

The Sheridan Ensemble

Among the plethora of specialist ensembles, the Sheridan Ensemble - founded by cellist Anna Carewe in 2007 – has made a name for itself by “specialising in maximum diversity”. The unique collection of instruments - encompassing Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and standard Classical instruments as well as electric guitar and vibraphone - and performers whose genres range from early Classical to Jazz, Rock and Cabaret, enables the Sheridan Ensemble to demolish the artificial barriers imposed during the 20th Century between so-called High and Popular Culture and introduce today's audience to the multi-faceted world of simply “good” music, whatever its origins.

Each member of the Sheridan Ensemble is a leader in his or her respective field. The performers are concert masters of top European chamber orchestras, such as the *Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen* or *Kammerorchester Basel*, or work regularly with orchestras and groups such as the *Berliner Philharmoniker*, the *Deutsches Sinfonieorchester Berlin*, the *Balthasar-Neumann-Ensemble* or the *Ensemble Modern Frankfurt*; they are busy international soloists and ensemble players from their respective scenes, or play continuo for groups such as *Barocchisti*, *Il Giardino Armonico*, the Helsinki Baroque Orchestra and for artists such as Cecilia Bartoli or Barthold Kuijken. Their common aim is to present projects of the highest quality and extend their own horizons by venturing into each other's worlds.

Projects in varied combinations, from duo to octet, have included “Chacona, Lamento, Walking Blues” - a programme inspired by an article by award-winning music journalist Alex Ross, exploring the history of the chaconne and lamento bass from early Baroque to Rock and Pop (at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam and in Berlin); “Pierrot Lunaire, Berlin Cabaret, Weill on Broadway” (Cadogan Hall, London and the Musikfest Stuttgart); “Spectral, Minimal, Theatrical” - a programme of three contrasting styles of 20th Century Music (Philharmonie Łódź); “Cello meets Vibraphone” - time-travel through 600 years of composed and improvised music (Radialsystem V, Berlin, Musikfest Stuttgart and “Tripclubbing”, Cologne); as well as multiple appearances at the Ultraschall Festival in Berlin for rbb and Deutschlandradio.

The ensemble is named after the Irish writer, political satirist and politician Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751 – 1815) – a lively and provocative character, whose outspoken criticism of the British government on social and human rights issues once almost cost him his life. His friend Lord Byron once said of him: “Everything that Sheridan has done or chooses to do is *par excellence* the best of its kind” - words which serve both to inspire and challenge the musicians of the ensemble.

The ensemble's first CD - a world premiere recording of rediscovered string quartets by Carl Czerny - was released in 2015 on the label Capriccio to international critical acclaim.