

Lachenmann Music

Bar Zemach, Horn & Shofar

With technical brilliance, subtle articulation, and an extraordinary tonal imagination, Bar Zemach transforms every performance into an intense and captivating listening experience. In addition to his career as a horn soloist, Zemach is the first renowned musician to introduce the Shofar as a melodic and chromatic solo instrument to the concert world, bridging the gap between tradition and contemporary music in a profound way.

Combining a unique repertoire of classical horn literature with the ancient soundscapes of the Shofar, he performs concerts, chamber music, and world premieres at the highest level. Whether as a soloist, orchestral musician, or chamber performer, Zemach unites technical mastery with expressive depth, opening new acoustic perspectives for his audience. As a pioneer of the Shofar in classical music and a dedicated performer at international festivals, he has established himself as a defining voice of his generation.

As a duo, he regularly performs recitals with pianist Prof. Dr. Jascha Nemtsov; the pair performs throughout Europe and will make their American debut in the upcoming season.

Before graduating with top honors (1.0) from the University of the Arts Berlin under Prof. Christian Friedrich Dallmann, he was a scholar of the Lucerne Festival Academy, the Moritzburg Festival, and the Grafenegg Campus. For the 2024/25 season, Bar Zemach was selected as a Britten Pears Young Artist. He has served as principal horn of the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie and held fixed-term engagements with the Düsseldorfer Symphoniker and the Staatskapelle Berlin.

Since 2022, he has held the position of Principal Horn in the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, which included a performance of Bruckner's 4th Symphony at the orchestra's 25th anniversary concert under Daniel Barenboim. Bar Zemach made his German solo debut at both the Berliner Philharmonie and the Konzerthaus Berlin. His debut as the first Shofar soloist to present a world premiere by Amir Shpilman with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra was featured in international media, including The Jerusalem Post, Jüdische Allgemeine, The Jewish Chronicle, and B.Z..

An active chamber musician, he has performed and recorded worldwide, from Israel and Germany to Taiwan. He has collaborated with musicians such as Giora Feidman, who inspired his love for Klezmer music and mentored him as an emerging artist. Bar Zemach has performed with the winds of the Staatskapelle Berlin—with whom he recorded the complete wind serenades of Richard Strauss—and has appeared at festivals such as the Jerusalem Chamber Music Festival, Intonations (Berlin), West Cork Chamber Music Festival, the International Days of Jewish Music, and the Jewish Culture Days Berlin. Furthermore, he is the Artist in Residence for future festivals such as SHALOM-MUSIK.KOELN. Within the Boulez Ensemble, he has collaborated with composers and conductors such as Matthias Pintscher and Jörg Widmann. He also appears as a guest hornist with the Pacific Quintet.

As a true pioneer, Bar Zemach is bringing the Shofar into the realm of classical music: in 2025, he performed the world premiere of a concerto for Shofar and orchestra by Amir Shpilman (commissioned by Zukunft Klassik) at the Berliner Philharmonie. He also premiered a Shofar concerto by Michael Wolpe at the Israeli festival Sound of the Desert (commissioned by the Goethe-Institut). Further appearances as a Shofar soloist have taken him to the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra, the Thuringia Philharmonic, the Israel Symphony, and the St. Christopher Chamber Orchestra.