



LYSISTRATA CHAMBER COLLECTIVE

presents the

Forgotten Female Composers Series

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Our project

Public interest in the lives and works of women composers has increased enormously in recent years. Yet, there is still a long way to go before there is parity: compared to their male colleagues, female composers have a much harder time finding publishers and performance opportunities for their works. The historical canon of the standard classical repertoire is also male through and through. Thanks to their famous husbands or brothers, well-known names such as Alma Mahler, Clara Schumann or Fanny Hensel make it onto concert programmes now and then, but who knows Adolph Le Beau, Laura Netzel or Cécile Chaminade?

The **Lysistrata Chamber Collective**, through the **Forgotten Female Composers Series**, aims to provide a platform to showcase contemporary female composers and, at the same time, to liberate unjustly forgotten female artists of the past from their shadowy existence, to bring their music to the public and to tell their inspiring life stories.

Our concert programs can be melded around a specific **theme of choice**, as to present to the public a relatable topic while featuring female composers and their music that may not be so well-known yet. We are working to normalise performances of works by female composers - the reshaping of the canon shouldn't be left only to large institutions, but must equally come from the smaller realities.





Who we are

Lysistrata Chamber Collective, founded in Spring 2023, is an international ensemble based in Berlin whose aim is to promote and make more accessible music by female composers from the past and the present. The quartet (voice, flute, cello & piano) performs in all ensemble combinations creating concert programs especially appreciated by the public for their variety of colors and styles.

Anna Schors – mezzo–soprano

www.annaschors.com

Anna Schors combines, in her musical career, her love for the traditional operatic sound with a curiosity for artistic experimentation. She has delved 20th and 21st century repertoire, including performing in Victor Ullmann's 1943 opera **Der Kaiser von Atlantis** with the young opera company **operationderkuenste** (2021), taking part in the **Festival Aix-En-Provence** as a member of **Opéra De-Ci De-Là** (2021), a residency dedicated to contemporary opera, and appearing as a guest soloist in **Kopernikus** by C. Vivier at Staatsoper Berlin (2019). She has also been cast twice at the Deutsche Oper (Berlin) for the world premiere of **Wir aus Glas** by Yasutaki Inamori and **Unsichtbare Fronten** by Robert Krampe. Other notable engagements include a co-created experimental song performance based on the work of french author Colette at the **Othmar Schoeck Festival** in Switzerland.

Anna is a member of the **1781 Collective**. Together they create innovative and interdisciplinary formats in unexpected urban venues in and around Berlin.

