

New York/New Jersey Area Common Application Form

The foundations and corporations that developed this common application form hope it will help nonprofit organizations in the New York/New Jersey area save time in the grant application process. Please note the following important points:

- Every funder has different guidelines and priorities.
- Every funder has different deadlines and timetables.
- Any funder that has agreed to accept this application may request additional information at any stage in their application process.
- Some funders choose to provide both general and project support grants, while others choose specifically only to award project grants.

Before submitting this application to a potential funder, you need to check to see whether your project or program matches their published interests and what forms of grant support that they will consider providing (e.g., general support, project support, capital grants, etc.). Information about individual grant programs is available from each funder, and at The Foundation Center's New York library and its cooperating collections in the greater New York tristate metropolitan area.

Instructions

- Please type and single-space all proposals.
- Please answer all of the questions in the order listed.
- Please use headings as provided.
- Please submit only one copy.
- Please do not include any materials other than those specifically requested at this time.
- Please do not send videotapes.

New York/New Jersey Area Common Application Form Cover Sheet

Date of application: 08/05/2026

Name of organization to which grant would be paid. Please list exact legal name:
The Carnegie Hall Corporation

Purpose of grant (one sentence): The grant will provide support for Carnegie Hall's education and social impact programs during the 2026-2027 season.

Address of organization: 881 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019

Telephone number: 212-903-9780 Fax: 212-903-9825 E-mail: bmathis@carnegiehall.org

Executive director: Clive Gillinson

Contact person and title (if not executive director): Brandi Mathis, Director, Foundation Relations

Is your organization an IRS 501(c) (3) not-for-profit?: Yes ☒ or No ☐

If no, please explain: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Grant request: \$ 10,000

Check one (based on the organization's priorities and the funder's guidelines):

General support ☐

Project support ☒

Total organizational budget (for current year): \$136,442,000

Dates covered by this budget (mo/day/year): July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026

Total project budget (if requesting project support): \$16,253,000

Dates covered by project budget (mo/day/year): July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026

Project name (if applicable): Carnegie Hall 2026-2027 Music Education and Social Impact Programs

New York/New Jersey Area Common Application Grant Proposal Format

Please write your proposal using the following format, answering all of the questions in the order listed and using headings as provided.

This common application document is NOT intended to be a form to complete but rather a format to follow. Please prepare your proposal as a separate document.

Proposal Format

I. PROPOSAL SUMMARY: one-half page, maximum

Please summarize in a short paragraph the purpose of your agency. Briefly explain why your agency is requesting this grant, what outcomes you hope to achieve, and how you will spend the funds if a grant is made.

II. NARRATIVE—Five pages maximum.

A. Background—Describe the work of your agency, addressing each of the following:

1. A brief description of its history and mission.
2. The need or problem that your organization works to address, and the population that your agency serves, including geographic location, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical ability, and language.
3. Current programs and accomplishments. Please emphasize the achievements of the recent past.
4. Number of paid full-time staff; number of paid part-time staff; number of volunteers.
5. Your organization's relationships — both formal and informal — with other organizations working to meet the same needs or providing similar services.
Please explain how you differ from these other agencies.

B. Funding Request—Please describe the program for which you seek funding.

1. If applying for general operating support, briefly describe how this grant would be used.
2. If your request is for a specific project, please explain the project including:
 - A statement of its primary purpose and the need or problem that you are seeking to address
 - The population that you plan to serve and how this population will benefit from the project.
 - Strategies that you will employ to implement your project.
 - The proposed staffing pattern for the project, and the names and titles of the individuals who will direct the project.
 - Anticipated length of the project.
 - How the project contributes to your organization's overall mission.

C. Evaluation—Please explain how you will measure the effectiveness of your activities. Describe your criteria for a successful program and the results you expect to have achieved by the end of the funding period.

III. ATTACHMENTS—Please label all attachments to correspond to the bold-faced, capitalized items below.

A. Financial Information—Please provide the dates that each document covers.

1. **Your MOST RECENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT**, audited if available. This statement should reflect actual expenditures and funds received during your most recent fiscal year.
2. Aligned side by side on the same page, your **OPERATING EXPENSE BUDGETS** for the current and most recent fiscal year.
3. Aligned side by side on the same page, a list of foundation and corporate **SUPPORTERS** and all other sources of income, with amounts, for your current and most recent fiscal year.
4. Please list the foundations, corporations, and other **SOURCES** that you are **SOLICITING FOR FUNDING** and, to the best of your knowledge, the **STATUS OF YOUR PROPOSAL** with each.
5. If project funding is requested:
 - a. **A CURRENT EXPENSE BUDGET FOR THE PROJECT**. List each staff line separately and include % of time spent on project. Indicate the specific uses of the requested grant, if possible.
 - b. A list of all **SOURCES OF INCOME** toward the project, actual and prospective with amounts.

