

CARNEGIE HALL

Festivals



From the Executive and Artistic Director

Dear Friends,

In February and March 2014, Carnegie Hall salutes Vienna's extraordinary artistic legacy with *Vienna: City of Dreams*, a three-week citywide festival with more than 90 events presented at Carnegie Hall and 23 cultural partner organizations across New York City.

Vienna has long been known as a crucible for creativity, especially in the area of classical music. In particular, the late-19th and 20th centuries in Vienna saw a great flowering of musicians, painters, writers, scientists, filmmakers, the birth of psychoanalysis, and so much more. Among composers, the Second Viennese School emerged at this time, creating a massive fork in the road for 20th-century music. This was a time when this historic cultural capital was not only at the center of Europe geographically, but also intellectually and artistically, and the creative output of this era provides a rich backdrop for much of our festival exploration this season.

The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and Vienna State Opera have long been a central part of the artistic life of their home city. This festival highlights the roles played by these unparalleled cultural institutions as well as Carnegie Hall's longstanding partnership with the orchestra, which has performed more than 100 concerts at the Hall since its debut in 1956—more than any other overseas ensemble. During seven Carnegie Hall performances conducted by four leading conductors—including two rare operas in concert in New York performed by the Vienna State Opera—audiences will have the opportunity to hear the Viennese musicians in a range of core repertoire that reflects their remarkable musical heritage. Complementing these symphonic and operatic performances, Carnegie Hall will also present concerts that feature chamber music, lieder, new music, electronica, and jazz, painting a portrait of musical Vienna.

As in past seasons, Carnegie Hall always seeks to build on its own programming, partnering with other institutions in ways that provide a broad cultural context for our festival themes. With Vienna, we were spoiled for choices. Thanks to our partners, offerings for this festival span film, photography, panel discussions, art exhibitions, literature, and, transporting us back to another era, even a traditional Viennese Opera Ball! Collectively, the programming showcases many facets of Viennese culture, not only its roots, but also how its traditions have continued, resonating today. It promises to be a fascinating three weeks and we look forward to sharing them with you.

With all best wishes,

Clive Gillinson

