performance opportunities, intensive professional development, and the opportunity to partner throughout the fellowship with a New York City public school.

2018-2019 Performance Highlights

A new group of musicians joins the Ensemble Connect fellowship program at the start of the 2018-2019 season, kicking off the ensemble's 12th year with a performance in Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall on October 22. In addition to performances at Carnegie Hall, Ensemble Connect presents engaging concerts at The Juilliard School and continues its biannual residency at Skidmore College. Ensemble Connect gives the world-premiere performance of a new commission by Gabriella Smith and performs works by Brahms, Dvořák, Ravel, John Adams, and more. Following a successful residency in Paris in 2016 through a grant from The Edmond de Rothschild Foundations, Ensemble Connect returns for a second residency in 2018 to include coaching and performances with early-music master Jordi Savall in programs that feature Baroque music from Italy and France, as well as works by Arvo Pärt. Ensemble Connect also reunites with Ensemble intercontemporain for additional performances in Paris. In the summer of 2019, Ensemble Connect hosts its second Audience Engagement Institute chamber-music workshop.



Caroline Shaw (left) performs the premiere of her new work at Carnegie Hall with Ensemble Connect

Commissions and World Premieres

Supporting its commitment to providing fellows with exceptional opportunities to work with contemporary music, composers, and artists, Carnegie Hall has commissioned 25 composers on behalf of Ensemble Connect since 2007. Ensemble Connect fellows have worked closely with these composers during the rehearsal process to present a total of 32 world-premiere performances of works by Missy Mazzoli, Ted Hearne, Timo Andres, Samuel Adams, David Bruce, Meredith Monk, Caroline Shaw, Andy Akiho, Gabriel Kahane, and more. In the 2018-2019 season, Ensemble Connect will commission a new work by composer Gabriella Smith, receiving its world premiere on October 19 during the ensemble's residency at Skidmore College and its New York premiere on October 22 in Weill Recital Hall.

“They are wonderful players ... at the highest level. It makes me very optimistic about the future of music when you have these people who also have realized that they have to be evangelists, not high priests. So they must give out of themselves because otherwise the art form is going to die.”
— Sir Simon Rattle



Interactive performance at a New York City public school

Partnership with New York City Public Schools

Ensemble Connect’s in-school residencies represent one of the largest and most in-depth collaborations between a cultural institution and New York City public schools. Each Ensemble Connect fellow partners with a public school instrumental music teacher for a 25-day residency over the course of each year, strengthening students’ music skills through a creativity-rich approach.

Interactive Performances in Schools and Community Venues

Each year, Ensemble Connect presents 80 interactive performances in schools and 20 in community venues across New York City. Interactive performances are designed to invite audiences to explore and discover a piece of music or musical concept, and include listening activities aimed at deepening and enriching the concert experience. Fellows give these assembly-style interactive performances for large, school-wide audiences and also adapt them for community venues such as correctional facilities, senior-care centers, homeless shelters, and organizations working with special-needs populations.

“For me, the highlight of this program has been the incredible musicians, the fellows, who have come into my classroom ... They inspired me. They encouraged my students to believe they can achieve their musical dreams.”
 — Audrey Mullen, Partner Teacher at PS21Q Edward Hart Elementary School



Professional development session with Renée Fleming

Professional Development

Ensemble Connect fellows are supported by a rigorous weekly professional development curriculum aimed at ensuring they have the skills they need to succeed in all areas of the program and to shape purposeful, personally rewarding career paths that redefine the role of the 21st-century musician. Sessions are led by experts in the performing arts, arts education, and Ensemble Connect alumni.



Workshop led by Decoda

Audience Engagement Institute

In the summer of 2019, Ensemble Connect hosts its second Audience Engagement Institute. Chamber ensembles from around the country are invited to participate in an eight-day, tuition-free series of professional development workshops with Ensemble Connect fellows and alumni, and a wide range of leaders in the field. The workshops help ensembles strengthen their artistic portfolios and develop strategies to incorporate audience engagement into their performances. Ensembles are coached on how to construct interactive performances, and the institute culminates in an opportunity to put what they learn to use during performances in public schools and community venues around the city.

Residencies



Rehearsal with Andy Akiho of his *Speaking Tree* commission



Performance with soprano Natalie Dessay during 2016 Paris residency

Skidmore College

For the 12th consecutive year, Ensemble Connect returns to Saratoga Springs, New York, for two five-day residencies at Skidmore College. During these residencies, the fellows engage with Skidmore College students—as well as the broader Saratoga Springs community—offering master classes, lessons, class demonstrations, and interactive performances, culminating in a performance in Helen Filene Ladd Concert Hall.

