

CARNEGIE HALL Weill Music Institute

News Release

CARNEGIE HALL'S WEILL MUSIC INSTITUTE CONTINUES TO SERVE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN NEW YORK CITY AND BEYOND, WITH INNOVATIVE ONLINE AND IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING OFFERED THROUGHOUT 2021-2022 SEASON

WMI's education and social impact programs engage nearly 800,000 people at Carnegie Hall, in New York City, and worldwide, including educators, families, aspiring artists, partners, and community members, tapping the power of music to make a difference in people's lives

(For Immediate Release: June 8, 2021, NEW YORK)—After more than a year of engaging with families, students, and teachers through digital platforms, Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute (WMI) today announced a wide range of in-person and online music education and social impact programs to be offered throughout the Hall's 2021–2022 season.

WMI's innovative programs—most offered at low or no cost to participants—connect hundreds of thousands of people each year with creative musical experiences, including many that feature collaborations with some of the world's greatest artists. Serving nearly 800,000 people in the coming season and nurturing musical talent at all levels, WMI's offerings inspire people to explore their own creativity—introducing students and audiences of all ages to music, encouraging musical learning and play within families, training and supporting aspiring artists and educators, and harnessing the power of music to make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Among the highlights of the coming season:

- **Family Concerts** and **Family Days** will bring children, parents, and caregivers with little ones into the Hall for performances spanning a variety of musical genres and hands-on activities that promote creativity, connection, and play, beginning in January 2022.
- Workshops and master classes for professional young artists on the rise will restart in person, with legendary soprano **Renée Fleming** returning in January 2022 to lead **SongStudio**, a program for young vocalists and collaborative pianists that is designed to renew and refresh the presentation and experience of the vocal recital.
- As part of Carnegie Hall's citywide *Afrofuturism* festival, New Yorkers of all ages will showcase their original music and art in a special concert in the Hall's Resnick Education Wing in spring 2022, inspired by this cultural movement that looks to the future by imagining alternative realities through a Black cultural lens. Leading artists will join the songwriters for a vibrant celebration of New York City's voices. Throughout the season, the theme of *Afrofuturism* will guide exploration in WMI's education and social impact programs.

In response to the global pandemic, WMI shifted the majority of its extensive programs to online formats to meet the needs of its community. As we re-open Carnegie Hall's Resnick Education Wing, **expanded digital programming** continues this season to help people stay engaged in making music and exploring their creativity, both in the classroom and independently.

New York City K-12 educators will use the Hall's videos and curricula to continue robust musical programming. Workshops will bring together teachers locally and nationally for community building and professional development, as they share best practices and navigate teaching music online together. Public-facing videos and activities—available for free via carnegiehall.org—will help families with young children create moments of joy, connection, and creativity. Carnegie Hall has seen a significant increase in audiences accessing both its new and longstanding musical learning materials and programs.

"For many years, the Hall has served hundreds of thousands of students and educators across the country and around the world through its specially created, dynamic music education curricula and learning experiences," said **Clive Gillinson**, Carnegie Hall's Executive and Artistic Director. "Since the onset of the pandemic, Carnegie Hall has redoubled its ever-expanding commitment to bringing these programs online, leveraging our resources and technology to make nearly all of the materials available everywhere for free, helping to make music an everyday part of people's lives around the world. WMI's programs play an integral role in delivering on Carnegie Hall's mission of making music accessible to the broadest audience possible. We will be thrilled to welcome our audiences back into the Hall for live music-making and learning, and to continue to serve and engage our international community online this season and beyond."

"We believe in the power of music, its ability to connect us, to challenge us, and to inspire us. Access to high-quality tools and opportunities is vital, and WMI programs enable communities in New York City and around the globe to have enriching musical experiences," said **Sarah Johnson**, Chief Education Officer and Director of Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute. "We are thankful to collaborate and partner with an amazing group of educators and artists who help us to reach and connect with hundreds of thousands of people around the world each season. The last year and a half has been a testament to the meaningful benefits of great music; to help share our voices with the world, to give us comfort, hope, to support resiliency, and to connect us across all walks of life."

SELECT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

♦ Carnegie Hall's Acclaimed National Youth Ensembles Convene In-Person This Summer 2021

Prior to the start of the 2021-2022 season, Carnegie Hall's three celebrated national youth ensembles—the **National Youth Orchestra of the United States** (NYO-USA), **NYO2**, and **NYO Jazz**—return in-person for summer 2021, inviting America's finest teen instrumentalists to come together for intensive training and performances with the world's finest artists. As national ensembles, these programs include a broad range of musicians that reflect the exceptional talent and diversity of the United States.