B. Other Supporting Materials

1. A list of your Board of Directors, with their affiliations.
2. A copy of your most recent IRS letter indicating your agency's tax exempt status, or, if not available, an explanation.
3. One-paragraph resumes of key staff, including qualifications relevant to the specific request.
4. Your most recent annual report, if available.
5. No more than three examples of recent articles about, or evaluations of, your organization, if available.

CARNEGIE HALL

Carnegie Hall's 2026-2027 Season
Prepared for The Vidda Foundation

I. PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Since opening in 1891, Carnegie Hall has set the international standard for musical excellence by providing extraordinary artistic experiences and innovative educational programs that harness the power of music to make a meaningful difference in peoples' lives. Through its Weill Music Institute (WMI), Carnegie Hall delivers a wide range of music education and social impact programs that serve children, families, students, young artists, educators, and communities in New York City and around the world. We respectfully request a **\$10,000** grant from The Vidda Foundation to support these programs during the 2026–2027 season. With this funding, Carnegie Hall aims to reach more than half a million participants through school-based music education initiatives, training programs for talented young musicians, family events, early childhood programs, well-being concerts, and programs for people in justice settings, while expanding access to underserved communities and ensuring that music continues to be a powerful tool for education, healing, and connection.

Carnegie Hall is deeply grateful to the Vidda Foundation for its enduring partnership and generous support of our music education and social impact programs. On behalf of our participants, staff, and Board of Trustees, thank you for helping advance our mission to share the transformative power of music with the widest possible audience for more than 40 years.

II. Narrative

A. BACKGROUND

Carnegie Hall's mission is to present the world's foremost music and musicians on its three stages, to bring the transformative power of music to the widest possible audience, to provide visionary education programs, and to foster the future of music through the cultivation of new works, artists, and audiences. In support of this mission, Carnegie Hall reaches beyond the walls of its historic building to share music, expertise, pedagogy, and resources that benefit people in New York City, across the country, and around the world.

With unparalleled access to the world's greatest artists, Carnegie Hall's education programs are designed to inspire audiences of all ages, nurture tomorrow's musical talent, and harness the power of music to make a meaningful difference in peoples' lives. An integral part of Carnegie Hall's concert season, these hands-on programs facilitate creative expression, support health and well-being, develop musical skills and capacities at all levels, and encourage participants to make lifelong personal connections to music. This collection of more than 15 innovative programs—offered in a variety of settings including schools, hospitals, justice settings, community centers, and more—tap into the creativity of audiences of all ages, inviting them to make their own music in all genres, express their viewpoints, and raise their voices. Carnegie Hall's Resnick Education Wing—on the upper floors of the landmark building—is home to many of these programs, serving as a professional development center; a learning and performance space for New York City students, young musicians, and community members; and a home for master classes and interactive concerts. Carnegie Hall also shares an extensive range of online music education resources and program materials for free with teachers, families, orchestras, arts organizations, and music lovers worldwide.

Carnegie Hall's music education and social impact programs—created to help fill the gap in quality music education instruction in New York City and across the US—share resources with students and teachers through **Musical Explorers**, **Link Up**, and **Music Educators Workshop**; support parents and their children through the **Lullaby Project**, **Big Note**, **Little Note**, and **Family Events**; train the next generation of artists and music leaders through **workshops and masterclasses**, the **B-Side**, and three national youth ensembles (**NYO-USA**, **NYO2**, and **NYO Jazz**); engage people in the justice system through **Future Music Project** and **Musical Connections**; promote mental health and wellness through the **Well-Being Concerts**; and connect with music lovers and

educators all over the world through a range of free digital resources. (See funding request for anticipated program outcomes in the 2026-2027 season.)

Recent accomplishments

In the 2025-2026 season, Carnegie Hall presented more than 170 extraordinary performances across its three iconic stages and engaged over half a million people through its wide-reaching music education and social impact programs.

