

The Freestyle Orchestra
Group Curriculum Vitae
(please see below for brief CVs of selected members)

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Ongoing projects:

- Establishment of the innovative theatre/circus company New Relik - a collaboration between musicians from The Freestyle Orchestra, artists from Cirque du Soleil, Punchdrunk Theatre and The Imaginarium.
- A series of outdoor presentations across the city of Vienna fusing Austrian Lied and Electro-swing as part of the Basis Kultur program *Kultur Vor Ort*.
- Planned performances in London in 2021 in collaboration with Italian composer **Ilario Ferrari**, premiering his project featuring improvised music forms and Indian modes 'Be Yourself 2', raising funds for non-profit organisation 'Random Cafe' who are working to reduce food waste.
- In January 2021 we will begin workshops on our new project 'Circo Agitato', a collaboration with Australian composers **Carl Polke** and **Ania Reynolds** (*Circus Oz, Legs on the Wall*) to premiere at the *West Australian Circus Festival 2021*.
- Providing acrobatic musicians in a collaboration with Arts Council England, Chloe Charody Creations, Mandinga Arts, City Arts Nottingham and Cirque Bijou for the outdoor spectacular 'JINGAH' to premiere March 2021 the *Nottingham International Puppet Festival*, England, incorporating a 2-week creation phase featuring workshops with disadvantaged and refugee children.
- In early 2021 we will collaborate with composer **Luke Styles** (UK) and **Cirko** (Helsinki) to reimagine his modern circus work 'Polar' as an interdisciplinary performance.

Selected Performance Highlights:

2020

- Artistic residency for the Handstand Extravaganza Convention, Sicily
- Performance for LIVE ART 2020 - open air festival of solidarity for cultural workers in Vienna post COVID-19 - collaboration with *Opera Moderne*
- Collaborations with *Opera Moderne* (New York/Vienna) on the show 'Beyond Burlesque - L'Opera Burlesque' (a fusion of classical music, opera, burlesque, dance, fire and aerial arts), Ateliertheater, Vienna
- Full training scholarships to the *West Australian International Circus Festival*, performing nightly cabarets as part of the festival band and presenting 'The Marble Circus', film, movement and live music project in collaboration with *Candy Stripe Circus Australia*.

2019

- Australian tour - 'Concertos on Fire' - two Australian violin concertos ('Maninyas' by Ross Edwards and 'Tale of the Firebird' written by Chloe Charody for The Freestyle Orchestra) staged involving fire, dance, acrobatic and aerial arts, including performances at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith and City Recital Hall, Sydney Australia as part of Vivid Festival, June 2019
- Showcase performance at 'Smile - The Spirit of Chaplin' Gala, October 2019 at Theater Akzent, Vienna celebrating the 130th anniversary of Charlie Chaplin's birth year.

2018

- 'Orchester am Berg' full length show at 1900m on the top of Reischneralm mountain, Austria
- Finale performance, Vienna International Buskers Festival, Austria
- International Storytelling Festival, Austria (open-air performances at the MuseumsQuartier, Vienna)
- Premiere of 2 movements of 'Tale of the Firebird' - Concerto for violin, fire, dance and orchestra by Chloe Charody at the Schauspielhaus Graz, Brucknerhaus Linz and Mosaïque Vienna, Austria

2017

- Performances at the Venice Biennale, Artists Party co-hosted by Australian and New Zealand delegations.
- Performance as part of 'Les Jardins Musicaux' Classical Festival, Switzerland
- 'The Marble Circus' short film shot during a 3 week residency in Carrara, Italy (in collaboration with Alnassar Sculpture Studio and Candy Stripe Circus).
- 'The Marble Circus' short film premieres at the Australian Circus Festival.

2016

- Recipients of the Tarisio Trust Young Artists Grants (London/New York) Audience Choice Award
- Residency at Phoenix Circus Arts Centre, Vienna
- Guest appearances for Zirkus Pikard, Austria

Pre -2015

- Provided musicians trained in circus and movement arts for Igudesman & Joo's 'League of Extraordinary Musicians' - performances included New Years Eve Gala, Vienna Konzerthaus (first fire performance in the 101 year history of the historical venue), and Lucerne Festival 2015
- Provided musicians trained in circus arts for 'The Carnival' a circus-opera composed by Chloe Charody, directed by Chloe Charody and Sonja Schebeck - performances at 'The Fliegende Bauten Hamburg, London's West End, Melbourne Fringe Festival and Australian Tour.

SONJA SCHEBECK - (AUSTRALIA/AUSTRIA) - Artistic Director

Aerial dance, floor movement, fire artist, violin

- Bachelor of Music (1st class honours), Sydney Conservatorium of Music
- Currently completing Masters in Violin Performance (Universität der Music und darstellende Kunst, Vienna) with Masters research project The Freestyle Orchestra
- Founding member / Concertmaster, Nigel Kennedy's 'Orchestra of Life'
- Co-founder of 'Reachout' touring education program to bring arts music and living composers to regional and remote areas of Australia
- Aerial straps training with Oskar Mauricio, Aaron Koz and Gabriel Tramullas
- Director, choreographer, solo violinist and physical performer 'Concertos on Fire' Australian tour for Vivid Sydney, 2019 performing fire arts, aerial and acrobatic arts.
- Violinist/Fire artist, L'Opera Burlesque series, Ateliertheater, Vienna
- Artist in residence, West Australian Circus Festival, January 2020
- Guest musician with Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Wiener Symphoniker, English Session Orchestra

