

**CARNEGIE HALL**

**2021–2022 Season**

# ensemble connect

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

Ensemble Connect is a two-year fellowship program for extraordinary professional classical musicians residing 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 partnerships throughout the fellowship with New York City public schools. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ensemble Connect's current class of nine fellows will extend their fellowship for a third year, taking part in the program through Carnegie Hall's 2022–2023 season.



Claudio Papapietro

## New York City Performance Highlights

The nine fellows of Ensemble Connect return for the second year of their fellowship in the 2021–2022 season, continuing their Up Close concert series, interactive performances in New York City public schools and community venues, and creation of engaging digital content and resources. This current class of musicians makes their live debut at Carnegie Hall as an ensemble this season along with presenting programs at The Juilliard School and other venues in New York City. This season's performances in Weill Recital Hall and the Resnick Education Wing include collaborations with **Julia Wolfe**, holder of the Richard and Barbara Debs Composer's Chair, as well as a world premiere performance of a new work by **Kaija Saariaho**, co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall.

## Expanding Digital Resources and Launching The Connected Musician

As a result of the pandemic, Ensemble Connect pivoted all its performance and educational activities to digital formats in the 2020–2021 season, focusing on engaging students, young musicians, and audiences at home through online offerings. This included Ensemble Connect's first-ever online performances, with three Up Close concerts that showcase the fellows collaborating remotely with artists, including composer **Reena Esmail**, contemporary dance artist **Wendell Gray II**, visual artist **Kevork Mourad**, and directors **Isabella LoRusso** and **Nathaniel Stevens**—all currently available for free on-demand viewing. June 2021 marks the launch of Carnegie Hall's **The Connected Musician**—a self-paced interactive video series for collegiate and early professional performers—powered by Ensemble Connect. Featuring guidance from alumni of the program and leaders in the field, The Connected Musician introduces a new approach to a career in classical music to engage modern audiences in new and unexpected ways.

## Serving NYC Public School Students and Teachers

Ensemble Connect's school partnerships represent one of the largest and most in-depth collaborations between a cultural institution and New York City public schools. Each 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. During the 2020–2021 season, Ensemble Connect partnered with 15 New York City public schools online, reaching 950 students in synchronous classrooms. Many more students are reached through the group's Digital Resource Library, an online collection of more than 100 videos, including videos to teach beginning instrumental instruction as well as to ignite music learning through creative listening challenges. The fellows will return to the classroom in the coming season.

## Encouraging Musical Discovery through Interactive Performances in the Community

In 2020–2021, Ensemble Connect presented nearly 40 online, interactive performances for schools and community partners 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. In live settings, fellows give these assembly-style interactive performances for large, school-wide audiences, and also adapt them for community venues such as correctional facilities, senior community centers, homeless shelters, and organizations that support people with visual, intellectual, and developmental disabilities.



The Connected Musician



Interactive Performance at Manhattan East School for Arts and Academics





Professional Development Session with Maria Bauman-Morales



Skidmore College Residency

Photos by Daanna Kennett.

## Professional Development for Ensemble Connect Fellows

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. Led by experts in the performing arts, arts education, and Ensemble Connect alums, these professional development sessions also help to shape purposeful, personally rewarding career paths that redefine the role of the 21st-century musician.

## A Tradition of Commissions

Supporting its commitment to providing fellows with exceptional opportunities to work with contemporary music, composers, and artists, Carnegie Hall has commissioned 30 composers on behalf of Ensemble Connect since 2007. Fellows have worked closely with these composers during the creative process to present a total of 34 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, and more. This season, Ensemble Connect gives the world premiere performance of a new work by Kaija Saariaho (co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall).

**“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

## Inspiring the Next Generation of Musicians through Skidmore College Residency

For the 15th consecutive year, Ensemble Connect participates in two five-day residencies at Skidmore College, located in Saratoga Springs, New York. 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.

## Growing Network of Alums

Throughout the 14 years since Ensemble Connect was established, Carnegie Hall has maintained close relationships with the program’s alums. As the reputation of this group has grown, demand for work by its now 135 alums has developed as well. In 2011, Decoda—an ensemble exclusively made up of Ensemble Connect alums—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 March 2022. In addition, alums 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 the more recently launched projects of VOTESart, MusicAlly, and ConnectFive. Many alums also hold faculty and guest artist teaching positions at US universities and colleges, and actively perform and engage with communities in more than 53 countries around the world.





Claudio Papapetero

## About Ensemble Connect

Ensemble Connect is made up of extraordinary professional classical musicians residing in the United States 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 that combine 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.

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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