

# CARNEGIE HALL

2021–2022 Season

The 2021–2022 Richard and Barbara Debs Composer's Chair

## Julia Wolfe

Julia Wolfe is holder of the Richard and Barbara Debs Composer's Chair at Carnegie Hall for the 2021–2022 season. The Pulitzer Prize winner creates music that has been described as emotionally charged, viscerally powerful, and socially aware. As a composer, Ms. Wolfe responds to the world around her, bringing unsung histories to life in riveting musical tableaux, with a focus on the multifaceted history of the American worker. Whether she is recasting a classic folk ballad or unleashing an orchestral evocation of a factory filled with sewing machines, Ms. Wolfe's music invites concertgoers on a journey of powerful discoveries.

At the center of Ms. Wolfe's residency are three evenings of her seminal works in Zankel Hall. In March, *Steel Hammer*—her retelling of the “John Henry” classic, based on hearsay, recollection, and tall tales, and a 2014 Pulitzer Prize finalist—illuminates the timeless legend of human versus machine. The work features Bang on a Can All-Stars, with vocalists Rebecca L. Hargrove, Sonya Headlam, and Molly Netter. In an evening of all strings the following month, Ms. Wolfe's evocative tone poem *Cruel Sister* follows a haunting Scottish story of the love-rivalry between sisters. Performed by Ensemble Signal and directed by Brad Lubman, the concert includes *Weather One* by Michael Gordon, who has been central in Wolfe's artistic life, as well as her *With a blue dress on* for five singing violinists and featuring violinist Tessa Lark. In May, Ms. Wolfe's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Anthracite Fields* draws on oral histories, interviews, speeches, and more to honor the people who persevered and endured in the Pennsylvania Anthracite coal region. The work will be performed by Bang on a Can All-Stars and The Choir of Trinity Wall Street under the direction of Julian Wachner, with projection and scenic design by Jeff Sugg. Before her in-person concerts, Ms. Wolfe's residency kicks off online with the film premiere of *Oxygen*, a rapid-fire flute duodecet written during this past year of isolation.

As one of the co-founders and co-artistic directors of the Bang on a Can new-music collective, Ms. Wolfe has championed the work of innovative composers worldwide. As part of Carnegie Hall Citywide in spring 2022, the new-music marching band Asphalt Orchestra will perform world premieres by first-time



Peter Seiling

Carnegie Hall-commissioned composers Leila Adu, Jeffrey Brooks, and Kendall Williams. In addition, Ms. Wolfe collaborates on the curation of new and recent works for the dynamic Ensemble Connect.

An internationally celebrated composer, **Julia Wolfe** was the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize in 2015 and was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2016. The New York Philharmonic recently premiered her *Fire in my mouth*, a large-scale work for orchestra and women's chorus, continuing her interest in American labor history with the subject of women in New York's garment industry at the turn of the century. Ms. Wolfe's *Her Story* will tackle the subject of women and equality, scheduled to be premiered by a consortium of orchestras with women's chamber choir Lorelei in the 2022–2023 season.

Date to be announced

## Oxygen

Online Film Premiere

Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 PM | Zankel

## Steel Hammer

Bang on a Can All-Stars

with **Rebecca L. Hargrove**, **Sonya Headlam**,  
and **Molly Netter**, Vocalists

Wednesday, April 13 at 7:30 PM | Zankel

## Cruel Sister

Ensemble Signal

**Brad Lubman**, Music Director and Conductor

**Tessa Lark**, Violin

MICHAEL GORDON *Weather One*

JULIA WOLFE *With a blue dress on*

JULIA WOLFE *Cruel Sister*

Monday, May 2 at 7:30 PM | Resnick Education Wing

## Ensemble Connect

Program curated by Julia Wolfe and Ensemble Connect

Thursday, May 19 at 7:30 PM | Zankel

## Anthracite Fields

Bang on a Can All-Stars

The Choir of Trinity Wall Street

**Julian Wachner**, Director

**Jeff Sugg**, Scenography and Projection Design

Spring 2022

## Carnegie Hall Citywide: Asphalt Orchestra

Program to include new works by Leila Adu, Jeffrey Brooks, and  
Kendall Williams (world premieres, commissioned by Carnegie Hall)



Richard Termine

Anthracite Fields