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## SHUFFLE CONCERT RESIDENCY PROPOSAL

# “CREATING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX”

As a chamber music ensemble presenting a unique performance concept, and one that is comprised of young graduates of leading conservatories such as Juilliard, NEC, Mannes, and Bard Conservatory, we are very passionate about sharing our experience with young musicians and encouraging them to convert their creative ideas into reality. We hope that in this residency we can inspire students to take a leap of faith and use us as a successful example of making one’s ideas come to life.

### ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “a gateway drug to classical music,” the six-member chamber ensemble, SHUFFLE Concert, is on its way to becoming an international phenomenon. SHUFFLE Concert engages audiences in an innovative and interactive way, allowing them to choose what music will be played. The musical menu offers selections from baroque to Broadway and just about everything in between. With a new “mix” every time, SHUFFLE captivates audiences of all ages through its updated concert hall experience, combining fun and adventure with the highest musical professionalism.

SHUFFLE Concert has presented successful residencies at Gettysburg College, Molloy College on Long Island, East Stroudsburg University, and at Columbia University’s BRITE Conference. These residencies have included live performances, master classes, readings of students’ compositions, and Q&A sessions about freelancing in the music field.

### RESIDENCY STRUCTURE

We welcome you to choose any of the options below for this residency.

- **A SHUFFLE Concert**

A 75-minute SHUFFLE Concert in which the students can experience the unique presentation format of the ensemble firsthand

Randomly selected audience members will choose works from an extensive SHUFFLE menu of more than 40 different pieces from 15 different musical styles, ranging from baroque, classical, and romantic to jazz, Latin, and Broadway. The menu also includes original commissions for the ensemble by such composers as Avner Dorman and Jonathan Keren. Other highlights include an original arrangement of Maurice Ravel's *Sonatine* and contemporary works by Wolpe, Crumb, and Carter.

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- **Public Reading of Students' Compositions**

One of SHUFFLE Concerts main goals is helping to support the creation of new works and supporting talented composers. We are happy to offer a public reading and recording of students' compositions that can be used later for students' school and competition applications. We enjoy lively discussions with the composers, investigating notation, instrumentation, and balance issues.

- **Strings/Winds Seminar**

Since we have two wind and two string instruments in the ensemble, we are happy to offer two separate seminars to the students to address orchestral auditions, excerpts preparation as well as other performance issues relating to their instruments. This workshop can include a mock audition session, conducting a sectional rehearsal, etc.

- **Private Lessons/Master Classes**

During the residency the ensemble will be happy to offer both private lessons to interested students and public master classes to both individuals and chamber ensembles.

- **Seminar: How to Run a Chamber Music Ensemble in the 21st Century**

A 90-minute discussion with students on the following subjects:

**A. Artistic**

1. Creating a chamber ensemble in the 21st century: concept, repertoire, participants, etc.
2. Life as a freelance musician: multitasking, networking, scheduling
3. Special projects: recording your first album, commissioning new works
4. Rehearsal process: dos and don'ts
5. Making creative ideas work: perseverance, taking criticism, flexibility

**B. Business**

1. Reaching out to presenters, conferences, newsletters, etc.
2. Finding management
3. 501(c)(3) status: pros/cons
4. Fiscal sponsorship
5. Copyright issues

**C. Social Media**

1. Using social media to increase ensemble exposure
2. Fundraising/crowd fundraising (online and offline)
3. The role of classical music in today's world



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Each ensemble member will give a short presentation on each of the subjects above. Q&A session will follow each mini-presentation.

- **Q&A: Pizza Lunch**

An informal forum, where ensemble members will be available to answer students' questions regarding the professional musician's life. SHUFFLE Concert is a diverse ensemble with a multitude of backgrounds, talents, and insights into what it takes to persevere in the highly demanding world of classical music. In this Q&A session the ensemble members can share their personal stories related to the creation of the ensemble as well as other major issues concerning music education and performance.

**COSTS**

Please contact the ensemble at [contact@SHUFFLEconcert](mailto:contact@SHUFFLEconcert) for fee information.

**CLOSING STATEMENT**

The goal of this residency is to give the students the opportunity to engage with an active chamber music ensemble that is approaching the standard concert format from a different vantage point. While the current classical concert format has and will continue to endure, SHUFFLE Concert offers an interactive alternative while maintaining a high artistic level and creativity. Our goal is to encourage students to think outside of the box, come up with their own creative ideas, and inspire them to take action.



