

CARNEGIE HALL **Weill Music Institute**



Education and Social Impact Programs



NYO-USA



NYO Jazz



NYO2

Photos: NYO-USA and Music Educators Workshop by Fadi Kheir, NYO Jazz by Todd Rosenberg, NYO2 by Andrew Perry, Lullaby Project by Chris Lee.

National Youth Ensembles Tour Europe, Asia, and the Dominican Republic in Summer 2026

Each summer, Carnegie Hall's national youth ensembles invite America's top teen instrumentalists to come together for free, intensive training and performances with the world's finest artists at Carnegie Hall and around the globe. The three national youth ensembles—National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America (NYO-USA), NYO2, and NYO Jazz—include a broad range of musicians who reflect the exceptional talent and diversity of the United States.

In summer 2026, all three ensembles gather for their annual training residency at Purchase College, State University of New York, before performances at Carnegie Hall and beyond. Following its New York City concert, **NYO-USA**—led this summer by conductor and violinist **Karina Canellakis**—returns to Europe with guest soloist **Kirill Gerstein**. The orchestra debuts with Britten Pears Arts as part of Summer at Snape, and returns to Berlin's Young Euro Classic, Amsterdam, and Edinburgh. **NYO Jazz** returns to Asia under the direction of guest bandleader **Kris Johnson**, performing beloved jazz standards and new

arrangements. **NYO2**, Carnegie Hall's national youth orchestra for younger teens, returns to the Dominican Republic for its second residency, led by **Mei-Ann Chen** and featuring violinist **Tessa Lark**. All three ensembles include American music on their programs as part of Carnegie Hall's *United in Sound: America at 250* festival.

In the 13 years since the national youth ensembles were established, more than 1,700 young musicians have taken part, performing with world-class musicians at prestigious concert halls in 23 countries on five continents. More than 100 alums have gone on to join professional orchestras and ensembles around the globe, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, and more. In recent years, the NYO-USA All-Stars—an orchestra made up of alums of Carnegie Hall's national youth ensembles—has appeared in Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage, including Carnegie Hall's 2025 Opening Night Gala performance. Their concerts are also featured on Carnegie Hall+, the Hall's video-on-demand streaming channel.

carnegiehall.org/NationalYouthEnsembles

Early Childhood Programs Use Music to Make a Meaningful Impact in Children's First Years

In the 2026–2027 season, Carnegie Hall's Early Childhood Programs continue to play an important role in supporting the crucial development of children worldwide in their first three years of life. In addition, the programs use music to plant the seeds of deep, longstanding bonds between children and their caregivers.

The **Lullaby Project** returns for a 15th season, pairing new and expectant parents and caregivers with professional artists to write and sing personal lullabies for their babies, supporting maternal health, aiding child development, and strengthening the connection between parent and child. With more than 70 partner organizations around the globe adapting the program for their local community's needs, the Lullaby Project reaches families in health care settings, children's museums, high schools, and other community sites. **Big Note, Little Note**—a free music class for New York City families—returns in partnership with the Children's Storefront and the Brooklyn Public Library, offering a range of experiences for families and caregivers to engage with their babies through musical play, singing, and more.

A new research study on Carnegie Hall's early childhood programs, *Why Making Music Matters Now*, is now available, commissioned by the Hall and written by researchers at WolfBrown. The publication outlines how music making can support early childhood development; restore caregivers' energy, well-being, and joy; sustain communities through relationship building; and strengthen families during times of stress and uncertainty.

Next season, two weeks of *huddle* performances—one of Carnegie Hall's **Early Childhood Concerts** for babies and toddlers—are offered in fall 2026. Written by composers Saskia Lane and Thomas Cabaniss with librettist Zoë Palmer, *huddle* follows three characters (fragile, fin, and hoof) as they find each other and create a new community. **Family Day: Spring Fest** welcomes children into the Hall's Resnick Education Wing for an afternoon-long open house, featuring interactive performances and fun activities.

carnegiehall.org/family

Innovative Programs Continue for Teachers and Students Across the US

Carnegie Hall continues its suite of programs for teachers and students in New York City and across the country through robust professional development and innovative curricula. For more than 10 years, **Music Educators Workshop** has brought together teachers from across the New York City area for monthly professional development training, strengthening teachers' skills through musical activities and community building. A summer iteration of the program is offered to teachers nationwide.