Recent educational highlights include the launch of *Sing Sing Voices*—a publicly available digital collection of nearly 50 original songs created by participants and alumni of the program at Sing Sing Correctional Facility—to commemorate the 15th anniversary of **Musical Connections**; **national youth ensemble** tours to Asia, Europe, and Latin America; the expansion of Carnegie Hall’s Well-Being Concerts network to 36 partner organizations across 20 states and four countries; the return of **huddle**, an immersive performance designed for babies, toddlers, and their caregivers, commissioned by Carnegie Hall; and a successful pilot year of the **Musical Explorers** school district partnership program, providing free online classroom resources for the program to entire school districts across the country.

Recent artistic highlights include five thoughtfully curated concert series reflecting the unique musical identity and creative passions of visionary artists, including *Perspectives* artists **Marin Alsop**, **Isabel Leonard**, **Maxim Vengerov**, and **Lang Lang**, and the season’s Debs Composer’s Chair, **Arvo Pärt**; extraordinary performances by **national and international ensembles**, including **The Philadelphia Orchestra**, **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**, the **Vienna Philharmonic**, and the **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields**; and the performance of **twenty-nine new works** commissioned by Carnegie Hall, 11 world premieres, one U.S. premiere, and 42 New York premieres.

The centerpiece of the 2025-2026 season was ***United in Sound: America at 250***, a citywide festival that offered a multifaceted reflection on the United States as our country marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Through over 35 performances across the Hall’s three stages, the festival highlighted the extraordinary musical riches that have flourished in the U.S., exploring diverse voices and influences that have shaped—and continue to shape—American identity. Programs celebrated a sweeping range of American musical traditions—jazz, rock ‘n’ roll, hip-hop, bluegrass, classical, country, and more—honoring traditions from Indigenous song to gospel, spirituals to swing, Appalachian folk to R&B, and the quintessentially American art forms of the Broadway musical and Hollywood film scores. The festival also featured **more than 20 new works** commissioned by CH from leading American composers, offering fresh perspectives on American identity and creativity. Partners included **Afrofuturism Art and STEM**, **AILEY**, **the Apollo Theatre**, **Belongó**, **Cuban Cultural Center of New York**, **Five Boroughs Music Festival**, **Harlem One Stop Inc**, **Hostos Center for Arts and Culture**, **The Jalopy Theatre**, **The Juilliard School**, **The Metropolitan Museum of Art**, **The Metropolitan Opera**, **New York City Center**, **New York Film Academy**, **Orchestra of St. Luke’s**, **WQXR/New York Public Radio**, **YIVO Institute for Jewish Research**, and many more.

Looking ahead, Carnegie Hall’s 2026–2027 season celebrates the power of large-scale musical storytelling through landmark performances, ambitious artistic collaborations, and extraordinary orchestral and operatic works. The season opens with Chief Conductor **Kirill Petrenko** and the **Berliner Philharmoniker**, joined by tenor **Jonas Kaufmann**, and continues with some of the most expansive creations in the classical repertoire, including the Hall’s first complete concert presentation of Richard Wagner’s *Der Ring des Nibelungen* led by **Gianandrea Noseda** and the **Orchestra of the Zurich Opera House**, a season-long presentation of Gustav Mahler’s nine completed symphonies conducted by **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, the launch of a new five-year opera-in-concert collaboration with **Gustavo Dudamel** and the **New York Philharmonic** starting with Puccini’s *Tosca*, and a new five-year series of classic American musicals in concert with **Orchestra of St. Luke’s**, beginning with Leonard Bernstein’s *On the Town*.

Carnegie Hall currently employs 240 full-time employees, 19 part-time employees, 49 full-time union employees, and 78 part-time ushers. There are a total of 124 volunteers and 54 board members.

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 including the New York City Departments of Cultural Affairs, Education, Veteran Services, Probation, Health + Hospitals Corporation, and Health and Mental Hygiene; Administration for Children's Services; Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; Fund for Public Schools; Northwell Health; Brooklyn Public Library; The Motherhood Center; Siena House; and many more.

Carnegie Hall is committed to contributing to the field and participates in national professional conferences, such as the National Guild for Community Arts Education, the League of American Orchestras, and many others, to share best practices for artistic, educational, and community programming. In conjunction with our national and international education partnership programs, Carnegie Hall convenes participants to share research and resources and makes this information broadly available to educators and peer organizations.

