The resilience of artists and the life-affirming power of music and the arts during times of oppression and tyranny come under the spotlight in Carnegie Hall’s festival Voices of Hope: Artists in Times of Oppression. This festival examines the role of artists during times of injustice and explores the works they felt compelled to create despite—and often because of—appalling circumstances.

With 16 concerts at the Hall that range from orchestral and chamber music to folk music and contemporary jazz, Voices of Hope features music that inspires change and raises the human spirit. In programs created by the Hall’s Weill Music Institute, songwriters of all ages from across New York City explore these themes.

Beyond the Hall, leading cultural and academic organizations extend the scope of the festival through public programming, exhibitions, performances, and events throughout New York City, considering humankind’s capacity for hope, courage, and resistance in the face of the unimaginable.
FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS AT CARNEGIE HALL

Concerts at Carnegie Hall include Rhiannon Giddens and Friends: Songs of Our Native Daughters, which shines new light on African American women’s stories of struggle, resistance, and hope; a program of symphonic works written under dictatorship, including compositions by Shostakovich, Prokofiev, and Casella, performed by the National Symphony Orchestra, led by Gianandrea Noseda; and acclaimed clarinetist Kinan Azmeh, appearing alongside his Cityband, with works written in response to conflicts in his native Syria and in the Middle East.

The echoes of war resonate when Kronos Quartet performs one of its signature pieces, George Crumb’s Black Angels, a searing reaction to the Vietnam War; while Decoda pairs Steve Reich’s Different Trains, recalling episodes from the composer’s childhood and of Jews being transported by railroad to concentration camps in 1940s Europe, with Messiaen’s transcendent Quartet for the End of Time, written while the composer was a prisoner of war.

Vocalist Magos Herrera and the daring Brooklyn Rider join forces to pay homage to the “Dreamers,” poets and songwriters who prevailed during oppressive regimes in Latin America and Spain; and acclaimed chanteuse Ute Lemper offers an evening that highlights the inspiring courage of composers and poets who created music despite the horrors of the ghettos and concentration camps during the Holocaust.

Dendê Macêdo and his band—joined by the music, dance, and martial arts ensemble Ologundê—celebrate Afro-Brazilian culture developed and inspired by African slaves as a way to keep their traditions and cultures alive. Another musical dialogue brought about by conquest, oppression, and conflict—that of the Balkans, and the Roma and Armenian diasporas—is the focus of Bal-Kan: Honey and Blood, Music in the Ottoman Empire, featuring Jordi Savall and his early-music ensemble Hespèrion XXI. Andris Nelsons and the Boston Symphony Orchestra present a concert performance of Shostakovich’s enthralling Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk, the work that would threaten to silence the prolific Russian composer.

Drummer and composer Terri Lyne Carrington blends jazz, indie rock, and hip-hop with her multi-talented sextet Social Science in songs that examine social justice, racial equality, and ongoing sociopolitical concerns, while the Jerusalem Quartet returns to Carnegie Hall with works by three 20th-century masters—Prokofiev, Shostakovich, and Bartók—written in the midst of war, exile, and oppression. Soulful vocalist Aynur brings her unique blend of Kurdish and Western music to Carnegie Hall, revealing the life and suffering of Kurdish people, especially women.

Extraordinary jazz vocalist Somi shares selections from her critically acclaimed recordings and new music written in response to postcolonial African literature. The all-star trio of Evgeny Kissin, Joshua Bell, and Steven Isserlis performs works that reinforce Jewish music and culture, created during times of anti-Semitism; and Samora Pinderhughes leads world-class artists in The Healing Project—the pianist-composer’s new multidisciplinary work that explores the daily realities of violence, incarceration, policing, and detention in US communities.