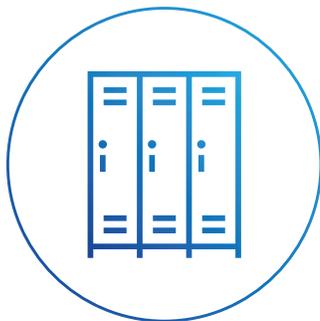
Paris

Seven Ensemble Connect fellows traveled to Paris for a week-long residency in December 2016 in partnership with The Edmond de Rothschild Foundations. There they performed with soprano Natalie Dessay and members of Ensemble intercontemporain, and gave interactive performances at local schools. Ensemble Connect returns to Paris December 8-15, 2018, for coaching and performances with early-music master Jordi Savall in programs that include Baroque music from Italy and France, as well as works by Arvo Pärt. Ensemble Connect also reunites with Ensemble intercontemporain for additional performances in Paris.

New York Connections

Throughout the NYC community, Ensemble Connect has given more than 600 performances and has served more than 50,000 students through school partnerships in the last 11 years. It has engaged diverse audiences with performances in a variety of NYC community venues, including healthcare centers, correctional facilities, eldercare and assisted-living homes, family and child service centers, churches, and more.

2018-2019 Statistics



20

Partner
NYC
Public Schools



6K+

Students
Served



100

Interactive Performance
in NYC Public Schools
and Communities



12

Public
Performances

Ensemble Connect Alumni

Throughout the 11 years since Ensemble Connect was established, Carnegie Hall has maintained close relationships with the program's alumni. As the reputation of this group has grown, demand for work by its now 119 alumni has developed as well. In 2011, Decoda—an ensemble made up exclusively of Ensemble Connect alumni—was formed and later named an affiliate ensemble of Carnegie Hall. In the 2018–2019 season, Carnegie Hall presents Decoda for the first time in concert for two performances in Weill Recital Hall. In addition, alumni are at the forefront of initiatives that use their art form to impact a variety of audiences around the world; examples include Notes with a Purpose in Las Vegas, Musicambia in New York, New Docta international music festival in Argentina, Scrag Mountain Music in Vermont, and Reveler in California. Many alumni also hold faculty and guest artist teaching positions at US universities and colleges.

Where Are Alums Now?



“Every day my life is more fulfilled knowing that whenever inspiration strikes, I will have the invaluable tools of Ensemble Connect to make those inspirations a reality.”
—Nathan Schram, Alum

As of 2017





Stefan Cohen

About Ensemble Connect

Called “a valuable part of New York’s musical fabric” by *The New York Times*, Ensemble Connect is made up of some of the finest young professional classical musicians in the United States who are taking part in a two-year fellowship program created in 2007 by Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and the Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Department of Education. The program prepares fellows for careers that combine musical excellence with teaching, community engagement, advocacy, entrepreneurship, and leadership by offering them top-quality performance opportunities, intensive professional development, and the opportunity to partner throughout the fellowship with a New York City public school.

As performers on the concert stage and in their work in schools and communities, the musicians of Ensemble Connect have earned accolades from critics and audiences alike for the quality of their concerts, their fresh and open-minded approach to programming, and their ability to actively engage any audience.

Exemplary performers, dedicated teachers, and advocates for music throughout the community, the forward-looking musicians of Ensemble Connect are redefining what it means to be a musician in the 21st century.

A program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and the Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Department of Education

Major funding has been provided by The Diller-von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Susan and Edward C. Forst and *Goldman Sachs Gives*, the Max H. Gluck Foundation, the Irving Harris Foundation, the Hearst Foundations, The Kovner Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Lester S. Morse Jr., Phyllis and Charles Rosenthal, The Edmond de Rothschild Foundations, and The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund.

Additional support has been provided by the Arnow Family Fund, The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, Nicola and Beatrice Bulgari, the E. H. A. Foundation, Barbara G. Fleischman, Leslie and Tom Maheras, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Susan and Elihu Rose Foundation, Sarah Billingham Solomon and Howard Solomon, and Trust for Mutual Understanding.

Public support is provided by the New York City Department of Education, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Ensemble Connect is also supported, in part, by an endowment grant from The Kovner Foundation.



CARNEGIE HALL

Juilliard

Weill Music Institute