This July, more than 200 of the finest teen musicians from across the country will gather at Purchase College, State University of New York (SUNY) for a three-week residency—marking the first time since the pandemic began that many of the young players will come together to play with their peers in large ensembles. They will engage in meaningful mentorship and musical activities including private lessons, master classes, and performances, led by an all-star faculty made up of principal players from top American orchestras and esteemed jazz artists. Conductor **Carlos Miguel Prieto** will lead NYO-USA and **Mei-Ann Chen** returns to lead NYO2, a sister ensemble for younger teens. Artistic Director and Bandleader **Sean Jones** returns for the fourth year to lead NYO Jazz. A free culminating concert showcasing each ensemble will stream on July 24 on the Hall's website, Facebook, and YouTube channels for audiences at home.

Throughout the training residency, all three national youth ensembles will play a range of repertoire, including new works written specifically for them and will create digital performances. Up-and-coming composer **Molly Joyce** has been charged with writing the first-ever commission for NYO2. NYO Jazz musicians will record a full-length studio album, exploring the power of music to foster joy and resiliency, and featuring a new Carnegie Hall commissioned piece by **Igmar Thomas** as well as prior annual Carnegie Hall commissions since the group's inception in 2018, among other works.

♦ Engaging Opportunities for Parents and Children to Connect Through Music

Programming for families continues to expand in the 2021-2022 season, with exciting opportunities for connection and creativity both in-person and online. **Musical Explorers Family Concerts**—which invite families with elementary schoolchildren for interactive performances that celebrate music from diverse cultures around the world—will be presented in early 2022. **Family Days** will return to the Resnick Education Wing, offering a wide array of interactive musical experiences sure to create long-lasting memories. **Big Note, Little Note**, a music class for New York City families, offers a range of experiences for caregivers to engage with their babies through musical play, singing, and more. The program—online this fall and presented in live settings next year—is offered at no cost, and is centered around community supporting family well-being, early childhood development, and parent-child connection. A virtual version of Carnegie Hall's popular **Lullaby Project**, which pairs parents and parents-to-be with professional artists to write personal lullabies for their children, will be made available publicly again this year. More than 100 families wrote lullabies over Zoom with teaching artists in the 2020-2021 season, expanding the footprint of Lullaby even further as the project has connected people across the country and the world.

Parents and caretakers with little ones at home searching for high-quality, creative activities to keep children engaged have a plethora of free online resources from which they can select. In recent months, Carnegie Hall launched an expanded family resource webpage, filled with activities that promote musical learning and play with children, including adaptations of the Hall's popular **Link Up** and **Musical Explorers** programs. A sing-along video series—*Sing with Carnegie Hall*—covers a range of topics and features teaching artist Emily Eagen and lively guest artists who introduce music from around the globe to encourage connection, well-being, and creativity. Original music from *Camille's Rainbow*—a joyful, immersive new early childhood performance that explores a magical world of color—is featured in a new video series that introduces families to the music and themes of the live performance.

Carnegie Hall will continue to develop a range of high-quality digital resources next season—including videos and new podcasts—to encourage creativity and connection for families, children, and educators around the country.

♦ Carnegie Hall Supports and Inspires Teachers Everywhere

Over the past decade, Carnegie Hall has been committed to supporting its national community of educators who bring the best in music to their classrooms every day. The Hall recognizes the toll of the sudden shift to remote learning and has provided tools to ease the burden over the past two seasons. In the 2021-22 season, **Music Educators Workshop**, which brings together teachers who work in schools and communities with K-12 students, will continue to meet monthly and be a vital space for teachers to recognize their shared experiences and receive support, community, and professional growth. The summer program returns online this season, bringing together 250 educators from around the country for online professional development and deep inquiry about how to integrate music from multiple cultures into music classrooms. The Hall's Music Educators Facebook group has created an ever-expanding community of nearly 2,800 teachers who connect through daily engagement to share ideas and resources. **Musical Explorers** and **Link Up**, Carnegie Hall's classroom curriculums for elementary schoolchildren, continue to expand with digital platforms that provide teachers with free online resources, including lesson plans, artist-led videos, and virtual concert experiences.