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Friday, March 12 at 8 PM
Stern/Perelman

**RHIANNON GIDDENS AND FRIENDS: SONGS OF OUR NATIVE DAUGHTERS**

Rhiannon Giddens, Banjo, Fiddle, and Vocals
Amythyst Kiah, Banjo, Guitar, and Vocals
Leyla McCalla, Banjo, Cello, and Vocals
Allison Russell, Banjo, Clarinet, and Vocals

Rhiannon Giddens teams up with kindred banjo players as Our Native Daughters, an extraordinary project whose debut album, Songs of Our Native Daughters, shines new light on African American women’s stories of struggle, resistance, and hope. Drawing from 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-century sources, they reimagine our collective past and create new stories for our time. With unflinching, razor-sharp honesty, they confront frequently sanitized views about America’s history of slavery, racism, and misogyny from a powerful, black female perspective.

Perspectives: Rhiannon Giddens

Saturday, March 13 at 8 PM
Stern/Perelman

**NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Gianandrea Noseda, Music Director and Conductor
Seong-Jin Cho, Piano

PROKOFIEV Selections from War and Peace
SHOSTAKOVICH Piano Concerto No. 1
CASELLA Symphony No. 3

Tuesday, March 16 at 7:30 PM
Zankel

**KINAN AZMEH CITYBAND**

Kinan Azmeh, Clarinet
Additional artists to be announced

Kinan Azmeh Cityband creates spellbinding music by blending classical and jazz with the sounds of Azmeh’s Syrian homeland. His dark-hued clarinet—called “intensely soulful” by The New York Times—is featured in a special program of works written in response to events in Syria, the aftermath of the revolution, and ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, including a world premiere by Azmeh, commissioned by Carnegie Hall.

This concert and the World Views series are presented by Carnegie Hall in partnership with Robert Browning Associates LLC.

Wednesday, March 24 at 7:30 PM
Weill

**DECODA**

STEVE REICH Different Trains
MESSIAEN Quartet for the End of Time

Thursday, March 25 at 7:30 PM
Zankel

**MAGOS HERRERA BROOKLYN RIDER DREAMERS**

Mathias Kunzli, Percussion

Hear the “Dreamers,” artists who kept the hopes of the oppressed alive with their music and poetry. Vocalist Magos Herrera and the always daring Brooklyn Rider perform treasures from the Ibero-American songbook set to texts by such literary giants as Octavio Paz, Federico García Lorca, and others who suffered under repressive regimes. These songs are reimagined in brilliant new arrangements that uplift and inspire.

Wednesday, April 7 at 7:30 PM
Zankel

**UTE LEMPER SONGS FOR ETERNITY**

Gilad Harel, Clarinet
Daniel Hoffman, Violin
Romain Lecoyer, Bass
Vana Gierig, Piano

Experience the inspiring courage of composers and poets who created music despite the horrors of the ghettos and concentration camps during the Holocaust. Acclaimed chanteuse and actress Ute Lemper, accompanied by an instrumental ensemble, performs songs of rebellion, hope, defiance, and life-affirming resilience. Sung in Yiddish and German, these songs offer stark testimony to the best and worst in humanity.
Tuesday, April 13 at 8 PM
Stern/Perelman

JORDI SAVALL: BAL-KAN
HONEY AND BLOOD: MUSIC IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE
Hespérion XXI
Jordi Savall, Music Director, Vielle, and Rebec
Tcha Limberger, Voice and Violin
Amira Međunjanin, Voice
Steiminka Outchikhova-Nedialkova, Voice
Katerina Papadopoulou, Voice

Perspective: Jordi Savall

Wednesday, April 14 at 7 PM
Stern/Perelman

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
SHOSTAKOVICH’S LADY MACBETH OF MTSENSK (concert performance)
Andris Nelsons, Music Director and Conductor
Kristine Opolais, Katerina Ismailova
Brandon Jovanovich, Sergey
Sergei Skorokhodov, Zinovy Ismailov
Vladimir Vanney, Boris Ismailov
Sir Willard White, An Old Convict
Tanglewood Festival Chorus
James Burton, Conductor

This concert is made possible, in part, by an endowment fund for classical music established by S. Donald Sussman in memory of Judith Arron and Robert Shaw.

