

## Ensemble II bio

Ensemble II is a socially conscious new music group founded in 2002. For the last ten years, Ensemble II has presented a Peace Project – an annual multi-media event at the Cooper Union. The project's goal is to make a space for a dialogue between ideas and music on the great issues of the day, through commissioning new works and collaborating with visual artists, writers, actors, and journalists. Collaborators have included the South African artist William Kentridge, American journalist/writer Naomi Wolf, Iraqi actress Namaa Alward, and Israeli philosopher/activist Anat Biletzki.

In 2003, Ensemble II began an ongoing close collaboration with the American Composers Alliance (ACA), and has been the ensemble in residence at four American Music Festivals presented by ACA at Symphony Space in New York City. Ensemble II premiered over fifty works by American composers from across the country.

In the last years, Ensemble II has created artistic and educational programs in response to major exhibitions at the Chelsea Art Museum, the Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art, and the Museum of Modern Art, all in New York City. Multi year collaboration with the composer Elias Tanenbaum resulted in a CD of his chamber music, Keep Going, to be released by Parma Recordings in 2010, followed by a second CD of the music Laura Kaminsky, and working on the third CD Music at Time of Deception.

Ensemble II has championed the work of contemporary composers by premiering and commissioning works by Frederic Rzewski, Philip Miller, Alice Shields, Kristin Norderval, Karim Al-Zand, and Peter Ablinger among others. The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Argosy Fund for Contemporary Music, Meet the Composer, Open Meadow Foundation, American Music Center, and Det Norske Componistfond have provided major support for these efforts.

## Ensemble II performers

Karl Kramer, horn  
Kristin Norderval, voice  
Barry J. Crawford, flute  
Idith Meshulam, piano  
Airi Yoshioka, violin  
William Trigg, percussion  
guest: Katie Schlaikjer, cello  
guest: Moran Katz, clarinet