

Meitar Ensemble

Praised by the NY Times for their “excellence, poise and precision,” the Meitar Ensemble, founded in 2004 by pianist and its artistic director Amit Dolberg, has established itself as a prominent array of virtuosos specializing in contemporary music. In its eleven years of existence the ensemble led a revolution in Tel Aviv, placing the chamber contemporary music repertoire in the center of the musical scene. With the extraordinary commitment of its members, who take an active part in the decision making regarding artistic issues, projects, and the wide educational activities of the ensemble, this group has created the vibrant Center for New Music located at the Israel Conservatory of Music, Tel Aviv.

By performing over 200 premieres (dedicated pieces and commissions) in the past decade, the ensemble has created an active and lively laboratory of contemporary music for composers of all generations. Long term collaborations include Philippe Leroux, Meitar Ensemble’s composer in residence, and Pierre-André Valade, conductor in residence of the ensemble.

The Meitar Ensemble has initiated a unique educational youth program, the Tedarim Project, offering young musicians an opportunity to learn, explore and perform new music at the highest level. In addition, in the last 4 years, the ensemble has established the CEME festival (Contemporary Encounters Meitar Ensemble). An international festival and master courses for young professional composers, conductors and performers. As part of the CEME faculty the ensemble hosts Philippe Leroux, Ivan Fedele, Pierre-André Valade, Fabian Panisello, Ensemble Modern, Noa Frenkel and many others.

Meitar Ensemble has been acclaimed for its significant contribution to the development of Israeli culture and music, receiving the Binyaminy Award from the Israeli Culture minister (2006), Partosh Award (2008), the Landau Award (2010), Silver Palm award (Mexico 2010), the Ernst Von Siemens foundation grant (Germany 2012, 2015).

The ensemble has performed at some of the most prestigious venues worldwide, including the Centre Pompidou (Paris), the Purcell Room (London), the Radial System and BKA (Berlin), the Moscow Conservatory and has participated at festivals such as La Biennale di Venezia, Heidelberger Fruehlings Musik Festival Montréal Nouvelle Musique, MATA Festival (NYC), Zeitkunst Festival (Berlin), Sound Ways Festival (St. Petersburg). Future engagements include performances at IRCAM Manifeste, Modena’s Opera house and more. The ensemble Has collaborated with composers such as Mark Andre, Ivan Fedele, Arik Shapira, Ayal Adler, Walter Zimmermann, Philippe Leroux, Matthias Pintscher, Daniel Peter Biro, Fabian Panisello, Vladimir Tarnopolsky and Chaya Czernowin, and with the conductors Pierre-André Valade, Ilan Volkov, Matthias Pintscher, Guy Feder and Yuval Zorn. The fruits of many of these partnerships can be heard on the Spanish recording label VERSO, the American label Albany, and in the Israeli Music Institute record label.

Pierre-André Valade was born in Corrèze, France in 1959. In 1991 he co-founded the Paris based Ensemble Court-Circuit of which he was Music Director for 16 years until 2008. He was Principal Conductor of Athelas Sinfonietta Copenhagen from 2009 to 2014. He currently has an active career as a guest conductor whilst continuing his relationship

with Athelas Sinfonietta Copenhagen as a regular guest conductor. He was also appointed Principal Guest Conductor of Lyon based Ensemble Orchestral Contemporain in 2013 and has held the position of Conductor in Residence at the Meitar Ensemble in Tel-Aviv since 2014. In January 2001 he was awarded Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Minister of Culture.

A regular guest conductor with the Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, other orchestras include BBC Symphony, BBC Scottish Symphony, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Philharmonia, Ulster, RTE National Symphony, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Luxembourg Philharmonic, Oslo Philharmonic, Göteborgs Symfoniker, Odense Symphony Orchestra, Norrbotten NEO, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestre de Paris, Saarbrücken Radio Symphony, Athens State Orchestra, Montreal Symphony, Seoul Philharmonic, Tokyo Philharmonic, Orchestra della RAI Torino, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia Rome, Teatro Carlo Felice Genova, Ensemble Intercontemporain, London Sinfonietta, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Bit 20, Bodo Sinfonietta, Contrechamps Geneve, the Asko Schoenberg Ensemble, I Pomeriggi Musicali, Luxembourg Philharmonic, Bilbao Symphony Orchestra, Polish National Radio Symphony and the Philharmonia's Music of Today series and Ensemble Modern.

He is especially admired for his performances of repertoire from the 20th and 21st centuries, and receives regular invitations from major festivals and orchestras in Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Of his many recordings, Grisey's *Les Espaces Acoustiques* has been singled out for particular praise and won both the Diapason d'or de l'année 1999 and the Grand Prix de l'Académie Charles Cros, which he won again in 2008 for three other recordings. His more recent CDs include works by Hugues Dufourt (winner Diapason d'Or and Choc du Monde de la Musique), and Harrison Birtwistle's *Theseus Game* for Deutsche Grammophon, a piece he premiered in Duisburg and conducted at the Southbank Centre, BBC Proms, Huddersfield Festival, Lucerne International Festival and in Berlin.

Philippe Leroux was born in Boulogne Billancourt (France) in 1959. In 1978 he entered the Paris Conservatory (Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique), studied with Ivo Malec, Claude Ballif, Pierre Schäffer and Guy Reibel and obtained three first prizes. Meanwhile, he followed classes with Olivier Messiaen, Franco Donatoni, Betsy Jolas, Jean-Claude Eloy and Iannis Xénakis. In 1993 he was selected to enter the Villa Medici in Rome for two years, where he remained until 1995.

His compositional output (about seventy works to date) includes symphonic, vocal, electronic, acousmatic and chamber music. His works are the result of various commissioners, with among them the French Ministry of Culture, Radio-France Philharmonic Orchestra, Südwestfunk Baden Baden, IRCAM, Percussions de Strasbourg, Ensemble Intercontemporain, Ensemble Court-Circuit, the Nouvel Ensemble Moderne de Montreal, Avanta Ensemble, Ensemble 2e2m, Ensemble Sillages, Ensemble Orchestral Contemporain, INA-GRM, Sixtrum, Ensemble Ictus, Festival Musica, Ensemble BIT 20, Koussevitsky Foundation, San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, Ensemble Athelas, Orchestre National de Lorraine, Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice, CIRM, INTEGRA, and several other institutions of international standard. His music is widely performed in various European festivals and International

orchestras such as Donaueschingen, Radio-France Présences (Paris), Agora (Paris), Venice Biennale, Bath Festival, Festival Musica (Strasbourg), Stockholm ISCM, Barcelona Festival, Musiques en Scènes (Lyon), Festival Manca (Nice), Bergen Festival, Ultima (Oslo) Festival, Tage für Neue Musik (Zürich), BBC Symphony Orchestra (London), Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra (Glasgow), Philharmonia Orchestra (London), Czech Philharmony, etc.

From 2001 to 2006 he was a teacher in composition at IRCAM in the frame of the "Cursus d'Informatique Musicale". In 2005 and 2006 he was professor at McGill University (a Fondation Langlois programme). From 2007 to 2009 he was composer-in-residence at Metz Arsenal and at Orchestre National de Lorraine, then since 2009 to 2011, invited professor at Université de Montréal (UdeM). Since September 2011 he has been Associate Professor in composition at the Schulich School of Music, McGill University. He is currently composer-in-residence at Ensemble MEITAR in Tel-Aviv.