Following an enthusiastic response from global arts organizations to previous seasons of **Well-Being Concerts**, the program expands this year through partnerships with 36 organizations around the world to offer Well-Being Concerts in their local communities, including **Bay Chamber Concerts** (Camden, Maine), **Carver Community Cultural Center** (San Antonio, Texas), **Evergreen Music and Performing Arts** (Evergreen, Colorado), **Fairbanks Concert Association** (Fairbanks, Alaska), **Live Arts Miami** at Miami Dade College (Miami, Florida), **One Health Partners** (Toronto, Ontario, Canada), **Renaissance Performing Arts** (Mansfield, Ohio), **Symphony and Utah Opera** (Salt Lake City, Utah), **Count Basie Center for the Arts** (New Jersey), **Sheldon Theatre** (Red Wing, MN), and **NOE Music** (San Francisco, CA).

Each season, Carnegie Hall partners with local community organizations to present outstanding musicians at free concerts throughout the five boroughs of New York City. Concerts reach over 30,000 people each year and take place in a variety of venues, including libraries, museums, parks, performance halls, and churches. The upcoming 2026-2027 Citywide concert series will present over 30 performances featuring an array of artists, musical genres, styles, and traditions that reflect the vibrant diversity of the city.

B. FUNDING REQUEST

Carnegie Hall respectfully requests a grant of \$10,000 from The Vidda Foundation to support Carnegie Hall's vital music education and social impact programs in the 2026-2027 season.

During the grant period, Carnegie Hall is poised to serve more than half a million students, teachers, families, young artists, people in the justice system, and music lovers around the world through extraordinary creative experiences. From world-class musical performances centered on mental health and well-being to thousands of students playing their recorders from the seats of Isaac Stern auditorium, this season's educational programs aim to provide music lovers around the world with transformative musical experiences. Below are program summaries and anticipated outcomes:

- **Musical Explorers** (grades K-2) connects students to diverse musical communities while building fundamental music skills through listening, singing, and moving to songs from all over the world. Designed to support New York City public schools with limited access to arts education, the program combines curriculum materials, artist engagement, professional development for educators, and participatory concerts at Carnegie Hall, serving 6,000 students in New York City and more than 50,000 nationwide through partners in twelve school districts across the country. The upcoming season explores **Gullah Music**, **Malian Traditional**, **Hip Hop**, **Cumbia**, **Vietnamese Folk**, and **Jordanian Folk** musical traditions.
- **Link Up** (grades 3-5) teaches students to play the recorder through a highly participatory exploration of orchestral music, culminating in an interactive concert at Carnegie Hall. In the 2026-2027 season, students explore *The Orchestra Moves*, a curriculum focused on the connection between physical and musical

movement. Each year, Link Up serves more than 11,000 students in New York City and over 300,000 students in the United States and around the world.

- **Music Educators Workshop** offers intensive professional development workshops throughout the school year for K-12 teachers, focused on ensemble instruction, classroom strategies, and creative music-making. In July, **Summer Music Educators Workshop** brings educators from across the country together for four days of workshops with master faculty and artists, student ensemble demonstrations, and peer learning. Together, the programs will reach more than 300 teachers in the 2026-2027 season, benefiting over 70,000 students.
- **Lullaby Project** returns for its 15th season, pairing professional musicians with new and expecting parents and caregivers to write and sing personal lullabies for their babies. Supporting maternal health, early childhood development, and the parent-child bond, the program now includes more than 80 partner organizations worldwide adapting the model to local communities in healthcare settings, addiction recovery programs, refugee camps, homeless shelters, high schools, foster care, and correctional facilities. Each year, the program reaches approximately 200 families in New York City and more than 2,000 families worldwide, creating original lyrics in over 40 languages and melodies in a wide range of musical styles.
- **Big Note, Little Note** offers free music experiences for New York City families with infants through partnerships with the Children's Storefront and Brooklyn Public Library. Through musical play, singing, and instrument exploration, the program supports parent-child bonds, family well-being, and early childhood development, reaching more than 40 local families.
- **Family events** bring children, parents, and caregivers together at Carnegie Hall for concerts and hands-on activities that promote creativity and connection. **Family Days** offer free, interactive performances and activities during daylong open houses for children ages 3-10 in the Resnick Education Wing. Highlights this season include two weeks of **huddle** performances, inviting babies, toddlers, and their caregivers into immersive experiences of music, light, movement, and imagination, as well as Family Day: Spring Fest featuring free performances and creative activities celebrating nature through music, instrument building, and interactive art.
- **Workshops** and **master classes** provide emerging performers free artistic mentoring from world-class musicians. In 2026-2027, SongStudio, led by **Anthony Roth Costanzo** and special guests, brings together renowned artists and coaches to mentor young singers and collaborative pianists. Acclaimed mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** also returns to lead her opera master classes, which will once again be streamed live for audiences worldwide.
- **The B-Side** introduces young people to careers in the music industry through workshops, field trips, panel discussions, mentorship, and networking opportunities with industry professionals, while helping diversify the next generation of music leaders. Returning in 2026-2027 with cohorts for ages 14-17 and 18-22, the program introduces a new intermediate level featuring tracks in marketing, music technology, and rights and royalties. Designed with input from industry experts, the curriculum explores a wide range of career paths, with guest speakers including executives from Universal Music and Roc Nation.
- Carnegie Hall's **National Youth Ensembles—NYO-USA, NYO2, and NYO Jazz**—continue to bring together America's most talented young musicians for free, intensive summer training, international touring, and performances with world-class artists. Since launching NYO-USA in 2013, the program has expanded to include NYO2 for younger classical musicians from diverse backgrounds and NYO Jazz for the nation's top young jazz players. Each summer, musicians gather at Purchase College (SUNY) for three weeks of rigorous training with principal players from leading orchestras, culminating in a performance at Carnegie Hall's iconic Isaac Stern Auditorium and a tour to major music capitals around the world, serving as cultural ambassadors for American music. Below are highlights for the 2026-2027 season:
 - The **National Youth Orchestra of the United States (NYO-USA)**—led by conductor and violinist **Karina Canellakis**—tours Europe with pianist **Kirill Gerstein**. The orchestra will debut with Britten Pears Arts as part of Summer at Snape, and return to Berlin's Young Euro Classic, Amsterdam, and Edinburgh. The ensemble's opening performance in Carnegie Hall's Isaac Stern Auditorium will be heard by music lovers worldwide through the *Carnegie Hall Live* radio broadcast and digital series, created in partnership with WQXR.