EDOARDO BLANDAMURA (ITALY/AUSTRIA)

Floor acrobatics, fire performance, aerial, dance, double bass

- Summer Dance University 2018, Anton Bruckner Privatuniversität Linz. (Urban dance, popping, locking, waacking)
- Universitätsportinsitut (USI) - contemporary dance, popping, acrobatic flow.
- Movement artist/composer/musician for 'Hiraeth' collaboration with Unicorn Art Dance, Vienna.
- Artist in residence, West Australian Circus Festival, January 2020
- Bachelor of Classical Double Bass, Licinio Refice Conservatory (Frosinone, Italy)
- Masters in Classical Double Bass, Musik und Kunst Privatuniversität in Vienna, Austria (masters research area: "What is Talent?")
- Studying Composition and Jazz Double Bass Pedagogy at the Anton Bruckner Privatuniversität in Linz, Austria.
- Double bassist/physical performer for 'Concertos on Fire' Australian tour for Vivid Sydney, 2019 performing fire arts, aerial and acrobatic arts.

ANTONIO CHORBADZHIYSKI (BULGARIA/AUSTRIA)

Floor acrobatics, partner work, cyr wheel, cello

- Bachelor of Arts in classical cello (Musik und Kunst Privatuniversität der Stadt Wien)
- Cello tutor for Hong Kong Metropolitan Youth Orchestra
- Artist in residence, West Australian Circus Festival, January 2020
- Cellist/Aerialist L'Opera Burlesque series, Ateliertheater, Vienna
- Universitätsportinsitut (USI) - breakdance, acrobatic flow.
- Cyr wheel training with Simone Fluhr (Germany), aerial straps with Oskar Mauricio, Aaron Koz and Gabriel Tramullas
- Movement artist/musician for 'Hiraeth' and 'Mirage' collaborations with Unicorn Art Dance, Vienna.

- Cellist/physical performer for 'Concertos on Fire' Australian tour for Vivid Sydney, 2019 performing fire arts, aerial and acrobatic arts.
- Training in the art of instrument making with father, luthier Marin Chorbadzhiyski

CLAUDIA COX (AUSTRALIA/NORWAY)

Gymnast, dance & partner work, violin

- Certified Hatha Yoga Teacher RYT200
- Bachelor of Music, at the University of Newcastle, Australia
- International Diploma and Masters in Music, Grieg Academy of Music, Norway
- Yoga teacher for students at Grieg Academy, Norway
- Director/teacher at Suzuki Violin Bergen
- Music/movement performances at Festspillene Bergen, Borealis Festival, Member of EnB1 Ensemble Bjergsted 1, experimental band Major Parkinson and contemporary string quartet Rosella
- Kulturschool teacher and District musician, Lillehammer Symphony Orchestra
- Violinist/physical performer for 'Concertos on Fire' Australian tour for Vivid Sydney, 2019 performing acrobatic and partner work..

SAMUELE D'ALCANTARI (ITALY)

Handstand, floor acrobatics, dance, piano, guitar

www.samonhands.com

- Handstand, partner-work and group movement trainer: Circ'opificio - Circus school of Palermo, Italy - (2017) Up! - Circus school of Bra, Italy (2018) CircusWA - Circus school of Fremantle, Western Australia (2019), The Circus Centre - O'Connor, WA (2020)
- Workshop facilitator: Sicily Acroyoga Convention, Danish Acro Convention, MOVE Copenhagen, Nowhere Festival, Bristol Acrobatic Convention, Morocco Acrobatic Convection, Varese Acro Easter Retreat, West Australian International Circus Festival.
- Founder and organiser - Handstand Extravaganza Convention, Sicily September 2021
- Unicyclist, jester character for Donizetti's "Elisir d'Amor" at Teatro Massimo, Palermo 2018

Graduated in Telecommunications Engineering, 2015

Dr. CHANDA VANDERHART - (USA/AUSTRIA)

Aerial dance, floor movement, piano

- PhD in Musicology (Universität der Musik und darstellende Kunst, Vienna)
- Post-Masters performance diploma in vocal accompaniment (Kunst Universität Graz)
- M.A. in Lied & Oratorio accompaniments (Musik und Kunst Universität der Stadt Wien)
- M.A. in Opera Coaching (Musik und Kunst Universität der Stadt Wien)
- Bachelor of Music in solo Piano (Eastman School of Music, USA)
- Currently on Faculty at the Vienna University of Music and Performing Arts, and at IES (Institute for European Studies).
- Previous teaching positions: Performing Center Austria, Pädagogische Hochschule Wien, Broadway Connection, Vienna.

- Public master classes at: Banff Music Festival (Canada), The Sankt Goar Music International Music Festival and Academy (Germany), The American Institute for Musical Studies (Graz) and the Kolkata Classics (India) outreach program.
- Co-founder & Artistic Director of storytelling and educational initiative *Talespin, Musical Tales for Big and Small* and the innovative integrated concert series *Mosaïque*.
- Performances (chamber music, lied duo) at venues including Musikverein, Volkstheater, Volksoper, Arnold Schoenberg Centre (Vienna), Max Mueller Bhavan (Kolkata), Concertgebouw (Rotterdam), Beurs de Berlage (Amsterdam), Wigmore Hall (London)
- Artist in residence, West Australian Circus Festival, January 2020
- Pianist/Aerialist for L'Opera Burlesque series, Ateliertheater, Vienna
- Pianist/aerial artist for 'Concertos on Fire' Australian tour for Vivid Sydney, 2019