

The Vidda Foundation

Final Report Form

The purpose of the Report Form is to help Vidda Foundation's Trustees understand the activities and outcomes of your grant. This form is now part of the proposal process. **Your application for funding will be considered incomplete without it.** Please upload this form along with your grant proposal via the Information Upload link at <https://www.vidda.org>. If you have any questions about the process, please contact grants@vidda.org.

Instructions

Grantees may choose to complete the form below or format their own Word document. Both allow for copy-paste from existing reports to other funders. Regardless of approach, we request that all grantees please:

- Type and single-space all reports.
- Use headings as provided.
- Answer all questions in the order listed. If a question does not apply, please respond "NA" or "Not Applicable".
- Indicate if information is being provided in a separate attachment (e.g. budgets or financial statements). If requested attachments are not available, please include an explanation.
- Use as much space as needed, while being as concise as possible.

The Vidda Foundation Final Report of **Carnegie Hall**

on grant period beginning 7/1/2025

NARRATIVE

1. Major Objectives

List the major objectives of the grant as specified in your original grant proposal. Describe the progress toward accomplishing your objectives and note the number of persons affected by your activities (when appropriate).

In the 2025-2026 season, Carnegie Hall engaged more than half a million people through the Weill Music Institute's music education and social impact programs. From unforgettable interactive performances at the Hall to transformative partnerships with community organizations across New York City and around the world, these programs provided participants of all ages with meaningful opportunities to create, learn, and connect through music. Highlights of the season included the 15th anniversary of **Musical Connections** at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, **NYO2**'s first-ever European tour, **NYO Jazz**'s inaugural tour of Latin America, **workshops** and **master classes** led by renowned artists **Joyce DiDonato** and **Anthony Roth Costanzo**, and the continued expansion of Carnegie Hall's work in mental health and well-being.

We are sincerely grateful to the Vidda Foundation for its generous partnership in support of Carnegie Hall's music education and social impact programs. On behalf of our participants, staff, and Board of Trustees, thank you for making this important work possible.

2. Outcomes

What outcomes have been achieved over the grant term? Was it necessary to make any modifications to the program? Are you on schedule? If the grant did not achieve some of the objectives above, please explain.

Carnegie Hall's extraordinary range of music education and social impact programs—most offered for free or at low cost—nurtured creativity and well-being, engaged communities, promoted expression and dialogue about important social issues, and harnessed the power of music to make a meaningful difference in people's lives. In the 2025-2026 season, Carnegie Hall achieved all proposed outcomes for its education, early childhood, social impact, well-being, and digital programs. Highlights and outcomes from the season of educational programs include:

- **Musical Explorers** (grades K-2) introduced more than 6,000 students in New York City and over 49,000 students nationwide to the fundamentals of music through singing, listening, movement, and creative participation. Guided by six New York City-based teaching artists, students explored musical traditions from around the world while developing foundational musical skills. During the 2025–2026 season, the curriculum featured **Bomba and Plena**,

Chilean Folk, Freedom Songs, Indian Classical, Iranian Folk, and Sephardi Ladino Folk traditions.

