Carnegie Hall

Suggested by: Ian Fraser

Current Request	$10,000	**Organizational Budget**	$123,041,881
Previous Grant Amount	$10,000	**Last Site Visit**	2025
Grants Since 1998	28	**Project Budget (if applicable)**	$16,253,000
Total Grants Awarded	$355,000	**Purpose**	Weill Music Institute

Mission

To present extraordinary music and musicians on the three stages of Carnegie Hall, bring the transformative power of music to the widest possible audience, develop visionary education programs, and foster the future of music through the cultivation of new works, artists, and audiences.

Organization History

Carnegie Hall, opened in 1891 and long recognized as one of the world's premier concert venues, has been a home for legendary performances and a beacon of musical excellence for over a century. To extend its impact beyond the concert stage, the Hall established the Weill Music Institute (WMI) in 2003, building on earlier education initiatives. WMI now serves hundreds of thousands of people annually through innovative music education and social impact programs, nurturing creativity, expanding access to the arts, and demonstrating the power of music to transform lives.

Update on Last Grant and Current Request

In the 2025–2026 season, WMI engaged more than 500,000 people through its music education and social impact programming. These programs are delivered through a broad network of schools, orchestras, healthcare and community organizations, government agencies, and educators, including more than 360 NYC schools. Highlights include:

Learning and Engagement: Musical Explorers introduced more than 55,000 students in grades K–2 nationwide to music and cultural traditions from around the world through singing, listening, movement, classroom curriculum, and interactive concerts. The yearlong nationwide Link Up program helped more than 291,000 students in grades 3–5 learn the recorder and fundamentals of orchestral music before performing alongside an orchestra. Professional development programs supported more than 300 music educators.

Early Childhood: Nearly 2,000 parents and caregivers around the world were paired with professional musicians to create personal lullabies to foster child development, bonding, and well-being through the Lullaby Project. Big Note, Little Note engaged more than 4,000 NYC-based babies and children with their caregivers in musical play.

Social Impact: Future Music Project engaged more than 400 justice-involved New York City teens in songwriting, music production, and performance, while Musical Connections worked with 20 men at Sing Sing Correctional Facility to compose and perform original music. Carnegie Hall also presented 19 Well-Being Concerts, which combine live music with mindfulness and self-care practices, to the general public and various specific community groups, including veterans, healthcare workers, and seniors.

Artist Training and Career Development: Workshops and master classes provided 47 rising performers with professional mentoring, and The B-Side introduced 58 young people to music-industry careers through workshops, mentoring, and networking. Carnegie Hall's three tuition-free National Youth Ensembles provided 208 teenage musicians with intensive training and international performance opportunities.

Carnegie Hall seeks renewed support of $10,000 to continue Weill Music Institute's programming in 2026–2027. The organization expects to reach more than half a million people through school-based music education, teacher training, early childhood and family programs, artist development, and initiatives serving justice-involved youth, incarcerated adults, and communities through music and well-being. Programming will continue to provide broad access to music education and creative experiences in New York City and through national and international partnerships.

Notes

Carnegie Hall reports that changing visa requirements, international regulations, travel logistics, and rising travel costs have made planning tours for its National Youth Ensembles more difficult. Early childhood programs also serve families facing significant personal, medical, and logistical barriers, making sustained partnerships with healthcare and community organizations particularly important for recruitment and continued engagement.