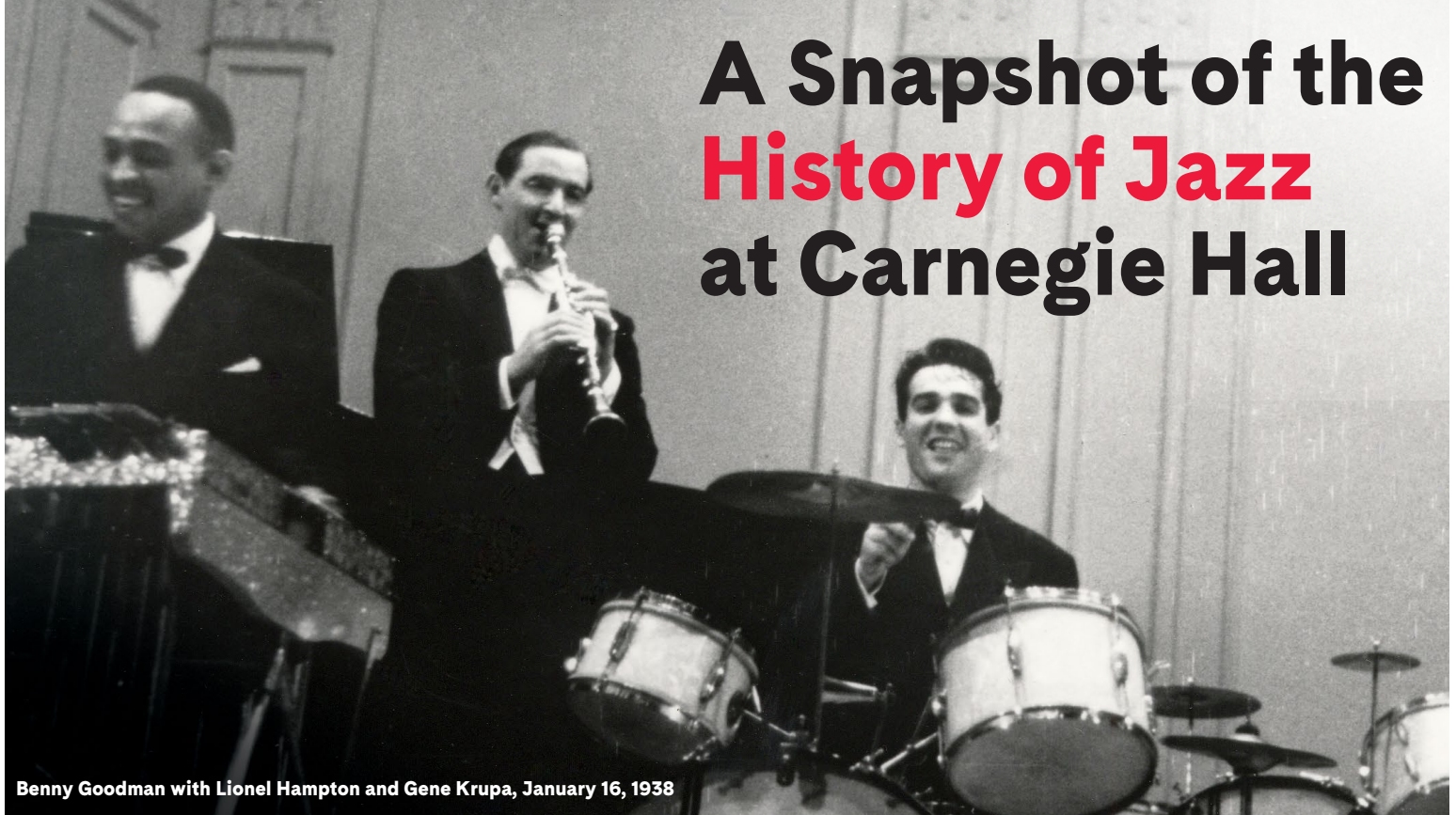


CARNEGIE HALL



Benny Goodman with Lionel Hampton and Gene Krupa, January 16, 1938

A Snapshot of the History of Jazz at Carnegie Hall

Carnegie Hall has a rich and storied history of landmark concerts performed by a who's who of jazz artists. Since the early 20th century, nearly 1,500 jazz events—including historic debuts, tributes, and best-selling live concert recordings—have taken place at the Hall. This timeline reflects select highlights from a vibrant history of once-in-a-lifetime musical events.

Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute has presented numerous jazz concerts and creative learning projects that feature professional artists performing alongside young musicians. In 2018, Carnegie Hall launched NYO Jazz to showcase the next generation of America's most outstanding young jazz musicians. NYO Jazz's debut album, *We're Still Here*—featuring artistic director Sean Jones, special guest Melissa Aldana, and Wycliffe Gordon—was released by Platoon on June 24, 2022.

May 2, 1912

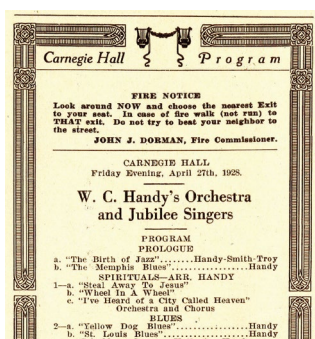
Clef Club Orchestra

James Reese Europe and his Clef Club Orchestra brought jazz in its earliest form to Carnegie Hall with a "Concert of Negro Music." This enormous all-African American orchestra included banjos, mandolins, and guitars, and exclusively performed music composed by African Americans.

April 27, 1928

W. C. Handy's Orchestra and Jubilee Singers

W. C. Handy's Carnegie Hall debut marked the first true jazz concert at the Hall, featuring J. Rosamond Johnson and Fats Waller. Handy—"Father of the Blues"—presented music by African American composers, spirituals, and his own compositions, such as "St. Louis Blues."



January 16, 1938

Benny Goodman and His Orchestra

This landmark debut concert was one of the first times that a racially integrated group performed on a major concert stage in the US. It was also one of the first events for which people purchased tickets to listen to swing music and not dance. The brightest jazz luminaries of the day performed, including Count Basie in his Carnegie Hall debut, plus Lionel Hampton, Gene Krupa, Lester Young, and others. Eighty years later, the live recording of this performance continues to be one of the best-selling jazz albums of all time.

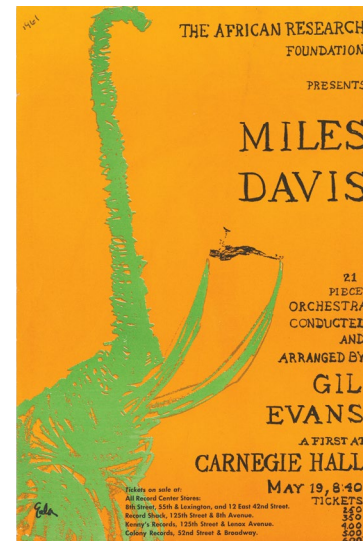
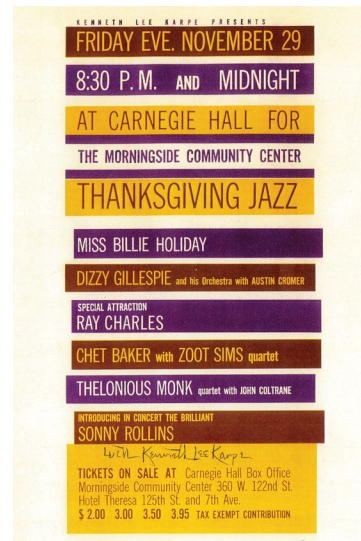
January 14, 1942

Fats Waller

One of the greatest jazz pianists and organists of his time, the legendary Fats Waller composed more than 400 songs, including "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "Honeysuckle Rose." He appeared at Carnegie Hall three times before his early death at the age of 39.



