

Biography

ensemblebash

Formed in 1992, the British percussion quartet ensemblebash has forged a reputation as one of the world's most innovative and groundbreaking chamber ensembles. Using the music of West Africa as both core repertoire and a guiding spiritual influence, ensemblebash mixes contemporary classical, jazz and music theatre into unforgettable performances.

Since its inception ensemblebash has been dedicated to commissioning new repertoire for percussion ensemble, and has developed special relationships with composers including Graham Fitkin, Stephen Montague, Nick Hayes, Howard Skempton and Stewart Copeland. ensemblebash has also premiered work by Tan Dun, Keith Tippett, David Bedford, Nitin Sawhney, Orphy Robinson, Michael Daugherty, John Woolrich, Anne Dudley and Steve Reich.

ensemblebash has toured the UK and Europe extensively, including regular appearances at the BBC Proms and the Southbank Centre, and in recent years four major tours of Italy. These tours included in 2003, a performance for the Primo Maggio concert in Rome to an audience of more than 500,000. Further afield ensemblebash has performed throughout Ghana, at the Melbourne and Sydney International Festivals, and in Hong Kong, to mark the handover of the colony to the Chinese in 1997.

Famed for its extensive collaborations, ensemblebash regularly appears in concert with artists including Joanna Macgregor, Chick Corea, Django Bates, Nana Vasconcelos, Evelyn Glennie, The Hilliard Ensemble, The National Dance Company of Ghana and The Pan African Orchestra.

Since the release of its debut album *Launch* on Sony Classical in 1994, ensemblebash has been regularly broadcast around the world. Recent recordings have include *Fiddlesticks* with violinist Madeleine Mitchell on Signum Classics; *Neural Circuits*, the music of Nitin Sawhney, with Joanna MacGregor and the Britten Sinfonia on SoundCircus; and the grammy nominated *Orchestralli* with drumming legend Stewart Copeland on Ponderosa.

Each year ensemblebash leads more than fifty workshops, and its pioneering education work has included extensive residencies for Dartington International Summer School, SPNM's Sound Inventors, Spitalfields Festival and the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, Australia.

ensemblebash is Chris Brannick, Joby Burgess, Stephen Hiscock and Genevieve Wilkins. www.ensemblebash.com

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