

Ensemble Mélange, formerly known as **SHUFFLE Concert**, is a joyful sextet of all-star virtuosos. Ensemble Mélange shakes up the concert experience, forges a personal connection with the audience, and mixes tried-and-true repertoire with a smorgasbord of jewels from distant genres. The concert is reformatted as a musician's party game; after each piece, members of the audience are chosen to pick the next piece from an extensive menu organized by style, nationality, and time period. Whether you're a purist or a populist, a snob or a noob, eight years old or eighty years old, you'll leave charmed and punch-drunk on a piece you didn't know you were going to love.

With a philosophical investment in reaching out to children, the group is dedicated to bringing in the next generation of music lovers, as well as having good fun with the current one.

How does it work? Everyone in the audience has a program with a number on it. We quickly explain the rules of the game, and then after each piece, a new member in the audience is chosen by a randomizer app to choose the next piece. The program includes classical music of a wide variety of genres, brilliant transcriptions, some jazz, innovative arrangements of tango and musical theater, and pieces that were written specifically for us. Most pieces are between three and six minutes; the concert moves quickly and you'll be exposed to something you never knew you were going to love with no fidgeting necessary! It is a concert that is fun for audience members of every age and walk of life; bring the kids, bring grandma!

Under the group's original name, SHUFFLE Concert, we have performed coast to coast in the US, Canada, toured five times in the Middle East, and have appeared in venues ranging from Carnegie Hall and Merkin Hall to The Duplex in New York, the Charles Bronfman Auditorium in Tel Aviv, the Brigham Young University Concert Hall in Jerusalem, and Ottawa Chamberfest. We released an album, held a composition competition, and gave concerts, lessons, master classes, and talks in countless schools, universities, and conservatories. This year, among many other memorable school trips, we gave side-by-side performances with fabulous elementary, middle school, and high school band students during a residency in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and passed an unforgettable afternoon with high school students on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona.

Since its inception, the group has performed more than 500 concerts in a variety of concert settings, including the Rose Studio at Lincoln Center, Rhinebeck Chamber Music Society Series in New York; Buck Hill Skytop Music Festival in Pennsylvania; Molloy College in Long Island; Los Angeles's L'Ermitage Concert Series, Lancaster Performing Arts Center and Pepperdine University Center for the Arts, the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert, CA, Clemson University, SC, The Gordon Center for Performing Arts in Baltimore, MD, Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, OH, and the Robert Z. Hawkins Amphitheater in Reno, NV.

We gave residencies at schools that include East Stroudsburg University and Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania; Mirman School in Los Angeles; The Dalles Middle school, Oregon; the International School in Herzeliya, Israel; Odessa College in Texas; Oyster Bay Music Festival in Long Island; residencies are our favorite activity as a group!

Because we have a non-traditional instrumentation, we've commissioned a long list of new works, including pieces by David Bruce, Avner Dorman, and Jonathan Keren. The ensemble's debut CD was released in October 2013, and in 2014, to celebrate our fifth anniversary, we introduced our first Composition Competition, awarding prizes to composers Piotr Szewczyk, Kevin Wilt and Oran Eldor for their original compositions for the ensemble. All of our new commissions have received dozens of performances across the US.

This year, we created a new project called "1933," a multimedia concert dedicated to music composed and premiered during this pivotal year in human history. After a month-long tour through Arizona, we premiered "1933" in January at the Dell E. Webb Center in Wickenburg, Arizona.

The members of the ensemble are exceptionally accomplished chamber musicians; we are graduates of leading conservatories, including Juilliard, New England Conservatory, Manhattan School of Music, Peabody Conservatory, Mannes College of Music, and Bard College, and have individually won numerous prizes, and have performed extensively as soloists and collaborative musicians throughout the world.

STUART BRECZINSKI is a New York-based oboist, improviser, composer, and educator whose early interest in making unusual sounds on the oboe has developed into a passion for creating and sharing innovative audio with audiences of all backgrounds. A proponent of chamber and contemporary music, Breczinski is a member of the City of Tomorrow, a woodwind quintet dedicated to the promotion and performance of contemporary works. He performs regularly as a chamber musician with NOVUS NY and the Talea Ensemble, and he has also performed with Bang on a Can, Contemporaneous, the International Contemporary Ensemble, the New York New Music Ensemble, and Signal. He received an honorable mention at the 2015 IDRS Gillet-Fox International Competition, and from 2012-2014 he was the oboist with Ensemble ACJW (now Ensemble Connect), a program of Carnegie Hall, the Juilliard School, and the Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Department of Education.