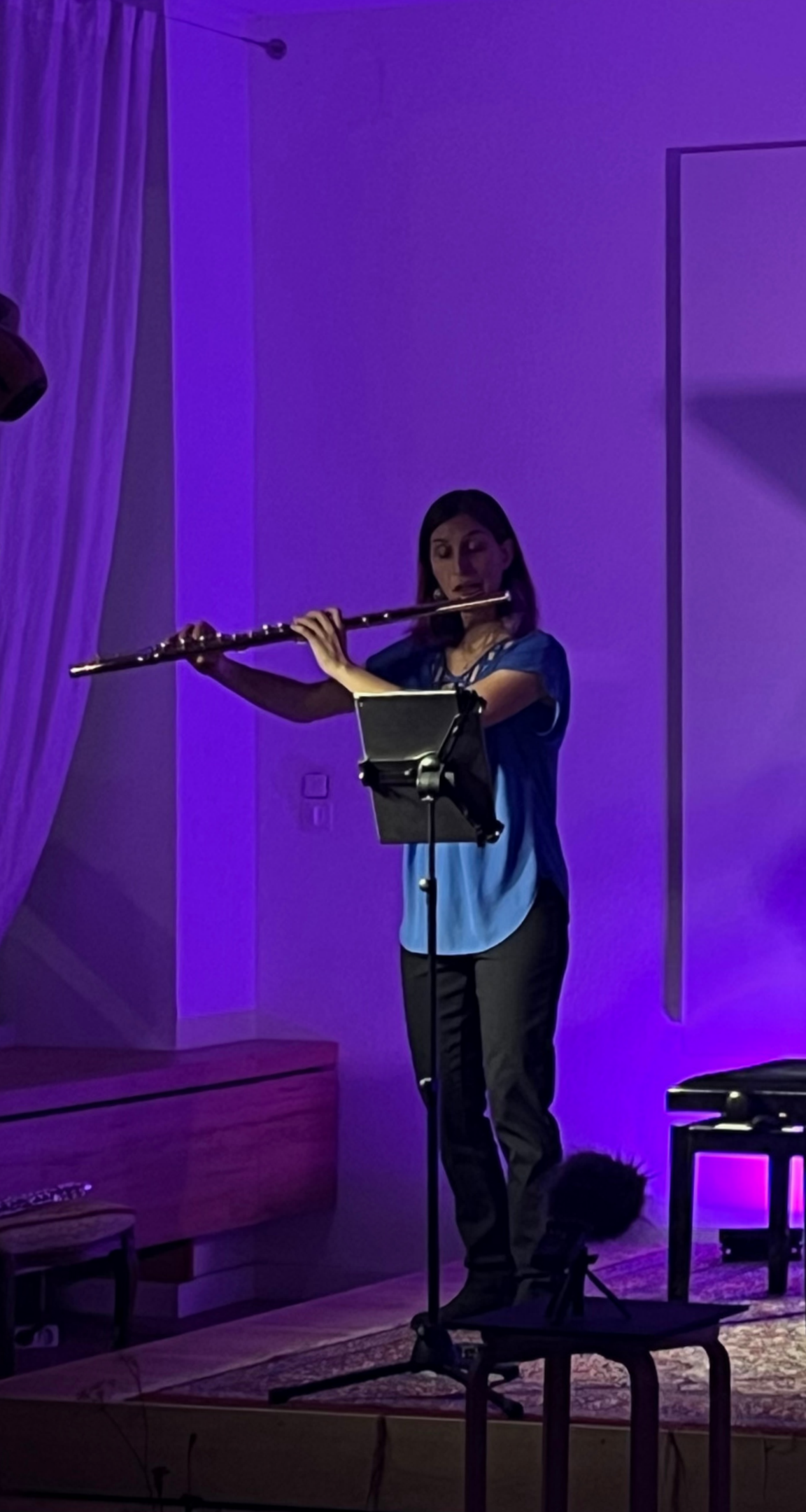
Her artistic profile puts great emphasis also on the art of song. Together with pianist Paul Heller and musicologist Dr. Maria Behrendt she founded the ensemble **Trio Pontes**, with whom she creates entertaining lecture concerts dedicated to lesser known or unpublished song repertoire. The young ensemble has recently started producing “ein like für Clara” a podcast revolving around the life and art of composer Clara Schumann, as well as co-hosting the podcast “Musikgespräch”

Anna completed her studies at the Hochschule für Musik “Hanns Eisler”, at the Universität der Künste Berlin as well as the **Barock Vokal Young Artist’s Programme** in Mainz.

Anna’s passion for music is complemented by her innate love for the writing. As part of her wide range of artistic activities, she also works as a freelance writer focussing on music journalism and her articles are published by well-known magazines like **Opernwelt**, **VAN-Magazine** and **TAZ**.

In her free time Anna loves to read novels, write poetry and go for long walks.





Rachel Susser – flute

www.rachelsusser.com

Rachel Susser is a Berlin-based flutist and interdisciplinary artist whose performances cross genres and traditions.

Originally from Poughkeepsie (NY, USA), Rachel's musical upbringing was as a multi-instrumentalist, and during her adolescence she played jazz and folk music as much as classical. During her **Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science and Music Technology at Barnard College (Columbia University)**, she studied flute at **Manhattan School of Music** via special arrangement and spent a summer researching Andean flutes in Peru.

She then received a **Fulbright grant** to study traditional flutes and folk music in Bulgaria and Romania. Following this research, she pursued and completed a **MMus in classical flute with Distinction** at the **Royal Academy of Music** in London. The Academy awarded her an **Open Academy Fellowship** after graduation to support her ongoing work designing and facilitating participatory music projects for community groups including schoolchildren and those living in nursing homes.

Rachel has performed in premieres of new music at the **Guggenheim Museum**, **Carnegie Hall**, and the **Berliner Philharmonie**, including as part of ensembles such as **Street Orchestra Live** and **Opera Lab Berlin**.

Harboring a particular passion for chamber music, Rachel has appeared internationally with various collaborators.

She is active in the Berlin and London Klezmer jam scenes and also works as a software engineer, specializing in audio and music technology.

Lillia Keyes – cello

www.lilliakeyes.com

Lillia Keyes, born in Poughkeepsie, NY, began playing cello at the age of six and soon after embarked on her cello studies with Nanette Koch. At age sixteen, she had her solo debut with the **Hudson Valley Philharmonic** as the winner of **Virtuoso-in-Progress** competition.