♦ Treasure Trove of Video Resources for K-12 Offer New Opportunities for Musical Learning

Carnegie Hall's online resource hub provides families, teachers, and young musicians with endless resources and tools to make music-making a part of one's daily life. Specifically addressing the needs of New York City students during the pandemic, having seen the widening gap in arts education, the Hall partnered with the NYC Department of Education Office of Arts and Special Projects and the New York Community Trust to create direct-to-student remote musical learning materials to serve K-12 teachers and students. For grades K-5, WMI provides materials to connect students to **Musical Explorers**, a program which highlights New York City's rich and diverse musical community and builds fundamental music skills through listening, singing, and dancing to songs from all over the world. This is the first time that activities from the curriculum have been adapted for older students, giving teachers more opportunities to integrate culturally responsive curricula into their classrooms.

Teens have access to step-by-step instructional videos on digital music production and songwriting led by teaching artists. These materials are relevant and creative and support teens as they learn the basics of musical creativity as they learn to write music that truly speaks to students' ideas and emotions. These video resources for teens, along with those for grades K-5 students, are available for everyone on Carnegie Hall's website.

♦ Encouraging Creativity in Aspiring Musicians and Teens

Carnegie Hall continues to provide opportunities for teens and musicians on the rise to sharpen their skills and engage creatively with their peers. **SongStudio**—led by soprano **Renée Fleming**—will bring together pairs of aspiring young singers and pianists in January 2022 for workshops, master classes, and discussions with leading musicians from around the globe.

NeON Arts, in partnership with the New York City Department of Probation which previously offered programs in NYC neighborhoods, shifted to an all-digital format beginning in spring 2020 to serve more teens than ever before through a wide range of creative workshops, including music production, documentary filmmaking, visual arts, and more. Throughout this summer and fall, NeON Arts will have expanded programming, offering funding for young people to complete creative beautification projects in New York City neighborhoods.

In partnership with the Administration for Children's Services, youth who are justice-involved create and learn about music through instruction, curriculum, and videos led by teaching artists through **Future Music Project. Youth Truth**—which facilitates open discussions, builds social justice awareness, and encourages young people to use the creative arts as a vehicle to prompt change—provides space for teens to discuss what matters most to them.

♦ Carnegie Hall Harnesses the Power of Music in Justice Settings

For more than a decade, Carnegie Hall's programs in justice settings have played 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.

Music-making continues at Sing Sing Correctional Facility this fall through **Musical Connections**, with men corresponding with Carnegie Hall teaching artists through the mail to share new music and develop artistic skills in lieu of in-person visits. Plans for the 2021-2022 season include resuming in-person workshops and offering four concerts featuring workshop participants, guest artists and program teaching artists, as well as a continuation of the learning and mentoring work through correspondence. The Musical Connections advisory committee—composed of men who have returned home who meet regularly for support and music-making—continues to grow and meet monthly.

In the coming season, Carnegie Hall continues its work in justice settings with state and city agencies, including through **CreativityWorksNYS**, **Future Music Project**, a new partnership with the American Prison Data Systems (APDS), and **NeON Arts**, exploring how the arts can be a powerful tool for self-expression and justice reform.

♦ WMI Continues to Build New Partnerships in the US and Across the Globe

Carnegie Hall teams up with a growing number of partners each season—including local, national, and international organizations, as well as government agencies—to exponentially expand the reach of its work and share resources, creating networks dedicated to the power of music. WMI has more than 150 partners in 45 US States. In addition, WMI programming is offered through partner organizations in 23 countries on 6 continents.

Carnegie Hall's **Lullaby Project** enables more than 40 national and international partner organizations to support families in their own communities, including work with partners in Europe, South America, Asia, and Oceania. Through partnerships with 120 orchestras, approximately half a million elementary school

students and teachers take part in Carnegie Hall's **Link Up** program with partnerships spanning the United States as well as internationally in New Zealand, Canada, China, Japan, Kenya, and Spain. Carnegie Hall supports young instrumentalists across the country through **PlayUSA**, providing funding and professional development to 20 local music programs, including those for whom opportunities to engage in instrumental music instruction are limited by socioeconomic, geographic, or other factors.

For more than five years, Carnegie Hall has also partnered with New York City's Department of Probation on **NeON Arts**, a highly-praised initiative that facilitates free arts programming for people of all ages in probation centers in seven neighborhoods throughout New York City.

Additional details regarding WMI programs for teachers, students, families, aspiring musicians, partners, and more will be announced in fall 2021.

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For more information and videos exploring Weill Music Institute programs, visit carnegiehall.org/education.