

Musical Connections Observation Form

Artist _____

Venue _____

Date _____

Performance Type _____

The questions below are written to encourage thoughtful observation and to spark conversations; it is not necessary to answer each in written detail. These questions will also guide your midyear review meeting with Carnegie Hall staff, and we hope they will also guide your conversations with others. The purpose of observation is to learn from what you see, to reflect on your own work, and to offer feedback to each other. We are all learning how to do this work well.

Artistic Performance

How did you find the overall quality of the performance? What were points of excellence?

How did the musicians offer new kinds of musical experiences to the audience? Was there “stretch” (new genres, new ways of playing and sharing old standards, new ways of asking people to listen and hear, and so on)?



How did the musicians communicate involvement with the music and with one another?

What was the quality of the audience's musical engagement? What specific strategies or qualities of the performance prompted that involvement?

Connection

In what ways did the performers connect with their audience?

- What specific strategies did you observe during informal moments (set up, sound check, wrap, post-performance interactions, and so on)?

- What were the musical invitations during the performance?

How effectively did the performers connect to the musical lives of the different people in their audience (telling stories about their own experiences with the music, selecting repertoire likely to stir feelings or memories, and so on)?

How well did the repertoire choices work for the specific setting and audience?

Environment

How did the artist(s) adapt to the specific environment (shape and size of performance space, quality of sound equipment, rules about how the audience could interact, and so on)?

How did the artist(s) handle unexpected events or interactions with the audience? Were they able to create opportunities where there were obstacles or surprises?

Were there any limitations of the setting that affected the potential for impact? Were there qualities that could have enhanced impact?

Impact

What kinds of impact did you observe on the participants?

What did you notice to be the impact on the artists?

What did you notice to be the impact on the venue staff? What did you notice about their actions and/or involvement during the performance?

Additional Comments

What did you find most surprising?

What did observing teach you about your own work in Musical Connections?