

Intercultural Residency Series

The Intercultural Residency Series (ICRS) brings to Brandeis University artists of high accomplishment from around the world. For a few days each semester, a musical ensemble whose ethos is embedded in a particular social, cultural, and/or political setting engages with the campus community. The goal of these residencies is to promote cultural exchange and intellectual inquiry through understanding and appreciation of diverse artistic traditions.

The ICRS takes place in the University setting and links the creative arts with academic inquiry in explorations of culture, history, and tradition. With the arts at its core, the ICRS addresses the eternal questions of social justice and peaceful coexistence in the global community through events that offer opportunities for intellectual inquiry, reflective process, experiential learning, and creative expression. Workshops with Brandeis students, integration with curricula of ongoing courses, panel discussions and lectures by Brandeis and visiting faculty, and dialogues in informal social gatherings connected with the residency invite the Brandeis community to experience the arts and facilitate a greater understanding of diversity. With support and collaboration from many departments and programs on campus, the series approaches cultural exploration with interdisciplinary, intercultural perspectives. Taking its cue from the diverse cultures on the Brandeis campus, the series has as its goal a deeper appreciation of the many worldviews that coexist today.



In its inaugural year, 2005-2006, the series featured the Yuval Ron Ensemble and Sol y Canto. A written evaluation of these two residencies is available upon request. This video features the Yuval Ron Ensemble in the October 2005 residency.

The Yuval Ron Ensemble is a group of world-class musicians of Armenian, Jewish-Israeli, Palestinian-Israeli and Armenian background. They perform original compositions that incorporate elements of early liturgical music from the Jewish religion, the Armenian Christian church and the Sufi tradition of Islam. The ensemble celebrates the commonalities among peoples who often perceive each other as enemies; it emphasizes the unity of humanity.

The 2005-2006 series was co-chaired by Judith Eissenberg, Founder and Director of MusicUnitesUS, a member of the Lydian String Quartet and of the faculty in the Department of Music at Brandeis University; and Dr. Cynthia Cohen, Executive Director of the Slifka Program in Intercommunal Coexistence and Director of Coexistence Research and International Collaborations.