



# ensemble connect

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

Ensemble Connect is a two-year fellowship program for extraordinary young professional classical musicians residing in the US that prepares them for careers combining musical excellence with teaching, community engagement, advocacy, entrepreneurship, and leadership. It offers top-quality performance opportunities, intensive professional development, and partnerships throughout the fellowship with New York City public schools.



2020–2021 Performance Highlights

Ensemble Connect enters the 2020–2021 season with a new class of fellows, kicking off the ensemble’s 14th season with a performance in Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall in October. The program includes the first New York City performance of *The Companion Guide to Rome* for String Trio by Andrew Norman, holder of Carnegie Hall’s 2020–2021 Richard and Barbara Debs Composer’s Chair. In addition to performances at Carnegie Hall, Ensemble Connect presents engaging concerts at The Juilliard School and other New York City venues, and continues its biannual residency at Skidmore College. Programs this season include the world premiere performance of a new work by Kaija Saariaho (co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall), along with music by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Vaughan Williams, Stravinsky, and others.

“Ensemble Connect’s performances are marked by a unique combination of precision, insight, and grace. The virtuosity of the ensemble’s members is matched by a collaborative and exploratory spirit that was everywhere in evidence in my rehearsals with them on my forthcoming new work.”  
—George Lewis, Composer



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 that include correctional facilities, senior-care centers, homeless shelters, and organizations working with special-needs populations.



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 is partnered with an instrumental music teacher for a 25-day residency over the course of each year, strengthening students’ music skills through a creativity-rich approach. The fellows’ two-year partnerships culminate with a Partner School Performance Festival with more than 400 students participating in this celebratory event.



Skidmore College Residency

For the 14th 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.



Professional Development

Ensemble Connect fellows are supported by a rigorous weekly professional development curriculum aimed at ensuring they have the skills needed 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.

“Ensemble Connect consists of brilliant and sensitive young musicians who get to the essence of each piece of music that they play and make it their own. Their spirit of adventure is inspiring for the future of new music.” —Meredith Monk



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 29 composers on behalf of Ensemble Connect since 2007. Ensemble Connect fellows have worked closely with these composers during the creative process to present a total of 35 world premiere performances of works by Gabriella Smith, Missy Mazzoli, Ted Hearne, Timo Andres, Samuel Adams, David Bruce, Meredith Monk, Caroline Shaw, Andy Akiho, Gabriel Kahane, TJ Cole, George Lewis, and others. In the 2020–2021 season, Ensemble Connect co-commissions a new work by composer Kaija Saariaho.



Ensemble Connect Alumni

Throughout the 13 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 135 alumni has developed as well. In 2011, Decoda—an ensemble exclusively comprising Ensemble Connect alumni—was formed and later named an affiliate ensemble of Carnegie Hall. Decoda was presented by Carnegie Hall for the first time in concert for two performances in Weill Recital Hall during the 2018–2019 season, and will again be presented in 2020–2021. 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.





Fadi Kheir

## About Ensemble Connect

Ensemble Connect is made up of extraordinary young professional classical musicians residing in the US who take 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 combining musical excellence with teaching, community engagement, advocacy, entrepreneurship, and leadership by offering top-quality performance opportunities, intensive professional development, and partnerships throughout the fellowship with New York City public schools.

On the concert stage and in schools and communities, Ensemble Connect has earned accolades from critics and audiences alike for the quality of the concerts, the fresh and open-minded approach to programming, and the ability to actively engage any audience.

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

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Ensemble Connect is a program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and the Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Department of Education.

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Global Ambassadors: Hope and Robert F. Smith, and Maggie and Richard Tsai.

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**ensembleconnect.org**

**CARNEGIE HALL**

Juilliard

Weill Music Institute