Hot Lips Page and Fats Waller



January 23, 1943 Duke Ellington and His Orchestra

Duke Ellington's symphonic work *Black, Brown and Beige* received its New York premiere at this performance. He returned to the Hall nearly 40 times over a 30-year period, giving premiere performances of a "New World A-Comin'," *the Liberian Suite*, *Perfume Suite*, and "A Tonal Group."

June 3, 1946 Jazz at the Philharmonic

This concert was the first of the many *Jazz at the Philharmonic* concerts produced by the legendary Norman Granz at Carnegie Hall. He would present 38 jazz concerts at the Hall between 1946 and 1967. Guest artists included Coleman Hawkins, Illinois Jacquet, Sarah Vaughan, Buddy Rich, and Oscar Peterson.

February 8, 1947 Louis Armstrong

Louis Armstrong had already appeared twice at Carnegie Hall (in 1938 and 1939), but this event marked his debut as a headliner with his orchestra. Armstrong's program was structured as a retrospective, arranged into four sections that traced the geography of his music career: New Orleans, Chicago, New York, and Hollywood.

September 29, 1947 Dizzy Gillespie, Ella Fitzgerald, and Charlie Parker

Bebop came to Carnegie Hall for the first time when Dizzy Gillespie and Ella Fitzgerald made their Carnegie Hall debuts before a sold-out house. The event also marked the Carnegie Hall debut of Chano Pozo, a major influence in Latin jazz. Charlie Parker also joined Gillespie for a rare reunion of their groundbreaking quintet.

March 27, 1948 Billie Holiday

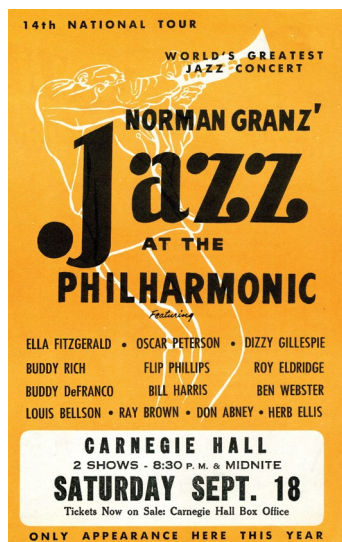
Just 10 days out of jail, Billie Holiday made a triumphant comeback with this performance after nearly a year without performing in public. A small notice in the *Daily News*—"One Night Stand. Carnegie Hall. Billie Holiday."—caused an instant sellout, and several hundred additional seats were added.

November 29, 1957 Thanksgiving Jazz at Carnegie Hall

Two events, at 8:30 PM and midnight, marked one of the most historic jazz events in Carnegie Hall's history. In addition to featuring Dizzy Gillespie, Billie Holiday, and Chet Baker, with Thelonious Monk and His Quartet performing with John Coltrane, the event billed Ray Charles as a "special attraction" and "introduced" Sonny Rollins. Blue Note Records released a portion of the concert in 2005; it was a hit and instant classic.

May 19, 1961 Miles Davis and Gil Evans

Miles Davis first appeared at Carnegie Hall in a 1949 concert of the "Stars of Modern Jazz." Davis's 1961 concert with Gil Evans, one of the greatest jazz orchestrators and arrangers, featured Davis's quintet and a 21-piece orchestra conducted by Evans. The pairing of Davis and Evans produced some of the most cherished jazz albums of the 1950s and early 1960s, including a prized live recording of this famous concert.





45rpm recording sleeve of “Mississippi Goddam.”
Recorded live at Carnegie Hall, 1964.

March 21, 1964

Nina Simone

Nina Simone made her Carnegie Hall debut with Miriam Makeba in 1961. Simone shocked the audience at her concert on March 21, 1964, when she sang “Mississippi Goddam,” which she had debuted two weeks earlier at the Village Gate in Greenwich Village.