- **Link Up** (grades 3-5) introduced more than 11,000 students in New York City and over 280,000 students nationwide to the instruments and sounds of the orchestra through a yearlong, curriculum-based music education program centered on learning the recorder. In the classroom, students developed music literacy, strengthened listening and performance skills, and expanded their musical vocabulary. The 2025–2026 curriculum, *The Orchestra Sings*, explored the expressive power of melody as a universal element of music — one that expresses emotion, tells stories, and brings people together through song. Following a year of classroom study, students from 142 New York City partner schools gathered in Isaac Stern Auditorium to perform alongside Carnegie Hall's Link Up orchestra in the program's interactive concerts.
- **Music Educators Workshop** provided essential resources and year-round professional development for 145 music teachers in New York City, strengthening music education for 32,000 K-12 students by supporting the educators who guide them. From September to June, participants worked alongside distinguished guest artists and student ensembles, exchanged ideas with fellow educators, attended performances, and explored innovative approaches to classroom teaching and music-making.
- **Summer Music Educators Workshop** brought together 158 educators from across the United States for four days of intensive workshops focused on ensemble instruction, rehearsal techniques, and creative classroom strategies. Participants observed demonstration rehearsals, collaborated with peers from around the country, and returned to their communities with practical tools to enrich music learning for 39,500 students.
- **Lullaby Project** paired new and expecting parents and caregivers with professional teaching artists to write and sing original lullabies for their babies, offering songwriting workshops to more than 260 families in New York City and nearly 1,500 families around the world through five local and 76 national partnerships. With the goal of supporting maternal physical and mental health, aiding early childhood development, and strengthening the bond between parent and child, the program provided caregivers with the opportunity to work side by side with professional musicians, transforming personal experiences into heartfelt songs for their children. At the end of the songwriting process, each parent received a recording of their lullaby to listen to and sing with their baby.
- **Big Note, Little Note** taught over 80 caregivers unique ways to engage with their babies through musical play to support family well-being, early childhood development, parent-child connection, and peer relationships among parents. Over the course of a ten-week music class in partnership with the **Children's Storefront** and the **Brooklyn Public Library**, families learned to engage with their children through singing, listening, songwriting, and instrument exploration.
- **Family Events** welcomed more than 4,000 children, parents, and caregivers together at Carnegie Hall for interactive performances and hands-on activities that promoted creativity, connection, and exploration among young ones and their families.
 - In the fall, **Family Day** celebrated American musical traditions as a prelude to the Hall's citywide festival highlighting America's 250th anniversary.
 - Spring brought the return of **Family Day: Spring Fest**, featuring activities inspired by nature, seasonal sounds, and the environment, along with opportunities for families to create instruments, experience immersive art installations, and discover music together through play.

- Carnegie Hall also continued presentations of **huddle**, an imaginative concert for babies and toddlers, inviting the youngest audiences to experience live music in an engaging performance celebrating friendship, community, and belonging.
- **Workshops and Master Classes** served 47 rising performers from New York City, across the United States, and around the world with exceptional opportunities to learn directly from renowned artists who have shaped today's musical landscape.
 - In the 2025-2026 season, **SongStudio**, led by **Anthony Roth Costanzo**, brought together leading artists and coaches to mentor young vocalists and collaborative pianists.
 - The season also featured the return of **Joyce DiDonato's** master classes for young opera singers, streamed live for global audiences, as well as orchestral master classes led by musicians from some of the world's most renowned ensembles.
- **The B-Side** introduced 58 young people to career pathways within the music industry, helping participants build professional skills while forging meaningful connections with artists, executives, producers, songwriters, and other industry leaders. Designed for talented students, especially those who may have limited access to professional networks and internship opportunities, the program equips participants with the knowledge, confidence, and relationships needed to pursue careers. Throughout the program, students developed professional portfolios, expanded their networks, and gained valuable insight into the many careers that sustain today's music industry.
- For more than a decade, Carnegie Hall's **National Youth Ensembles (NYO-USA, NYO2, and NYO Jazz)** have brought together some of the country's most gifted young musicians for transformative musical experiences that combine intensive training, artistic mentorship, and international touring. Each summer, these tuition-free programs unite exceptional teenage musicians from across the United States for a three-week training residency with faculty drawn from the nation's leading orchestras before culminating in performances at Carnegie Hall and concert tours to some of the world's premier musical destinations.
 - **NYO-USA** brought together 96 outstanding musicians (ages 16–19) representing 29 states plus the District of Columbia for a tour of Asia under the direction of renowned conductor **Gianandrea Noseda**. Following a performance at Carnegie Hall, the orchestra made its debut in Tokyo and Osaka, returned to Hong Kong, Beijing, and Shanghai with violinist Ray Chen, and concluded the tour with a return engagement in Seoul, South Korea featuring violinist **Clara-Jumi Kang**.
 - In October 2025, alumni from across the program reunited as the NYO-USA All-Stars to headline Carnegie Hall's 2025–2026 Opening Night Gala under the baton of **Daniel Harding**, celebrating the enduring impact of the national youth ensembles.
 - **NYO2** featured 89 musicians (ages 14–17) from 31 states plus Guam and embarked on its first ever European tour as a resident orchestra at the Edinburgh International Festival. The orchestra performed as a resident ensemble at the Edinburgh International Festival under the direction of **Rafael Payare**.
 - **NYO Jazz** showcased 23 outstanding jazz musicians (ages 16–19) hailing from across the United States, during its inaugural tour of Latin America. Led by Artistic Director **Sean Jones** and joined by Grammy Award-winning vocalist **Luciana Souza**, the ensemble performed in Santo Domingo and Santiago, Dominican Republic, and Manaus and São Paulo, Brazil. Their performances celebrated the rich dialogue

