



Jana Krämer
Matthias Benker
Ronith Mues
Ralf Forster
Andreas Timm

The ensemble takes its name from the musicians' mutual admiration for the work of the conductor Jascha Horenstein, who also had a strong connection with Berlin, often conducting at the State Opera and the Berlin Philharmonic.

The Horenstein Ensemble aims to show chamber music's breadth of scope by combining different groups of instruments, such as strings, woodwind and harp. Its exciting and varied programmes bring together the old and the new, both standard works and rarely performed pieces.

Different and occasionally unusual combinations define the character of the ensemble, which does not limit itself to a specific musical period. Further combinations are made possible by the addition of guest musicians.

The ensemble's repertoire extends from Rameau, Mozart and Beethoven through Ravel, Debussy, Roussel, Brahms, Reger and Spohr to Messiaen, Eisler, Widmann and Yun.

The ensemble is also dedicated to the performance of British chamber music, which is rarely heard in Germany, including compositions by Williams, Bax, Elgar, Somervell, Arnold and Bridge.

Horenstein Ensemble

Post Office Box 080 134
10001 Berlin

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Ralf Forster | Clarinet

1987-1997 studied chamber music with Prof. Karl Kolbinger, 1990-1995 studied clarinet with Prof. Gerd Starke at the Academy of Music Munich, 1995-1997 as master student of Prof. Karl-Heinz Steffens and Prof. Gerd Starke. 1997 master diploma. Numerous prizes and awards, e.g. 1st Prize in the Deutscher Hochschulwettbewerb 1994, 2nd prize in the International Chamber Music Competition in Kerkrade 1995, in 1996 the sponsorship prize in the 1996 Carl Maria von Weber competition in Munich. Four years as principal clarinetist in the BR Orchestral Academy in Ingolstadt under such conductors as Sir Yehudi Menuhin, Heinrich Schiff and Lorin Maazel.

1987-1997 member of the Munich Wind Quintet. 1996-1998 principal E flat clarinetist in the Konzerthaus Orchestra Berlin, from 1998 principal clarinetist. From 1999 guested as first clarinetist in different orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, the German Symphony Orchestra Berlin, the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Staatskapelle Berlin, the Deutsche Oper Berlin, the Bamberg Symphonic and the Bavarian State Opera Munich. Performances in the chamber music series run by the Konzerthaus orchestra in the Konzerthaus and with the Scharoun Ensemble Berlin. Appeared as soloist with the Konzerthaus Orchestra Berlin.

Since 1997 freelance teacher of clarinet at the Academy of Music Hanns Eisler Berlin and the Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach music high school in Berlin, from 2003 tutor in the Stuttgart Festival Ensemble. Guest professor at the Academy of Music Hanns Eisler Berlin since 2008.

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Andreas Timm | Cello

Studied in Leipzig and Lübeck as well as for the postgraduate concert exam in 2004 with Gustav Rivinius in Saarbrücken. Prizes and awards in national competitions, 2nd prize in the 2001 international instrumental competition in Markneukirchen. Scholarship from the Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben in Hamburg.

From 2002 deputy principal cellist in the Konzerthaus Orchestra Berlin. Solo performances with different orchestras under the baton of Heribert Esser, Gabriel Feltz and Max Pommer. Chamber music partners include Gianluca Cascioli, Eduard Brunner, Michael Endres, Wenzel Fuchs and Albrecht Mayer, also with the Gewandhaus Quartet.

Member of the Philharmonic Camerata Berlin, the Schuppanzigh Trio and the Ensemble Leipzig-Berlin. Concerts in many European countries and in Japan. Numerous invitations to chamber music festivals, e.g. the Tokyo Strings Festival, the International Festival in Echternach (Luxemburg), the Brahms Festival Hamburg, the Bachfest 2000 and the Mendelssohn-Festwochen in Leipzig. Radio and TV recordings.

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Jana Krämer | Violin

Attended the Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach music high school (formerly Berlin Special Music School). Studied at the Academy of Music Hanns Eisler Berlin with Lothar Friedrich. Continued her studies with Prof. Mi Kyung Lee at the Berlin University of the Arts.

Participated in chamber music and master courses, e.g. with Ana Chumachenko and Oscar Lysi. 1990-1993 member of the RIAS youth orchestra. Member of the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival's Chamber Philharmonic. Scholar in the orchestral academy of the Staatskapelle Berlin.

Member of the Konzerthaus Orchestra Berlin since 1999. Extensive chamber music experience, e.g. in the New Berlin Chamber Orchestra and the Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach Chamber Orchestra, as well as with the Soloists of the Kammerphilharmonie Berlin.

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Ronith Mues | Harp

First harp lessons at the age of five from her mother, Ragnhild Kopp, retired teacher at the Richard Strauss Conservatoire Munich. Studied at the Academy of Music Hanns Eisler Berlin with Prof. Maria Graf, gaining her diploma in 2005. Since 2006 master student of Prof. Xavier de Maistre at the Academy of Music and Theatre in Hamburg.

1st prize in the Concours International de Harpe A.S.T.H. in Lyon (France), in the Jugend musiziert competition, in the competition of the Deutsche Harfenvereinigung and the international instrumental competition Rovere d'Oro (Italy).

In 2005 received a Deutscher Musikrat scholarship, was chosen for the 50th season of the national series Konzerte Junger Künstler and founded the Duo Sonoris with the flautist Andreas Kißling, deputy principal flute at the Stuttgart Opera. Performances have included the Bad Hersfelder Opera Festival. The Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele and the Rheingau Music Festival.

Member of the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie. Guest contracts with the NDR Hanover, the Deutsche Oper Berlin, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic. Scholarships from the Yehudi Menuhin foundation live music now and the Villa Musica foundation.

From 2007 principal harpist in the Konzerthaus Orchestra Berlin. 2007/08 taught at the Academy of Music Hanns Eisler Berlin. Ronith Mues plays a harp made by Horngacher in Starnberg.

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Matthias Benker | Viola

Studied viola at the Academy of Music Hanns Eisler Berlin with Prof. Alfred Lipka. International master courses with Kim Kashkashian, Tabea Zimmermann and Felix Schwartz. 1990-1993 principal viola in the RIAS youth orchestra. 1992-1994 intern in the Staatskapelle Berlin. Guest musician with the Berliner Philharmonic, the Staatsoper Unter den Linden Berlin, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra Munich, German Symphony Orchestra Berlin, NDR Symphony Orchestra Hamburg and the Bamberg Symphonic. Since 1998 permanent guest musician at the Deutsche Oper Berlin.

Member of the Konzerthaus Orchestra Berlin since 1999, from 2002 deputy principal viola. Member of the Bayreuth Festival Orchestra from 2002. Participated in the 2007 Lucerne Festival. Tours to Japan, China, USA, South America, Israel and throughout Europe.

Worked extensively in chamber music and as soloist, e.g. in the Deutsches Theater Berlin, at the Hohenloher Kultursommer, at the opening of the Bundesrat, the Kurt Weill Festival Berlin, the Oldenburg Promenade and as part of the chamber music series hosted by the Konzerthaus Orchestra Berlin in the Konzerthaus. Principal viola with the Soloists of the Kammerphilharmonie Berlin, the New Berlin Chamber Orchestra and the German Chamber Orchestra.

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