Musical Explorers and **Link Up** concerts return in the 2026–2027 season, celebrating music from around the world. Each year, Musical Explorers introduces children in New York City and around the US to diverse artists and musical traditions as they build fundamental music skills through listening, singing, and moving. Elementary schoolchildren and families in New York City return for biannual concerts in Zankel Hall in 2027. Carnegie Hall is working directly with 15 partners in 37 school districts across the US to facilitate Musical Explorers, deepening the connection between classrooms and Carnegie Hall. The digital curriculum is available for teachers and students everywhere, providing schools with free lesson plans and artist-led videos, and virtual concert experiences for their students.

Link Up—the Weill Music Institute's longest-running music education program—introduces the orchestra to students in grades 3–5 as they learn to sing and play an instrument in their classroom and perform with a professional orchestra from their seats during a culminating concert at Carnegie Hall each spring. The program has expanded around the globe, reaching hundreds of thousands of students and teachers through more than 110 partners, spanning the US from Alaska to Florida and engaging students in Canada, China, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, and beyond. Next season, New York City students participate in Link Up: *The Orchestra Moves*, a program exploring the connections between physical and musical movement.

carnegiehall.org/educators





Well-Being Concert with Magos Herrera



The B-Side

Photos: Well-Being Concert by Stephanie Berger; The B-Side, Future Music Project, and SongStudio by Fadi Kheir; DiDonato by Chris Lee.

Well-Being Concerts Reimagine Music as a Public Health Tool

Carnegie Hall's **Well-Being Concerts** are intimate experiences that combine world-class musical performances with elements of deep listening and mindfulness, animated by evidence that music can help people heal and thrive. Each concert creates an immersive, nurturing space in which audiences and performers can enjoy a shared experience and explore tools for well-being that can extend beyond the performance. Following an enthusiastic response to the series in New York City, organizations around the world are now partnering with Carnegie Hall to offer Well-Being Concerts in their local communities, reimagining how arts institutions can support public health.

Next season, Perspectives artist **esperanza spalding** leads a Well-Being Concert on March 6 at The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. Since the inception of the series, Well-Being Concerts have featured leading artists, including **Kinan Azmeh's CityBand**, vocalist **Magos Herrera**, pianist **Omar Sosa** and kora player **Seckou Keita**, mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato**, trumpeter **Sean Jones**, cellist **Joshua Roman**, and others. More details about the 2026–2027 season will be announced later this year.

In fall 2024, the Jameel Arts & Health Lab—a global initiative in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), NYU Steinhardt, and CultuRunners—designated Carnegie Hall its inaugural Healing Arts Center of Excellence in recognition of the Hall's work to measurably improve health and well-being through the arts. A research study on the series was published in the *Health Promotion Practice* academic journal in fall 2025. Findings included that concerts foster well-being through introspection and interpersonal connection; the ambience and host help create a sense of inclusivity; and that the series allowed audiences to reimagine performing arts centers as vehicles for health and well-being.

carnegiehall.org/WellBeingConcerts

The B-Side Opens Doors to Careers in the Music Industry for Young New Yorkers

The B-Side, a free program that introduces young people (ages 14–22) to career pathways in the music industry, returns in the 2026–2027 season. Created for future music industry leaders, The B-Side helps young people learn about the music business and connects them with music executives, accomplished writers, producers, engineers, performing artists, and more for an in-depth look into the industry. This season, three groups of young people participate in The B-Side, beginning in February and running through May. Following a weeklong intensive, participants engage in biweekly workshops at Carnegie Hall in addition to attending field trips, Carnegie Hall concerts, panel discussions, and more. A new intermediate level also kicks off this season, featuring specialized tracks in marketing, music technology, and rights and royalties.