Soprano **ARIADNE GREIF**, praised for her "luminous, expressive voice," "searing top notes," and "dusky depths," (NYTimes), enjoyed a casual child career as a "boy" soprano at the LA Opera, eventually making an adult debut singing Lutoslawski's *Chantefleurs et Chantefables* with the American Symphony Orchestra. She starred in operas ranging from Donizetti's *Elixir of Love* with The Orlando Philharmonic, to Poulenc's *Les Mamelles de Tirésias* at the Aldeburgh Festival, and *Atthis*, by G.F. Haas, which the NY Times called "a vehicle for Ms. Greif's raw, no-holds-barred performance," and "one of the most searingly painful and revealing operatic performances in recent times." Recent projects included performances at Den Norske Opera with William Kentridge of the Dada masterpiece *Ursonate*, a "spine-chilling" recital in Australia presented by Sydney Chamber Opera and *Resonant Bodies*, collaborations with The Knights, Gabe Kahane, Lukas Ligeti, and performances of *Carmina Burana*, *La Bohème*, *The Magic Flute*, *Beethoven Symphony No. 9*, *Mozart Requiem*, *Mozart Vespers K.231*, and *Babbitt's A Solo Requiem*. ariadnegreif.com

First Prize winner of the 2013 Ima Hogg Competition and the 2009 Freiburg International Clarinet Competition in Germany, Clarinetist **MORAN KATZ** also won the the First Prize and Overall Prize at the Midland/Odessa "National Young Artist Competition" in Texas, and Second Prize at the Beijing International Music Competition for Clarinet in China. A clarinetist for Carnegie Hall's Affiliate Ensemble "Decoda" and Trinity Church's orchestra in residence "NOVUS NY", Ms. Katz often plays with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and with Copland House Ensemble. Ms. Katz received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees and an Artist Diploma as a student of Charles Neidich and Ayako Oshima at The Juilliard School, where she was admitted with presidential distinction and a full scholarship. She taught at the Curtis Young Artist Summer Program, was on the faculty at the Sarasota Music Festival and gave masterclasses/workshops at the Manhattan School of Music. She is now on the faculty at Juilliard's Pre College Division and at Vassar College. katzmoran.com

Concert cellist **SOFIA NOWIK** enjoys a busy career as a performing and teaching artist in the New Jersey and New York City area. Ms. Nowik has performed and toured with Ensemble Mélange for four years, performs frequently with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and has appeared with NYC based ensembles such as Shattered Glass, Ensemble LPR, and the Metropolis Ensemble. As a soloist she has performed concerti with local orchestras in New Jersey, including the Livingston Symphony, Manalapan Symphony, The Tim Keyes Consort, Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra, the New Jersey Youth Orchestra, and the Urban Playground Chamber Orchestra in New York City. Ms. Nowik is a graduate of The Juilliard School where she earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

GRACE PARK, who has just been announced as the first prize winner in the 2018 Naumberg International Violin Competition, is a dynamic violinist, dedicated chamber musician, and passionate pedagogue. As a soloist, Ms. Park has been the featured soloist at The Kennedy Center, Library of Congress, Walt Disney Hall, Jordan Hall, Carnegie Hall, The Grace Rainey Auditorium in the Metropolitan Museum, The Rudolfinum in Prague, and Glinka Hall in St. Petersburg- with orchestras including North Czech Philharmonia, Russian Chamber Philharmonic, Napoli Chamber Orchestra and most recently, an engagement with Maxim Vengerov at the Cartegena Music Festival and solo Bach alongside YoYo Ma at New York City Center. Upcoming concerto engagements include concerto debuts in Mexico and Poland with the Neilsen Violin Concerto. A devoted chamber musician, Ms. Park has performed with a variety of ensembles around the world and has led chamber orchestras from the principal chair. Ms. Park plays on a 1799 Nicolas Lupot, generously on loan from a private collection. graceparkviolin.com

Pianist **MIKA SASAKI** is a sought-after recitalist, chamber musician, and educator whose performances and teaching have taken her to the U.K., Italy, Switzerland, Japan, and throughout the U.S. Her solo debut album, *Obsidian: Mika Sasaki plays Clara Schumann*, released on Yarlung Records in 2016, was highly acclaimed by the Online Merker as "illuminat[ing] the artistic inspiration and creative exchange between three Romantic souls," Clara Schumann, Robert Schumann, and Johannes Brahms. Currently based in New York City, she regularly appears at Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and at various community venues and public schools as a pianist of Ensemble Connect—a prestigious fellowship program of Carnegie, Juilliard, and the Weill Institute, that focuses on entrepreneurship, audience engagement, and teaching artistry. A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory (B.M., M.M.) and The Juilliard School (D.M.A.), Dr. Sasaki is a faculty member at Juilliard, where she teaches piano and keyboard skills courses in the Evening Division, and Piano Topics in the College Division. mikasaki.com