between American jazz and musical traditions from around the world, reinforcing the ensemble's role as a vibrant cultural ambassador.

- **Future Music Project** provided more than 400 New York City teens involved in the juvenile justice system with opportunities to create, perform, and produce original music. Through weekly workshops with Carnegie Hall teaching artists in partnership with the NYC Administration for Children's Services Division of Youth and Family Justice, participants developed skills in songwriting, digital production, performance, and musicianship while using music as a tool for self-expression, collaboration, and personal growth.
- **Musical Connections** served 20 men at Sing Sing Correctional Facility through collaborative music-making. Throughout the season, participants worked alongside teaching artists to compose, arrange, perform, and develop their artistic voices through workshops and performances. Live concerts were attended by residents and staff, Carnegie Hall staff, and friends and family invited by participants, and broadcast to the broader Sing Sing community of 1,700 men via monitors.
- **Well-Being Concerts** continued to explore the relationship between music, health, and human connection through immersive performances combining world-class artistry with mindfulness and self-care practices. Offered both at Carnegie Hall and through community partnerships, these experiences created welcoming spaces for audiences to connect through music and explore tools that support well-being. Throughout the 2025-2026 season, Carnegie Hall presented nine Well-Being concerts offered to the general public, featuring artists including Grammy Award-winning bassist and vocalist **esperanza spalding**, oboist **James Austin Smith**, kora player **Ablaye Cissoko**, accordionist **Cyrille Brotto**, and jazz vocalist **Somi**. An additional ten Well-Being Concerts were offered for invited groups of veterans, healthcare workers, seniors, researchers, policymakers, and other community members throughout the season.

3. Evaluation & Learning

Briefly summarize the evaluation process for the effectiveness of the grant. What have you learned from your own evaluation? Describe any lessons you learned in carrying out the objectives (improved processes, new strategies, unexpected obstacles or results, etc.)

Carnegie Hall evaluates its learning and engagement, social impact, and artist training programs using feedback from artists, audience members, students, and teachers. This includes conducting surveys, collecting written and video documentation of sessions, tracking participation and the number of people served, observing classrooms, monitoring engagement in Carnegie Hall's community, and other select methods of qualitative feedback.

This continual assessment process is designed to ensure that each individual program achieves its specific objectives, and that the organization achieves its overall goals: to deliver the highest quality educational programming to the widest possible audience; to provide best practice resources that serve the music education field; and to invest in innovative projects to further music education. Evaluations are developed in partnership with experts in arts evaluation and incorporate reflection from teaching artists, partner organizations, and Carnegie Hall staff.

Carnegie Hall's commitment to rigorous exploration and evaluation of music's contribution to public health includes engaging in research collaborations with leading universities, teaching

hospitals, and scholars both nationally and internationally. Carnegie Hall's Well-Being Concert series provides an experimental space and artistic laboratory where individual scholars and teams of scientists across disciplines can partner with Carnegie Hall to ask important questions about the relationship between music and health.