The B-Side welcomes a guest faculty of music industry professionals this season, including **Corey Williams**, vice president of business and legal affairs at Universal Music; **Naydeen Rodriguez**, director of artist brand strategy and marketing at Roc Nation; and **Rob Lewis**, acclaimed music arranger, composer, and producer.

carnegiehall.org/TheBSide

Musical Connections Celebrates 15 Years of Music-Making at Sing Sing Correctional Facility

Carnegie Hall's programs in justice settings play a central role in fulfilling the Hall's mission of making great music accessible to the widest audience possible. The Hall's Weill Music Institute serves people of all ages who are justice-involved through programs in which participants write and perform their own music, collaborate with others, and develop their artistry.

This season, Carnegie Hall celebrates 15 years of **Musical Connections** at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, a music residency program in which men create new music and work alongside teaching artists to develop creative skills, unlocking their potential and finding healing through music. Participants build composition, songwriting, and performance skills through ongoing workshops, and perform their original music in concerts for the facility's residents and staff, as well as their families. To recognize this milestone, *Sing Sing Voices*—a project that features new curated playlists of music created by participants in the program and recorded at the facility—will be released later this month. Common, Joyce DiDonato, and Arturo O'Farrill—artists who have all performed at Sing Sing and worked with participants—provide video introductions on the impact of the program.

Online access to a range of materials from Musical Connections continues to be available for incarcerated men and women of all ages across the country on the Orijin platform. The Musical Connections advisory committee—comprising men who have returned home—meets monthly for support and music making, growing and responding to the needs and musical interests of its members.

Carnegie Hall continues its work in justice settings with young people through **Future Music Project**, which harnesses the transformative power of music to nurture the creativity of nearly 300 incarcerated teens in New York City. In partnership with the NYC Administration for Children's Services, youth who are justice-involved create, perform, and produce their own original music, using the creative space to develop new skills, express themselves, and imagine new futures. Weekly workshops are led by teaching artists as participants learn about songwriting, performance, and various musical traditions through instruction, curriculum, and interaction with visiting artists. Celebratory showcases are presented at Carnegie Hall twice annually.

carnegiehall.org/JusticeSystem



Emerging Artists Train with Leading Musicians in Workshops and Master Classes

Through the Weill Music Institute's ongoing series of workshops and master classes, young professional artists on the rise receive personal coaching from world-class performers and composers who have established themselves on the Carnegie Hall stages.

The 2026–2027 season features several training opportunities for rising young singers, including the return of renowned mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato**'s opera master classes, streamed live for audiences everywhere. **SongStudio**—a program for young vocalists that is designed to renew and refresh the presentation and experience of the vocal recital—brings world-renowned artists and coaches together to mentor emerging singers and collaborative pianists. Countertenor **Anthony Roth Costanzo** returns as the 2027 artistic director, alongside special guests from opera's leading stages. Past SongStudio guest artists have included soprano **Julia Bullock**, pianist **Hartmut Höll**, bass-baritone **Sir Bryn Terfel**, and others, including soprano **Renée Fleming**, who led the program as artistic director for six years.

carnegiehall.org/workshops





Photos: National Youth Ensembles by Chris Lee, Early Childhood Programs and Musical Explorers by Stefan Cohen, SongStudio by Jennifer Taylor.

Quizzes, Games, and More Available on Carnegie Hall Kids

Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute offers new and exciting ways for children, young musicians, and educators everywhere to engage with music online. A kid-friendly website—**Carnegie Hall Kids**—invites children ages 5–12 to learn about music through highly interactive and fun activities including quizzes, games, videos, interactive maps, and more.

kids.carnegiehall.org

About the Weill Music Institute

Established in 2003, Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute (WMI) creates visionary programs that embody the Hall's commitment to music education, playing a central role in fulfilling the Hall's mission of making great music accessible to as many people as possible. With unparalleled access to the world's greatest artists, WMI's 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 people's 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 that include 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. WMI 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. As a leader in music education, WMI generates new knowledge through original research, which informs Carnegie Hall's own programs and is also available as a resource to artists, organizations, and peers nationally and internationally.

carnegiehall.org/AboutWMI

WMI by the Numbers

Each season, programs created by Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute reach hundreds of thousands of students, educators, families, young musicians, professional artists, and community members of all ages. Online resources and educational content reach millions more people worldwide.

In New York City

- 78,000 people are served in the NYC area, including more than 54,000 students and 550 teachers.
- 400 schools, venues, arts organizations, and partner sites host WMI programming.
- 14 city and state agencies partner with Carnegie Hall.

