
Ensemble Coexist

AN INTERRELIGIOUS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE FOR PEACE, DIALOGUE AND SHARED HUMANITY

CONCEPT PAPER

WHO WE ARE

Ensemble Coexist is an interreligious chamber ensemble initiated by BIRD – Bündnis Interreligiöses Deutschland e.V. (Interreligious Alliance Germany).

The ensemble brings together professional musicians of different religious backgrounds and national origins, including Jews, Christians, Muslims, Druze and secular artists. Its members come from Israel, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Turkey, Germany and other countries.

What unites them is a shared conviction: despite political conflicts, religious differences and historical grievances, peaceful coexistence is possible.

What often seems impossible at a political level becomes a reality here at an artistic level

Ensemble Coexist transforms this conviction into a lived reality through music.

WHY ENSEMBLE COEXIST MATTERS

In recent years, political conflicts and wars have increasingly affected social cohesion across Europe and beyond. The renewed escalation of the Middle East conflict has also strained relationships between Jewish and Muslim communities in Germany and many other countries.

Public discourse is often dominated by division, polarization and mistrust.

Ensemble Coexist offers a different narrative.

The ensemble demonstrates that people whose communities are often perceived as opponents can meet, collaborate and create something beautiful together.

Music becomes a language of encounter, trust and mutual respect.

Rather than speaking about coexistence, the ensemble embodies it.

THE INITIATIVE

Founded in 2023 by BIRD, Ensemble Coexist has developed into a unique artistic and social project.

In 2025, the ensemble undertook a concert tour through several German cities with the goal of strengthening interreligious dialogue and encouraging constructive encounters between communities.

The tour was supported by the German Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community.

Due to its positive reception and impact, a second tour was funded for 2026.

The project has attracted audiences from diverse religious, cultural and social backgrounds and has demonstrated the potential of music to create spaces for dialogue and understanding.

ARTISTIC VISION

Ensemble Coexist combines artistic excellence with social responsibility.

Its repertoire draws inspiration from diverse musical traditions and cultural influences represented by its members. Through carefully curated programs, the ensemble seeks to create musical experiences that reflect both diversity and common humanity.

Concerts may be accompanied by moderated discussions, audience encounters, workshops or interfaith dialogue formats.

The ensemble is therefore not only a musical project but also a platform for cultural diplomacy, peacebuilding and social cohesion.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Building on its successful work in Germany, Coexist is now seeking to establish international partnerships.

The ensemble is particularly interested in collaborating with:

- Interreligious dialogue institutions
- Cultural diplomacy initiatives
- Universities and research centers
- Religious communities and networks
- International organizations promoting peace and coexistence
- Cultural and educational foundations

Potential formats include:

- Concert performances
- Dialogue concerts
- Artist residencies
- Conferences and forums
- Educational workshops
- International cultural exchange programs

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Coexist seeks long-term institutional partnerships rather than one-time performances.

Together with partner organizations, the ensemble aims to develop sustainable formats that strengthen:

- Interreligious dialogue
- Intercultural understanding
- Peacebuilding initiatives
- Youth engagement
- Cultural exchange

The ensemble can contribute a unique artistic perspective to institutions working at the intersection of religion, culture and social cohesion.

INVITATION

At a time when many voices emphasize what divides us, Coexist seeks to highlight what connects us.

We believe that music can create spaces where people encounter one another not as representatives of political positions, but as human beings.

We invite institutions, foundations and dialogue initiatives around the world to explore opportunities for collaboration and to help build new bridges through music.

CONTACT

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