Carnegie Hall regularly participates in and commissions research examining the impact of early childhood programs on maternal, infant, child, and caregiver well-being, early relational health, and the role of creative engagement in healthcare settings. Current research initiatives include:

Elmhurst Hospital Evaluation (WolfBrown): Dr. Dennie Palmer Wolf of WolfBrown is evaluating the Lullaby Project at Elmhurst Hospital, examining outcomes for participating families as well as the program's impact on healthcare providers and the broader care community. During the 2025–2026 season, the evaluation focused on observations, healthcare staff interviews, internal reflection, and identifying priorities for future phases of the study, bringing together perspectives from teaching artists, healthcare staff, researchers, and Carnegie Hall staff. Initial findings were presented at the 2026 International Lullaby Project Convening. As the evaluation continues to evolve, future activities will include reflective work with healthcare staff and group songwriting to further explore the program's impact on staff well-being and care environments. Dr. Wolf is also preparing a summary paper highlighting key reflections and program design implications to share with partners and inform the broader field.

"One Heart: The Power of Early Music Experiences" (University of Amsterdam): Carnegie Hall continues its collaboration with researchers at the University of Amsterdam to explore how live music shapes early childhood development. Using ECG, behavioral, and movement data, the study examines how toddlers respond to live music experiences, including Carnegie Hall's *huddle* concerts. During its third year, researchers analyzed data examining physiological regulation, parent-child synchrony, and early learning, with publication of findings anticipated in the coming year.

NICU Pilot Study (Franklin & Marshall College): Carnegie Hall launched a pilot study with Franklin & Marshall College examining maternal experiences with the Lullaby Project in neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) settings. Complementing the Hall's ongoing partnership with Lenox Hill Hospital, the study is exploring what lullabies mean within the experience of motherhood through interviews with NICU alumni families and, with participant permission, analysis of the lullabies' lyrics. The research remains in its early stages and will contribute to a growing body of knowledge focused on maternal mental health and parent-infant bonding in high-stress clinical environments.

For several programs, including Music Educators Workshop, Musical Connections, and The B-Side, Carnegie Hall convenes advisory groups composed of current and former participants. These groups provide valuable insight into emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities within their respective fields, while offering guidance on future themes, curriculum tracks, and program content. Their perspectives help ensure that programs are developed in partnership with participants, remain responsive to evolving community needs, and continue to reflect current practice. The advisory groups also play an important role in assessing program relevance and informing ongoing refinement and future program development.

4. Notable Accomplishments

What do you consider your most notable accomplishments during the past year?

- Carnegie Hall continued to expand the national and international reach of its music education programs.
 - **Musical Explorers** partnered directly with 12 school districts across eight states, making its free curriculum, artist-led videos, lesson plans, and virtual concert experiences available to even more classrooms.
 - **Link Up** extended its impact through a growing international network of more than 100 partner orchestras that adapt the curriculum for students in communities across the United States and around the world.
 - The **Lullaby Project** further broadened its national footprint through a new partnership with the Association of Children's Museums, expanding opportunities for families and caregivers across the country to engage with the program.
 - Carnegie Hall continued to advance its leadership in music and well-being by expanding its Well-Being Concert network to **34 partner organizations across 20 states and four countries**. This work also became increasingly integrated across the Weill Music Institute, informing programs including the Lullaby Project, Future Music Project, The B-Side, Music Educators Workshops, and Summer Music Educators Workshops.
- Reviving a cherished Carnegie Hall tradition, the Hall presented an all-city student showcase on its Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage for the first time since 1990, celebrating the accomplishments of more than **300 New York City student musicians**.
- The **B-Side** welcomed two cohorts of students, ages 14–17 and 18–22, who participated in intensive workshops, biweekly seminars, field trips, panel discussions, Carnegie Hall performances, and behind-the-scenes industry experiences. Guided by an accomplished faculty of music professionals, including industry leaders from Universal Music, Roc Nation, Mercury Records, Thirty Tigers, Primary Wave, SummerStage, and IATSE Local One, participants explored topics ranging from artist management, marketing, publishing, touring, and production to legal affairs and entrepreneurship.
- Celebrating the program's **15th anniversary**, Carnegie Hall launched **Sing Sing Voices**, a publicly available digital collection featuring nearly 50 original songs created by participants and alumni of the Hall's long-standing residency at Sing Sing Correctional Facility. Organized into three themed playlists with video reflections from participants and introductions by longtime collaborators Common, Joyce DiDonato, and Arturo O'Farrill, the collection highlights 15 years of artistic collaboration while offering broader audiences an opportunity to experience the creativity and humanity of the program.
 - The **Musical Connections Advisory Committee**, composed of 32 program alumni, continued to play a central role in shaping the program's future by meeting regularly with Carnegie Hall staff and teaching artists, supporting participants returning to their communities, and fostering continued artistic collaboration through their ensemble, **The Freedom Trap**.