Across the Country

- 485,000 students, teachers, and people of all ages participate in WMI programs in their communities.
- All 50 states and Puerto Rico are home to teachers and local organizations that administer WMI programming.

Around the World

- 30 countries on 6 continents are home to organizations that offer WMI programming.

The statistics on this page reflect 2025–2026 programs.

Program Listings

Well-Being Concerts

World-class musical performances are combined with elements of self-care and mindfulness.

For Students and Educators

Musical Explorers

Students in grades K–2 build basic music skills through music from cultures around the world.

Link Up

Students in grades 3–5 explore the orchestra.

Music Educators Workshop

K–12 music teachers receive training, support, and community from Carnegie Hall.

Ensemble Connect School Partnerships

NYC teachers partner with Ensemble Connect fellows to bring artistry and creativity to their schools.

For Families

Lullaby Project

New parents and parents-to-be build strong family bonds through songwriting.

Big Note, Little Note

Families engage with their babies in a range of musical experiences, including musical play, singing, songwriting, and more.

Family Events

Families with children ages 0–10 explore music with free and affordable events at Carnegie Hall, including Early Childhood Concerts, Family Days, and Family Concerts.

For Aspiring and Young Professional Artists

National Youth Ensembles

Each summer, young musicians ages 14–19 from across the country gather in New York for music making and instruction from world-class artists before embarking on tours around the globe.

The B-Side

Future industry leaders ages 14–22 learn essential skills about the music business and connect to industry professionals.

Workshops and Master Classes

Young professional musicians train with leading artists of our time.

Ensemble Connect

As part of a two-year fellowship, young professional classical musicians receive training in musical excellence, teaching, and entrepreneurship at Carnegie Hall.

In the Justice System

Musical Connections

Men at Sing Sing Correctional Facility work alongside visiting artists to compose and perform original music through workshops and performances. An advisory board composed of men who have returned home provides support along with music making and performance opportunities.

Future Music Project

Young musicians ages 14–19 in justice settings create, perform, and produce their own original music.



Early Childhood Programs



Musical Explorers



SongStudio: Young Artists Recital



Lead support is provided by Fund II Foundation; Hope and Robert F. Smith; Joan and Sanford I. Weill and the Weill Family Foundation; The Kovner Foundation; Pershing Square Philanthropies; Beatrice Santo Domingo; Linda and Earle Altman; Maggie and Richard Tsai; Sarah Billingham Solomon and Howard Solomon; Ronald E. Blaylock and Petra Pope; and an anonymous donor.

Major support is provided by the Mark and Anla Cheng Kingdon Foundation, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, The Grace and Mercy Foundation; Clive and Anya Gillinson; the Hearst Foundations; JJR Foundation; JMC MRJ Sorrell Foundation; Ralph W. and Leona Kern; The Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Family Foundation; and the Wolfensohn Family Foundation.



Additional support is provided by Ardian US Foundation; Sarah Arison; The Barker Welfare Foundation; The Jack Benny Family Foundation; The Edwin Caplin Foundation and Mr. Chretien Risley, Trustee; Epstein Teicher Philanthropies; The Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation; Stella and Charles Guttman Foundation; Mary I. and John E. Hull; Carl Jacobs Foundation; Jephson Educational Trusts; John Morning / Turrell Fund; The Laufey Foundation; The New York Community Trust; Xiaoshan Ren; Sook Family Foundation; Tiger Baron Foundation; The Vidda Foundation; and an anonymous donor.

Programs of the Weill Music Institute take place at Carnegie Hall in the Judith and Burton Resnick Education Wing on the Lily and Edmond J. Safra Education Floors.

Corporate support for the Weill Music Institute is provided by:



Pianos by Steinway & Sons, Artistic Partner of the Weill Music Institute.

Public support is provided by the New York State Department of Veterans Services; and the City of New York through the New York City Council, the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Department of Education, the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, the Administration for Children's Services, and the Health and Hospitals Corporation.

Creative Forces Community Engagement Grants are part of the National Endowment for the Arts' Creative Forces® initiative, in partnership with Mid-America Arts Alliance.



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