Three-time Grammy Award winner and Benin-born singer Angélique Kidjo brings her intoxicating blend of West African music, American R&B, jazz, and funk to her four-concert Perspectives series throughout Carnegie Hall’s 2019–2020 season.

Ms. Kidjo’s Perspectives charts the journey of African music and its culture throughout the world. It launches in October with a program that features Benin International Musical, a fast-rising band that fuses hip-hop, pop, and electronica with traditional rhythms and sounds from Benin. The series continues in December with a concert dedicated to the powerful voices of the African diaspora from generation to generation and continent to continent, featuring notable singers from around the world. Also in December, Ms. Kidjo is honored by longtime friend and guitarist Lionel Loueke and his trio in a concert that both celebrates and reinvents many of her beloved songs. The series culminates in March with a special concert marking both Ms. Kidjo’s 60th birthday and the anniversary of independence for Benin and 16 other West African countries.

Ms. Kidjo’s performances over the past two decades have thrilled audiences and left an indelible mark on the history of Carnegie Hall. In 2014, she closed Carnegie Hall’s UBUNTU festival with a tribute to singer and activist Miriam Makeba that inspired concertgoers—including Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu—to rise to their feet and sing along. In 2017, former Talking Heads lead singer David Byrne joined Ms. Kidjo on stage for her cover of the band’s hit “Once in a Lifetime” before she led a conga line that made its way throughout Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage. The upcoming series is sure to give audiences more unforgettable moments with performances that feature outstanding guest artists joining together to celebrate one of music’s most vibrant voices.

Angélique Kidjo is one of the greatest artists in international music today. A creative force with 13 albums to her name, TIME magazine has called her “Africa’s premier diva.” The BBC has included her in its list of the continent’s 50 most iconic figures, and, in 2011, The Guardian listed her as one of its “Top 100 Most Inspiring Women in the World.” Forbes magazine has ranked her as the first woman in its list of the “Most Powerful Celebrities in Africa.” She is the recipient of the prestigious 2015 Crystal Award given by the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and the 2016 Amnesty International Ambassador of Conscience Award.

As a performer, Ms. Kidjo’s striking voice, stage presence, and fluency in multiple cultures and languages have won respect from her peers and expanded her following worldwide. She regularly tours globally, performing the high-energy music for which she is known with her four-piece band. For her most recent project—an interpretation of Talking Heads’ classic 1980 album Remain in Light—Ms. Kidjo recorded her version of the album with superstar producer Jeff Bhasker (Kanye West, JAY-Z, Drake, Beyoncé, Bruno Mars, and Taylor Swift), creating thrilling new arrangements of the iconic songs, later bringing the musical extravaganza to concert halls and festivals around the globe, including Carnegie Hall and Bonnaroo for its US festival debut. Among Ms. Kidjo’s other projects, her collaboration with composer Philip Glass, titled Ifé: Three Yorùbá Songs, made its US debut to a sold-out audience with the San Francisco Symphony in June 2015.

Along with her performance schedule, Ms. Kidjo also travels the world advocating on behalf of children in her capacity as a UNICEF Goodwill and Oxfam ambassador. She created her own charitable foundation, Batonga, dedicated to support the education of young girls in Africa.
Saturday, October 19 at 9:30 PM | Zankel

**Benin International Musical**

The next generation of Benin-bred musicians energize and uplift audiences. Their intoxicating mix of voodoo rhythms and traditional songs fused with hip-hop, rock, and electronica have made superstar Angélique Kidjo a fan. Come hear them in their Carnegie Hall debut.

Presented by Carnegie Hall in partnership with Robert Browning Associates LLC.

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Friday, December 6 at 8 PM | Stern/Perelman

**Diaspora Songs**

Artists to be announced

The influence of African music is remarkably wide-ranging. Whether the genre is gospel, blues, jazz, Afro-Cuban, Brazilian, hip-hop, rock, or pop, so much of the music we celebrate today is rooted in the melodies, rhythms, and spirit of Africa. The African continent’s musical reach extends to America and around the world by informing, inspiring, and enlivening all it touches. Curated by Angélique Kidjo, this concert explores the extraordinary impact African music has made on every part of our musical landscape.

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Friday, December 13 at 9 PM | Zankel

**Lionel Loueke Trio**

Lionel Loueke, Vocals and Guitar
Massimo Biolcati, Bass | Ferenc Nemeth, Drums
with Cyro Baptista, Percussion

Jazz icon Herbie Hancock has called Benin-born guitarist Lionel Loueke a “musical painter.” Loueke’s fluid guitar playing—inspired by African and traditional jazz—was one of the highlights of Angélique Kidjo’s sensational *Remain in Light* concert in 2017. Loueke and his trio, along with special guest Brazilian percussion superstar Cyro Baptista, honor Kidjo in a concert that both celebrates and reinvents many of her marvelous songs.

This concert and the Joyce and George T. Wein Shape of Jazz series are made possible by the Joyce and George Wein Foundation in memory of Joyce Wein.

Presented by Carnegie Hall in partnership with Absolutely Live Entertainment LLC.

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Saturday, March 14 at 8 PM | Stern/Perelman

**Angélique Kidjo**

Daughter of Independence

Additional artists to be announced

Few artists command the stage like Grammy Award-winning singer Angélique Kidjo. In this performance, she is joined by a host of stellar guest artists to celebrate the anniversary of independence of her native Benin and other West African nations—not to mention the occasion of her 60th birthday. Her exhilarating music, irresistible charisma, and some exciting surprises make this a concert you do not want to miss.