5. Challenges & Obstacles

What were the greatest challenges/obstacles you faced while developing and implementing the program(s)?

For more than a decade, Carnegie Hall's National Youth Ensembles (NYO-USA, NYO2, and NYO Jazz) have united the most gifted teenage musicians from across all 50 states for an extraordinary experience. Each summer, Carnegie Hall provides a tuition-free opportunity for these exceptional young musicians to participate in a three-week training residency with faculty made up of principal players from top professional U.S. orchestras, followed by a performance at Carnegie Hall and a summer tour to perform in some of the great music capitals of the world. In recent years, Carnegie Hall has encountered several obstacles in organizing international tours, including more complex and time-consuming visa processes, increased uncertainty around global travel logistics, challenges in long-term planning due to shifting international regulations, and the increasing cost of international travel.

For some early childhood programs, recruitment and participant retention continue to require ongoing attention, as many families are balancing significant personal, medical, and logistical challenges. These realities underscore the importance of strong, long-term partnerships with healthcare and community organizations. Carnegie Hall invests multiple years in growing their New York City partnerships, helping staff to adapt recruitment strategies, respond to participants' evolving needs, and maintain engagement through trusted relationships within their communities.

6. Partnerships

What other organizations/coalitions have you worked with to achieve these goals?

Carnegie Hall maintains a robust, worldwide network of partnerships with schools, professional and student orchestras, community organizations, governmental agencies, educators, and others to implement its education and social impact programs.

In the 2025-2026 season, Carnegie Hall collaborated with more than 360 New York City schools to implement Musical Explorers, Link Up, Music Educators Workshop, and other initiatives. Carnegie Hall successfully provided creative music making and songwriting workshops through close partnerships with various city and state agencies, including the NYS Department of Corrections, NYC Administration for Children's Services, NYC Health+Hospitals Corporation, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, NYC Department of Homeless Services, NYC Department of Veteran Services, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, NYC Department of Education, NYC Department of Design and Construction, NYC Economic Development Corporation, NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services, NYC Department of Transportation, NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, and NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Other Selected partnerships include:

- **Link Up** partners with over 114 orchestras in the US, as well as internationally in Canada, China, Japan, Kenya, and Spain.
- The international **Well-Being Concert** network includes 34 partner organizations across 20 states and four countries.
- **Musical Explorers** partners directly with 12 school districts across eight states.

- Guided by an accomplished faculty of music professionals, the **B-Side** partners with industry leaders from Universal Music, Roc Nation, Mercury Records, Thirty Tigers, Primary Wave, SummerStage, and IATSE Local One.
- **Big Note, Little Note** partners with the Children's Storefront and Brooklyn Public Library.
- Our commitment to rigorous exploration and evaluation of music's contribution to public health involves ongoing research collaborations with leading universities, teaching hospitals, and scholars both nationally and internationally. Current research partners include The University of Amsterdam, WolfBrown, Franklin & Marshall College, and independent researchers Ian Koebner and Kimaya Lecamwasam.
- In New York City, Carnegie Hall partners with community organizations to provide the **Lullaby Project** alongside services they provide to clients in healthcare and social service settings. 2025-2026 partner organizations included The Motherhood Center, Siena House, the Lenox Hill Hospital NICU, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Elmhurst Hospital.
- Through over 76 national and international partnerships, the **Lullaby Project** supports families across the country and around the world. Partners receive support from Carnegie Hall as they adapt the program model to best suit the needs of their communities. The program works in a variety of settings and has been successfully activated in homeless shelters, correctional facilities, refugee camps, addiction recovery programs, prenatal care programs, and fatherhood initiatives. For example, in partnership with the UK National Health Service's Women's Health and Maternity Services program, Carnegie Hall is working with local music partners to support vulnerable families and advance the NHS's early intervention and maternal health goals.

