

# FELSNER ARTISTS

## Tamar Halperin

Piano, keyboards

### Biography

Described by The Guardian as “a performer of real distinction...exquisite & breathtaking,” Israeli musician Tamar Halperin follows a unique musical path, being both a Bach-specialised academic, and a performer of exceptional versatility on piano and harpsichord. She moves with dexterity through musical styles of five centuries, always combining historically-informed approach with a forward-looking vision and use of contemporary technology.

Tamar Halperin received her musical education at the Tel-Aviv University (BMus, piano, 1998) and at The Juilliard School in New York (MMus, piano, 2000; and Doctor of Musical Arts, harpsichord, 2009). Between 2005-2009 she was also enrolled at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in Switzerland for further specialisation in Baroque harpsichord and continuo playing. For “creating musical and cultural bridges” she won the Hessen culture prize in 2016.

Other distinctions include as an Echo Jazz award (2010 & 2014 with Michael Wollny & “Wunderkammer” project); the Eisen-Picard scholarship award (2005-2009); the C. V. Starr fellowship (2003-2009); the Presser award (2005); an honorary prize at the Musica Antiqua Festival in Brugge (2004); and the Americal-Israel Culture Foundation scholarship (1998-2002).

With repertoire that ranges over five centuries, Dr. Tamar Halperin performs worldwide as a soloist and with various chamber groups, in such venues as London’s Wigmore Hall, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Paris’ Salle Gaveau, and Hamburg’s Elbphilharmonie. In Berlin she performed at the Philharmonie, the Konzerthaus, the Festspiele, the Funkhaus, and in clubs such as Berghain & Watergate. Her festival appearances include Bach Festival in Leipzig; Edinburgh Festival; Montreux Jazz Festival; and Rheingau Musik Festival, among others.

Tamar Halperin has collaborated with distinguished musicians, including Andreas Scholl, Michael Wollny, Avi Avital, Francesco Tristano, Julian Pregardien, Anu Tali, Idan Raichel, Theo Bleckmann, Marc Romboy, and Jim McNeely. She performed with renowned ensembles such as King’s College Choir, Nordic Symphony Orchestra, Czeck Ensemble Baroque, Berliner Symphoniker, and the HR big band. While the focus of her activities is Baroque music, Dr. Halperin is also an enthusiastic performer of classical and contemporary music. She has been composing, arranging, and performing pop, jazz, electronic, and new classical music. Her collaboration with Jazz pianist Michael Wollny led to award-winning albums “Wunderkammer” (2010 Echo prize for “Best Piano Album”) and Wunderkammer XXL (2013 German Critic’s Choice for “Best Jazz Album”, 2014 Echo prize for “Best Big Band Album”). Her multi-keyboard solo album “Satie” (Edel/Neue Meister, May 2016) — on which she plays piano, harpsichord, Wurlizer, Hammond, glockenspiel, and computer— received enthusiastic reviews, was featured as “album of the month” on various platforms within its first weeks of release, and described as “the most beautiful Satie album” by FonoForum music magazine.

In 2017 she released her album “BachSpace” (Edel/Neuemeister) in collaboration with violinist Etienne Abelin and sound designer Tomek Kolczynsky. Described by HR radio as “A CD that could really be considered trend-setting in dealing with one of the great masters of music history,” the album is “a re-contextualisation of Bach’s music, demonstrating how powerful and timeless his body of works is...crossing the bridge between the past and today.” (Doug Thomas, Music Review).

Together with her husband, famed countertenor Andreas Scholl, Tamar Halperin initiated, arranged, recorded, and produced “The Family Songbook,” which is a collection of (mostly children) songs in German, Hebrew, and English. The music on the album was performed together with twenty-five members of three generations of the Scholl-Halperin family from Israel & Germany, and recorded in their home studio during one week in the summer of 2018 (Edel/Berlin Classics, November 2018). The duo Scholl/Halperin also released the “Twilight People,” which is an album of contemporary folk song arrangements for piano & voice (BMG/Modern Recordings, 2019), and “The Wanderer,” featuring works by Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, and Brahms (Decca, 2012).

In the academic years 2020-2024 Tamar is a Visiting Fellow in Music at Oxford university, where she offers concerts, lectures, presentations, lessons, and master classes.

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Tamar spent most of her childhood training to be a professional tennis player, competing successfully on a national level. She now lives with her family in a small village in Germany.

**BIOGRAPHY FOR THE 2025/26 SEASON. LAST UPDATE MARCH 2026. PLEASE DO NOT USE OLDER MATERIAL.  
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