- **NYO2**, led by conductor **Mei-Ann Chen** and featuring violinist **Tessa Lark**, returns to the Dominican Republic for its second residency. In addition to performances in Santiago and Santo Domingo, orchestra members will participate in artistic exchange with local musicians, who will join the ensemble in concert, fostering collaboration and cultural connection through music.
- **NYO Jazz** led by guest bandleader **Kris Johnson**, tours Asia with a program that showcases the ensemble's stylistic breadth through jazz standards, new arrangements, and works by leading composers—including a new work by Cuban American drummer and composer **Dafnis Prieto**, commissioned by Carnegie Hall.
- **Future Music Project** provides nearly 300 New York City teens involved in the juvenile justice system with opportunities to create, perform, and produce original music through weekly workshops in songwriting, music production, performance, and musicianship. Participants showcase their original work during two celebratory performances at Carnegie Hall each year.
- **Musical Connections** brings together 20 men at Sing Sing Correctional Facility with professional teaching artists and guest artists to compose, perform, and record original music. Through a series of workshops focused on composition, arrangement, instrumental performance, and vocal skills, participants develop their artistry and share their work in concerts for fellow residents, staff and families.
- **Well-Being Concerts** combine world-class musical performances with practices that promote self-care and mindfulness, reflecting growing evidence that music can support health and well-being. Designed as immersive experiences that foster reflection, connection, and renewal, the concerts continue to expand through partnerships with organizations around the world. This season includes a Well-Being Concert led by *Perspectives* artist **esperanza spalding** at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine.

EVALUATION

Carnegie Hall measures the effectiveness of its education programs on an ongoing basis using feedback from artists, partner organizations, audience members, students, families, and teachers. Carnegie Hall also conducts regular internal and external program evaluations to ensure its programs accomplish their objectives and meet the needs of participants. The evaluations are developed with experts in the field of arts evaluation and center on intensive reflection by teaching artists, partner facility staff, and Carnegie Hall. As part of a commitment to generating new knowledge, Carnegie Hall also commissions exploratory papers and research on its programs. These publications inform Carnegie Hall's own programs and are also available as a resource to artists, organizations, and peers.

CONCLUSION

In the 2026–2027 season, Carnegie Hall will continue to welcome audiences from around the world to experience innovative music education and social impact programs. As the Hall seeks to deepen the impact music can have in a changing world, visionary philanthropic partners like the Vidda Foundation make it possible to expand these programs and provide millions of people with extraordinary musical and educational experiences. We are sincerely grateful for the Foundation's longstanding partnership and commitment to our mission, and we hope you will consider renewing your support for the 2026–2027 season. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.