

Franco-American violinist **Elissa Cassini**’s unyielding passion for music transcends stylistic boundaries, extending itself from the baroque all the way to performance with live electronics. Praised in her Carnegie Debut for her “strong sense of style and total identification with the music” by the New York Concert Review, she has performed extensively as soloist throughout Europe and North and South America. Elissa was praised as "an impeccable and powerful soloist" (Christoph Schlüren - Neue Muzik Zeitung)  for her recent performance of Anders Eliasson's Concerto for Violin and Strings with the *Arcos Orchestra* at the Konzerthaus in Berlin. Further recent performance highlights include the world premiere of a concerto written especially for her by Nicolas Bacri with the *Orchestre de Mass*y in France, Mozart Concerti with the *Orquesta de Cámara*de *Bellas Artes*in Mexico City, and Schumann’s Violin Concerto with the *Orchestre de la Francophonie*in Quebec. Her interpretation of (d') Aller by Philippe Leroux with São Paulo's *Camerata Aberta* “enchanted the ears of all those who came to the excellent performance” – (J. M. Coelho – O Estado de S. Paolo)

In spite of her young age, Elissa has already enjoyed leading distinguished orchestras. She served as concertmaster under Pierre Boulez, working closely with him at the *Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra* in 2009, and she was chosen to lead the *Juilliard Baroque Ensemble*under William Christie on baroque violin during his 2009 Juilliard residency. Elissa co-founded New York's *Arcos Orchestra* hailed early on as “An extraordinary ensemble of the highest standard,” and just last season, she was appointed concertmaster of the *Orquestre Sinfonica Petrobras*in Rio de Janeiro. Elissa’s vivacious mind and enthusiasm for contemporary music has also been sought out by many living composers with whom she enjoys collaborations, and by cutting edge New Music ensembles such as the*Argento New Music Project* and the *International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE)* in New York, and *Ensemble Cairn* in Paris.

Elissa’s undergraduate studies under Miriam Fried at Indiana University were crowned by the coveted “Performers’ Certificate”. After receiving her Masters Degree from The Juilliard School in New York, she completed her graduate studies at the Manhattan School of Music, mentored by Robert Mann. She performs on a beautiful violin made especially for her in 2005 by Patrick Robin.

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