

The Nash Ensemble - full length biography

The Nash Ensemble, resident chamber ensemble at Wigmore Hall, is regarded as a standard-bearer of British music-making, acclaimed by *The Independent* as a "chamber music group beyond compare." Renowned for the exceptional calibre of its musicians, the Ensemble has built an international reputation for visionary programming, artistic excellence, and a vast repertoire that spans from classical masterpieces to the avant-garde. Its imaginative and innovative concerts are as finely architected as the beautiful London terraces from which the group takes its name.

Founded in 1964 by the late Amelia Freedman CBE, whose extraordinary vision shaped the ensemble for six decades, The Nash Ensemble remains one of the world's major champions of contemporary music. It has premiered over 300 new works, including 215 bespoke commissions, building a vital living legacy for future generations of listeners and performers.

Since 1979, the ensemble has presented a celebrated annual series at Wigmore Hall. To mark its 60th anniversary during the 2024/25 season, the group presented a landmark series featuring flagship chamber works alongside a garland of eight new commissions from long-standing collaborators, including Colin Matthews, David Matthews, Mark-Anthony Turnage, John Casken, Simon Holt, Helen Grime, Huw Watkins, and Julian Anderson.

The ensemble's extensive discography reflects its signature mix of classical treasures, neglected gems, and essential contemporary works. Recent releases for Hyperion include chamber pieces by Bruch, Ferdinand Ries, Tchaikovsky, Korngold, and Debussy, alongside contemporary works by Harrison Birtwistle, John Pickard, and Julian Anderson, and Ravel chamber works on the Onyx label.

The Nash Ensemble has received numerous accolades over its history, including the Royal Philharmonic Society Ensemble Award, the Edinburgh Festival Critics' Music Award, and a Gramophone Classical Music Award in the contemporary category for its recording of works by John Pickard.

"Michael Tippett used to say that the world was divided between those on the side of the angels and those that were not. In the case of Amelia Freedman and the Nash Ensemble, there is no question they stand well over the line of good and are blessed with wings of gold... without question the Nash are certainly leading contenders for top of the league, unique in its dedication to the old and the new."

— **Sir Harrison Birtwistle**