

## franz ensemble

The franz ensemble is a chamber music ensemble of young, internationally renowned soloists and chamber musicians, combining strings, winds, and a pianist. The instrumentation allows for an enormous spectrum, ranging from the finest chamber music colors to orchestral sounds.

The musicians came together for the first time in 2017. The enthusiasm for joint concerts with the Octet by Franz Schubert, the ensemble's namesake, led to the desire to perform together regularly and form a permanent ensemble.

Rarely does the opportunity arise beyond a festival setting to bring large chamber music ensembles on stage and to devote much time and attention to detail to them. The latter also makes it possible to delve deeply into the music of this versatile ensemble, which has rarely been heard before.

With the idea of a long-term artistic collaboration in mind, the artists met the music producers of the label Musikproduktion Dabringhaus & Grimm. Together, they produced the franz ensemble's debut CD with works by Ferdinand Ries in 2019, which was awarded the OPUS KLASSIK, Germany's largest classical music prize, the following year. The ensemble dedicated its second CD, released in 2020 and much talked about, to the composer Franz Berwald. Since then, Ries and Berwald have expanded the context of these works with their chronological references to the great Beethoven Septet and the Schubert Octet, enriching the ensemble's concert programmes with exciting and rarely heard works.

As ambassadors of this extraordinary instrumentation and to expand the repertoire, two composition commissions for the ensemble are already in preparation.

The members of the franz ensemble are top-class soloists, professors, and orchestra members. They are united by many years of profound artistic experience, which stands as a guarantee for the high quality and tonal brilliance of the ensemble. Concerts have taken them to the Kissinger Sommer and the Musikfest Bremen, among others.