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**SUPPORT**

Below you will find testimonials from recent presenters regarding SHUFFLE Concert's residencies and performances.

"Their goal is to create a gateway drug to classical music for casual and sporadic listeners like me who want something in between the tap water of department store Mozart and the heroin of a Bach 'Brandenburg' Concerto marathon. The result is old music rebottled for new times: brief pieces in dizzying sequence for an age of narrow attention spans, and audience choice for a moment when it's becoming a right to curate your cultural diet... To be in the room that evening, though, was to discover the tension and the drama of never knowing what's next... As they played, they swayed... They moved as if the music were something they were riding atop, not creating."

—**Anand Giridharadas, *The NY Times***

"The SHUFFLE Concert, presented in a distinguished and quite traditional chamber music venue here in New York, was a huge hit. The audience loved the whimsical and unexpected on-the-spot nature of the selection of repertoire. When combined with warm speaking about the music by members of the group and the first-rate performances that followed, this made for an exceptionally wonderful and unusual evening. Bravo!"

—**Bärli Nugent, *Director of Chamber Music, The Juilliard School***

"The music students and faculty of the Sunderman Conservatory at Gettysburg College were so enthusiastic about the residency and concert by SHUFFLE Concert that requests to bring them back to campus began before these talented musician-teachers had left campus. The members of SHUFFLE clearly relished working with students and were models for the type of entrepreneurial creativity we want to foster in aspiring 21st-century musicians. Our recital hall was filled for their innovative concert, which received an enthusiastic response. I heartily recommend them! Plans are already in the works to bring SHUFFLE Concert back to Gettysburg."

—**Kay Hoke, *Director, Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College***

"Without a doubt, this is one cool idea... This sort of active participation from the audience in shaping the concert leads to higher and deeper levels of alertness and listening as well as more complex enjoyment. Like I said: one cool idea..."

—**Yon Feder, *Yediot Aharonot Online***



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“In the quest to bring ‘culture’ to college campuses, Activity Directors have looked for ensembles that will appeal to their students. Many of these groups have lots of flash and little talent. SHUFFLE Concert has plenty of flash AND loads of talent. Their unique music selection process involves everyone in the audience. Hearing everything from classical to Broadway, my students didn’t want the concert to end!”

—***Betsy Buzzeli-Clarke, Chair of Music Department, East Stroudsburg University, PA***

“The goal of Redmond Community Concert Association (RCCA) is to present high-quality performances by such musicians as SHUFFLE Concert, while leaning toward enjoyable entertainment rather than education. SHUFFLE Concert excelled in meeting this goal. There was great anticipation, and some excited trepidation, that ‘my number may be called’. As such the audiences were deeply involved in picking their choice, and happy with each composition they heard, ranging from the world of Baroque, Impressionism, Classical, Opera, Pop, Jazz, to Broadway (When You’re Good to Mama from Chicago—the audience loved this change up!) and more. All in all, RCCA closed the day with a grand feeling of having ‘hit a home run’ with our presentation of SHUFFLE Concert.”

—***Jay Jantzen, Booking Director, Redmond Community Concert Association***

“These accomplished musicians bring their professional performance experience combined with great talent to every piece. Our audience made many positive comments about the talent and quality of the performance. The program provides plentiful choices of enjoyable, recognizable and familiar tunes from several different time periods to delight a variety of audiences. The musicians of SHUFFLE Concert were adaptable and easy to work with. The process of working out the details of their performing here—from room and board, the sound technicians and venue—were all easily handled. They connected with our audience through wit and humor. By allowing your audience to choose from a wide variety of time periods and styles of music each show is different from all others. You won’t be disappointed.”

—***Patti Blagg, Mid-Columbia Community Concert Association***

“The SHUFFLE Concert residency exceeded my expectations in every possible way. Six composition students received world-class recordings of their music and direct professional advice on their work; performance students received hours of coaching from ensemble members; and the SHUFFLE Concert itself was an instant hit—the response was universal: ‘When can we have them back!?’”

—***Avner Dorman, Assistant Professor, Composition and Music Theory, The Sunderman Conservatory of Music***