

SHORT INFO



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The Trickster Orchestra unites superb soloists in a post-migrant ensemble of contemporary music. Under the direction of Cymin Samawatie and Ketan Bhatti, the orchestra incorporates instruments from diverse global musical traditions in a shared, trans-traditional musical language.



Trickster ORCHESTRA

With their special knowledge and the r/evolutionary sound of the ensemble, the members of the Trickster Orchestra forge new worlds and inevitably disrupt traditional boundaries and orders.

The ensemble unites some of the world's most virtuosic soloists and their fascinating range of instruments, carefully selected from diverse cultures, in an musical organism between improvisation and composition. The result is one of the most exciting and innovative music styles of our time, promising completely new sonic experiences. The collective includes soloists from worldwide (art) music traditions, jazz, electronic, Echtzeit-, New Music, as well as free improvisation.

The Trickster Orchestra overcomes the usual boundaries between genres and cultures, which today are spread across geographical, ethnic, and temporal orders. Instead, it uses traditions as toolboxes through which the orchestra advances musical innovation and new, globally entangled sound worlds.

In this way, the Trickster Orchestra, as an internationally renowned ensemble, translates Germany's cultural richness, created through migration, into a multiplication of musical perspectives, artistic possibilities, and creative expression. In this way, the ensemble creates nationally and internationally acclaimed contemporary music that gives expression to the completely changed society of the 21st century at the highest musical level. By giving musicians on non-European instruments a presence in a chamber ensemble of contemporary music, it expands the orchestral paradigm of the 19th century in order to make it suitable for a post-migrant society.

The Trickster Orchestra was founded in 2013 by Cymin Samawatie, Ketan Bhatti, and Philip Geisler and has performed in Europe and West Asia, at the Festival für Modernes Hören and asphalt Festival Düsseldorf, Jazzfest Berlin, Tonlagen Festival Hellerau, Silk Road Festival Baku, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the Alte Oper Frankfurt, the Berliner Konzerthaus and Radialsystem, the Bundeskunsthalle Bonn, and Bauart Istanbul.

In 2021, the debut album was released on the ECM Records label. In 2022, the orchestra won the German Jazz Award as "Large Ensemble of the Year" and the TONALi Classical Music Award "Courage for Utopia." Cymin Samawatie and Ketan Bhatti received the GEMA Music Author Award as composers in 2023. In 2024, the German federal government honored the orchestra by including it in the Excellent Orchestra Landscape Germany.

www.tricksterorchestra.de

<https://ecm.lnk.to/TricksterOrchestra>



Collective (2013 – 2022)

Cymin Samawatie *vocals* | Sveta Kundish *vocals* | Rabih Lahoud *vocals* | Defne Şahin *vocals* | Bassem Alkhouri *vocals, kanun* | Golnar Shahyar *vocals* | Marlene Ito *violin* | Biliana Voutchkova *violin* | Heloise Lefèbre, *violin* | Akiko Ahrent *violin* | Maria Reich *viola, violin* | Martin Stegner *viola* | Sarah Rilling, *viola* | Martin von der Nahmer *viola* | Knut Weber *cello* | Uygur Vural, *cello* | Anna Carewe *cello* | Anil Eraslan *cello* | Ralf Schwarz *double bass* | Demetrios Karamintzas *oboe* | Dominik Wollenweber *oboe* | Wu Wei *sheng* | Milian Vogel *bass clarinet, electronics* | Markus Ehrlich *bass clarinet* | Vladiswar Nadishana *kawala, duduk, nay, hulusi* | Mona Matbou-Riahi *clarinet* | Lars Zander *bass clarinet, electronics* | Tilmann Dehnhard *contrabass recorder, electronics* | Mohamad Fityan *nay, kawala* | Susanne Fröhlich *recorders* | Esra Berkman *kanun* | Hindol Deb *sitar* | Sumeet Anand *tanpura & dhrupad* | Sebastian Dreyer *surbahar* | Ravi Srinivasan *pakhavaj* | Roshanak Rafani *daf* | Asal Karimi *kemenche* | Azin Zahedi *santoor* | Cham Saloum *oud* | Grégoire Simon *viola* | Eleanna Pitsikaki *qanoon* | Berivan Canbolat *baglama* | Sophie-Justine Herr *cello* | Lichin Li *sheng* | Annette Maye *bass clarinet* | Shizuyo Oka *clarinet* | Lola Mlačnik *vibraphone, marimba* | Lin Chen *vibraphone, marimba* | Naoko Kikuchi *koto* | Nevzat Akpınar *baglama* | Alexander Lipan *oud* | Larry Porter *rubab* | Taiko Saito *marimba, vibraphone* | Joss Turnbull *tombak, percussion, electronics* | Mari Sawada *violin* | Boram Lie *cello* | Christian Weidner *saxophone, duduk* | Hilary Jeffery *trombone* | Florian Juncker, *trombone* | Matthew Bookert *tuba* | Liz Allbee *trumpet* | Lina Allemanno *trumpet* | Matthias Kurth *oud, guitar* | Mahan Mirarab *oud, guitar* | Sabrina Ma *marimba, vibraphone* | Niko Meinhold *grand piano, guzheng* | Achim Kaufmann *grand piano* | Korhan Erel *computer, controllers, electronics* | Simon Stockhausen *electronics* | Ignaz Schick *turntables, electronics* | Matthias Engler *drums* | Tobias Backhaus *drums* | Elisa Erkelenz *dramaturg* | Philip Geisler *dramaturg* | Ketan Bhatti *drums, electronics*

Artistic Directors: Cymin Samawatie & Ketan Bhatti

Selected Reviews

« A vibrant transformative process: highly creative and stimulating. » nmz - neue musikzeitung (Roland Biswurm), December 2021.

« An evocative power that is second to none. » DIE ZEIT (Sinem Kılıç), October 2021.



Trieste ORCHESTRA

« One of the most exciting contemporary orchestras in Europe. » VAN Outernational (Philipp Rhensius), March 2019.

« The musicians allow the instruments not to pretend to return to what we imagine they may have been, but to become new articulations of themselves. » WendyMKS Reviews (Wendy M.K. Shaw), April 2018.

« Transcultural music beyond the comfort zone. » Süddeutsche Zeitung (Christian Broecking), November 2015.

