

ensemble

# ACJW

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



Ensemble ACJW is a two-year fellowship program designed to prepare the world's finest young musicians for careers that combine musical excellence with teaching, community engagement, advocacy, and leadership. It offers performance opportunities and residencies in New York City and beyond, yearlong partnerships within New York City public schools, and intensive professional development.

[acjw.org](http://acjw.org)

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## 2014–2015 Performance Highlights

A new group of musicians will join the Ensemble ACJW fellowship program at the start of the 2014–2015 season. They perform several concerts each year at Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and other venues throughout New York City. Music heard at Ensemble ACJW’s four Carnegie Hall concerts include music by Beethoven, Ravel, Stravinsky, and Schumann, as well as the premiere of a new work by Meredith Monk, the holder of the 2014–2015 Richard and Barbara Debs Composer’s Chair at Carnegie Hall, commissioned especially for Ensemble ACJW by Carnegie Hall.

## Partnership with New York City Public Schools

Ensemble ACJW’s in-school residencies represent one of the largest in-depth collaborations between a cultural institution and New York City public schools. Each Ensemble ACJW fellow is partnered with a public school for a performance residency that totals 25 days over the course of the year. Fellows bring mastery of their instruments as well as a professional performer’s perspective to music classrooms in all five boroughs of New York City. They partner with each school’s instrumental music teacher to strengthen students’ musical skills through a tailored and creativity-rich approach,

according to the school’s needs. In-school activities include instrumental teaching, large-scale creative projects, and performance demonstrations. Coupled with the residency, fellows create, develop, and perform in interactive ensemble concerts with Ensemble ACJW colleagues in each of the ensemble members’ schools.

## Community Work in New York City

Throughout the season, fellows participate in community-based performances at multiple non-traditional venues across New York City through Musical Connections, a program of Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute. This program is designed to bring live music to people coping with challenging circumstances in healthcare settings, correctional facilities, and senior-service organizations. Fellows also perform several times per year as part of WMI’s free Neighborhood Concerts.

## Skidmore College Residency

For the seventh consecutive year, Ensemble ACJW returns to Saratoga Springs, New York, for two five-day residencies at Skidmore College. While on campus, the fellows work with music department faculty and students, offering master classes, lessons, and class demonstrations.



The fellows also play side by side with the students of the Skidmore College Orchestra and read student composers' new works. Ensemble ACJW performs in the Arthur Zankel Music Center, presenting concerts that include a world premiere of a Carnegie Hall-commissioned piece by Meredith Monk. In addition, the fellows offer collaborative demonstrations and informal performances beyond the music department in classes, dormitories, and libraries, as well as in schools and other community venues in Saratoga Springs.

### Professional Development

Throughout the two-year program, Ensemble ACJW fellows participate in rigorous, ongoing professional development to ensure that they gain the necessary skills to be successful in all areas of the program and to become leaders in their field. Areas of emphasis include artistic excellence, engagement strategies both on and off the stage, advocacy, professional skills, and preparation for their work in the schools. Sessions are led by experts in the performing arts, professional teaching artists, and Ensemble ACJW alumni. Coaching sessions are also provided to fellows, as well as access to such composers as Thomas Adès, John Adams, David Lang, and Steve Reich.

### Ensemble ACJW Alumni

Carnegie Hall maintains close relationships with the program's 83 alumni. As the reputation of Ensemble ACJW has grown, demand for work by its alumni has developed as well. In recent seasons, alumni ensembles have participated in residencies through Carnegie Hall in Abu Dhabi, Iceland, South Africa, Spain, Mumbai, Tokyo, Mexico City, and Germany. In 2011, alumni formed Decoda, an ensemble exclusively made up of Ensemble ACJW alumni. They have co-founded music ensembles and festivals, such as Third Coast Percussion, Genghis Barbie, New Docta International Music Festival, Scrag Mountain Music, Miami Chamber Music Society, and New York Chamber Musicians. They are members of world-renowned orchestras and ensembles, such as the New York Philharmonic, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Orchestra of St. Luke's, The Knights, Canadian Brass, and Bryant Park Quartet. Many alumni also hold faculty and guest artist teaching positions at US universities and colleges.

Additionally, alumni perform with current fellows in Ensemble ACJW, lead professional development sessions, serve as advisors for current fellows, and perform as part of the Weill Music Institute's Family Concerts series and Musical Connections program.



2012-2014 Ensemble ACJW Fellows



## About Ensemble ACJW

Ensemble ACJW is an inspirational collective of young professional musicians who are fellows in a two-year program that supports them in building careers as top-quality performers, innovative programmers, and dedicated teachers who fully engage with the communities in which they live and work.

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

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

Visit [acjw.org](http://acjw.org) to learn more.

*"The new face of classical music for New York ... these performers have the musical goods."*

—The New York Times

*"They are wonderful players ... at the highest level. It makes me very optimistic about the future of music here, 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 on Ensemble ACJW

*"Never have I been part of an organization so devoted to the diverse development of an artist."*

—Nathan Schram, Ensemble ACJW Alum

*"My teaching and our school's music program have been enriched by this partnership. My students have received an experience in music that they will carry with them throughout their lives."*

—Audrey Mullen, Partner Teacher at PS 21Q Edward Hart Elementary School

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