Saturday, May 22 at 9 PM
Zankel

SOMI
POSTCOLONIAL THEORY
Herve Samb, Guitar | Toru Dodo, Piano
Ben Williams, Bass | Nate Smith, Drums
Additional artists to be announced
Influenced by her Ugandan and Rwandan heritage, Somi’s elegant amalgam of jazz and African music hits with an emotional punch and delights with purity. In an evening commissioned by Carnegie Hall, this talented songstress shares selections from her critically acclaimed recordings and new music written in response to postcolonial African literature.

This concert and the Joyce and George T. Wein Shape of Jazz series are made possible by the Joyce and George West Foundation in memory of Joyce Wein.
Presented by Carnegie Hall in partnership with Absolutely Live Entertainment LLC.

Saturday, May 8 at 9 PM
Zankel

SOMI
HONEY AND BLOOD: MUSIC IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE
Hespérion XXI
Jordi Savall, Music Director, Vielle, and Rebec
Tcha Limberger, Voice and Violin
Amira Međunjanin, Voice
Steiminka Outchikhova-Nedialkova, Voice
Katerina Papadopoulou, Voice

Perspective: Jordi Savall

Wednesday, April 28 at 7:30 PM
Zankel

AYNUR
Additional artists to be announced
Aynur blends Kurdish and Western music to reveal the life and suffering of Kurdish people, especially women. Drawing upon nearly 300 years of cultural history, she brings a freshness to this beautiful music. Yo-Yo Ma said, “To hear Aynur’s voice is to hear the transformation of all the layers of human joy and suffering into one sound. It reaches so deep into our soul!”

This concert and the Joyce and George T. Wein Shape of Jazz series are made possible by the Joyce and George West Foundation in memory of Joyce Wein.
Presented by Carnegie Hall in partnership with Absolutely Live Entertainment LLC.

Saturday, April 27 at 8 PM
Zankel

TERRI LYNE CARRINGTON AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
Terri Lyne Carrington, Drums
Aaron Parks, Piano
Matthew Stevens, Guitar
Morgan Guerin, Bass and Saxophone
Debo Ray, Vocals
Kassa Overall, MC and DJ

Grammy Award winner, drummer, and composer Terri Lyne Carrington blends jazz, indie rock, and hip-hop with her multi-talented sextet Social Science. This eclectic and energetic mix fuels the intense discours on her latest album, Waiting Game. Taking on such topics as social justice, racial equality, mass incarceration, and ongoing sociopolitical concerns, Carrington and Social Science inspire and elevate a deep regard for humanity and freedom.

This concert and the Joyce and George T. Wein Shape of Jazz series are made possible by the Joyce and George West Foundation in memory of Joyce Wein.
Presented by Carnegie Hall in partnership with Absolutely Live Entertainment LLC.

Thursday, April 14 at 7 PM
Zankel

THE HEALING PROJECT
Pianist-composer Samora Pinderhughes leads world-class musicians, composers, poets, and others in a new multidisciplinary work that explores the daily realities of violence, incarceration, policing, and detention in US communities. Combining musical compositions with audio interviews and raw testimonials, The Healing Project is an artistic celebration of resilience, healing, and resistance. Making its world premiere, The Healing Project is co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall, and produced by Anna Davis-Smith and Glenn Ligon.

This concert and the Joyce and George T. Wein Shape of Jazz series are made possible by the Joyce and George West Foundation in memory of Joyce Wein.
Presented by Carnegie Hall in partnership with Absolutely Live Entertainment LLC.

Friday, May 27 at 9:30 PM
Zankel

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The Voices of Hope festival extends across New York City through events at prestigious partner organizations, including exhibitions, performances, talks, film screenings, and more to further explore how the arts have been used as a tool for activism, resistance, solidarity, and hope.

List of festival partner organizations as of January 2020. A complete schedule of events will be announced in the coming months.

CARNegieHALL.org/VOICESOFHOPE

Carnegie Hall subscription packages, including Voices of Hope festival performances, are currently available. Single tickets for all Carnegie Hall events go on sale to subscribers and members on August 10, and to the general public on August 19. Please note that tickets for partner presentations will only be made available through the box office of each specific partner.

For more information and updates, visit carnegiehall.org/VoicesOfHope or call CarnegieCharge at 212-247-7800.