A graduate of **The Juilliard School's Pre-College Division**, under the tutelage of Ardyth Alton and Fred Sherry, Lillia went on to study with Stephen Geber at the **Cleveland Institute of Music**. There she completed her **Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance**, graduating with **Academic Honors**. Shortly after she was accepted into the **Orchestral Academy of the Staatskapelle Berlin** (Berlin, Germany) under the direction of Daniel Barenboim. She then went on to finish a **Master of Music in Orchestral Performance** at the **Universität der Künste Berlin**.

Lillia Keyes has attended numerous music festivals in the United States and Europe such as **Aspen Music Festival**, **Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival**, **Zermatt Festival**, **Encore School for Strings** and **Casals Festival**. As a chamber musician she has taken part in many masterclasses by renowned ensembles such as The Scharoun Ensemble, The Artemis String Quartet, The Tackas Quartet, The Tokyo String Quartet, The Miró String Quartet and The Cavani String Quartet. Solo Masterclasses by Wolfgang Boettcher, Elena Cheah, Gloria dePasquale, Gary Hoffman, Markus Nyikos and Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt have inspired the development of her character as a cellist, musician and performer.

Lillia lives and works in Berlin as a cellist, teacher and arranger. You can hear her collaborating with numerous orchestras in Berlin including the **Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin**, **Deutsches Kammerorchester Berlin**, the **Staatskapelle Berlin** and education projects with the **Berlin Philharmonic**. An avid contemporary musician, she performs regularly with **Ensemble United Berlin**.

Lillia is a founding member of both **she plays cello** (sheplayscello.com) and **Duo Nuage** (duo-nuage.com).

Depending on the season, when she isn't making music you can find her biking, rowing, running, walking her dog, knitting, reading or daydreaming about her next trip.





Lucia Brighenti – piano

www.luciabrighenti.com

Initially focusing her studies on solo repertoire, Lucia has then developed and explored her love for chamber music and collaborative playing. Originally from Italy, she works in Berlin as a vocal language coach and répétiteur, alongside a constant activity as piano teacher and chamber musician.

Lucia graduated with honors from the **Conservatorio Statale “O.Respighi”** in Latina under the guidance of Maria Paola Manzi and in 2014 completed a **Master of Arts in Performance (Piano Accompaniment)** at the **Royal Academy of Music** in London with Michael Dussek and Carole Presland. She then attended a Postgraduate Course in Chamber Music with the Trio di Parma at **Scuola di Musica di Fiesole** and completed **Magna cum Laude** a Postgraduate Course in Piano under the guidance of Roberto Paruzzo at **I.S.S.M. “F. Vittadini”** in Pavia.

She has worked as a Collaborative Pianist at **Conservatorio “G.Verdi” (Milan)** and at **Conservatorio “G.Cantelli” (Novara)**, and continues to collaborate as a pianist for **International Talent Music School** in Brescia. In the past few years she has immersed more deeply in the music theatre world, working as a répétiteur at the **Berlin OpernFest** (2021, 2022) and at the **Lyric Opera Studio Weimar** (2023), as well as Musical Director and pianist for an upcoming Berlin production of **I Love You Because** Broadway Musical.

Winner of various prizes in national and international competitions, both in chamber music and as a soloist, Lucia has performed abroad in prestigious venues in numerous countries, such as Australia, Mexico (Sala de Conciertos Felipe Villanueva), USA, Germany, Holland (TIHMS Festival), United Kingdom (Duke’s Hall, Old Combination Room - Trinity College) and Spain (Universidad de Murcia, Real Casino de Murcia).


She has been invited to perform as a soloist with orchestras such as the **Orquesta Sinfonica del Estado de Mexico** and the **Orchestra Giovanile Bertolucci** and has appeared on National Spanish TV on the programme **Clasica 7**.

In her free time Lucia loves taking care of her plants, baking and any artistic manual creation activity.

Programs Themes

The program of each concert of the Forgotten Female Composers Series refers to a specific theme e.g. Journey, Empowered Love... - showcasing a choice of carefully selected music that refers to the same topic.

- CITY SOUNDSCAPES. Inspired by urban sounds
- SONGS OF THE FOREST. Exploring the sounds of nature
- NOCTURNE. Stories of sleep and dreams
- MYTHS & FAIRYTALES. Ancient stories brought to life
- JOURNEY. Traveling the inner and outer world
- ROOTS. Connecting folk music of the world
- EMPOWERED LOVE
- COLORS OF SPRING



Lysistrata Chamber Collective
Forgotten Female Composers Series

JOURNEY

TRAVELING THROUGH THE
INNER AND OUTER WORLD

Anna Schors
Mezzo-Soprano

Rachel Susser
Flute

Lillia Keyes
Cello

Lucia Brighenti
Piano

October 28th
7:30 p.m

Tagtigall
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Wine by Female Winemakers

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