7. Looking Ahead

What opportunities and challenges do you foresee for the near future?

Through our music education and social impact programs, Carnegie Hall is poised to serve more than half a million music lovers around the world in the 2026-2027 season and continues to expand current programs, share resources with students and teachers across the country, support parents and their children, nurture the talent of young musicians, and engage people in the justice system.

Carnegie Hall's 2026-2027 season brings together many of the world's leading artists and ensembles for a year of landmark performances, ambitious artistic collaborations, and significant musical milestones. The season opens with Chief Conductor **Kirill Petrenko** and the **Berliner Philharmoniker**, joined by tenor **Jonas Kaufmann** for a celebratory Opening Night concert featuring beloved Italian opera selections alongside Respighi's *Fountains of Rome* and *Pines of Rome*. Throughout the year, audiences will experience extraordinary large-scale projects, including the first complete concert presentation at Carnegie Hall of Richard Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, with Music Director **Gianandrea Noseda** leading the **Orchestra of the Zurich Opera House** in its Carnegie Hall debut alongside an internationally acclaimed cast of Wagnerian singers. The season also features the presentation of Gustav Mahler's nine completed symphonies, conducted by **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** and performed by three of the world's foremost orchestras: **The Met Orchestra**, **The Philadelphia Orchestra**, and the **Vienna Philharmonic**. New multi-year artistic partnerships further enrich the season, including the launch of a five-year opera-in-concert collaboration with **Gustavo Dudamel** and the **New York Philharmonic**, beginning with Puccini's *Tosca*, and a new five-year series of classic American musicals in concert with **Orchestra of St. Luke's**, kicking off with Leonard Bernstein's *On the Town*. Grammy Award-winning bassist, singer,

and composer **esperanza spalding** and internationally acclaimed violinist **Maxim Vengerov** each curate Perspectives series that reflect their distinctive artistic voices, while Carnegie Hall continues to champion living composers through the presentation of 15 commissioned works, 10 world premieres, four U.S. premieres, and 19 New York premieres, as well as the appointment of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Caroline Shaw** as the Debs Composer's Chair.

The upcoming season marks the **Lullaby Project's** 15th anniversary, reflecting Carnegie Hall's sustained commitment to early childhood development and infant mental health. Over the past 15 years, the program has grown through long-standing partnerships with healthcare providers, researchers, teaching artists, and community organizations, creating a strong foundation for continued growth while remaining responsive to the evolving needs of families and communities. The anniversary will be marked through special events, videos, and communications celebrating the program's impact over the past 15 years while looking ahead to its continued growth and the many families it will serve in the years to come.

In pursuing its goals, Carnegie Hall anticipates facing the normal challenges of running a large and complex non-profit organization with many different and far-reaching programs. Alongside these challenges, the organization strives to maintain our high standard of excellence in artistic programming and educational initiatives, raise funds for these exciting initiatives, and continually engage new audiences.

8. Financial

Please provide income and expense information to date for the program(s) funded by the grant. Describe any budget changes or financial adaptations.

Attached

9. Suggestions

Do you have suggestions for ways to improve the Vidda Foundation's grant, proposal, and evaluation processes? Feel free to answer in the space provided below. Alternatively, these may be submitted anonymously by mail to:

*The Vidda Foundation
c/o TCC Group
333 Seventh Avenue, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10001*

Click or tap here to enter text.

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS

If you wish to attach relevant materials, newsletters, articles, etc. that you feel would provide Trustees with a better understanding of your activities and accomplishments, please include here. If materials are attached in a separate document, please include a list of attachments.

Carnegie Hall's 2026-2027 Weill Music Institute Brochure (Attached)