July 1, 1972

Newport Jazz Festival at Carnegie Hall

The Stan Getz Quartet, Modern Jazz Quartet, and Pharoah Sanders Sextet performed the first in a series of Newport Jazz Festival concerts at Carnegie Hall. This concert also marked the first event produced by famed jazz impresario George Wein, who would go on to produce nearly 500 jazz concerts at Carnegie Hall.

April 17, 1977

Mary Lou Williams and Cecil Taylor

Mary Lou Williams, one of the greatest jazz pianists and composers, teamed up with pianist Cecil Taylor to produce this concert in a rare pairing of traditional and avant-garde jazz that immediately sold out the Hall.

June 28, 1978

Paquito D’Rivera, Arturo Sandoval, and Chucho Valdés

Saxophonist Paquito D’Rivera, trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, and bandleader-pianist Chucho Valdés made their Carnegie Hall debuts at this concert, with Valdés’s band Irakere making an unexpected appearance, and Maynard Ferguson and Stan Getz joining in for a jam session. The live recording of the concert went on to win a Grammy Award for Best Latin Recording.

April 28, 1991

Carnegie Hall Jazz Band and Jon Faddis

Led by trumpeter Jon Faddis, the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band made its Carnegie Hall debut as part of the Hall’s centennial festivities, featuring Dizzy Gillespie as guest soloist. From 1992 to 2002, the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band performed more than 40 concerts produced by George Wein, with more than 70 guest artists who included James Moody, Wynton Marsalis, Joshua Redman, and Diana Krall.

September 23, 2003

Global Encounters Extension!: South African Sounds

Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute used distance technology to livestream simultaneous concerts for students in Johannesburg and New York City. The celebrated Hugh Masekela and his band performed in South Africa, collaborating with the Boys and Girls Choir of Harlem and special guests who performed in the newly opened Zankel Hall. Masekela has performed at the Hall many times, including a 2014 concert with singer-songwriter Vusi Mahlasela, part of the Hall’s citywide festival *UBUNTU: Music and Arts of South Africa*.

October 18, 2008

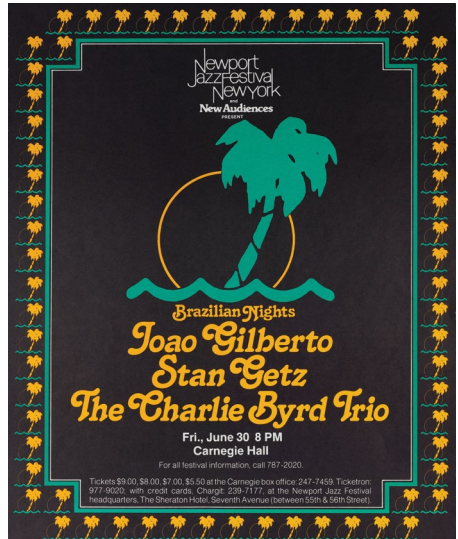
Keith Jarrett, Gary Peacock, and Jack DeJohnette: The 25th Anniversary Concert

The all-star trio of pianist Keith Jarrett, bassist Gary Peacock, and drummer Jack DeJohnette celebrated its 25th anniversary with a US tour that included this Carnegie Hall concert.



Global Encounters Extension!: South African Sounds featuring Hugh Masekela

Chris Lee





Mark Corike

Brad Mehldau

March 11, 2011
Brad Mehldau and Friends:
Piano Power

Brad Mehldau—the first jazz musician to hold Carnegie Hall’s Richard and Barbara Debs Composer’s Chair—concluded his season-long residency with “Piano Power,” which featured world premieres co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall.



Stephanie Berger

Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea

April 9, 2015
Chick Corea and
Herbie Hancock

Legendary jazz pianists Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea—two artists who shared more than 40 years of professional and personal history—reunited at Carnegie Hall for a rare and intimate duo performance.

July 27, 2018
NYO Jazz

Carnegie Hall’s national youth jazz orchestra, NYO Jazz—featuring outstanding young American jazz musicians selected from across the US—made its Carnegie Hall debut led by Sean Jones with iconic jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves as special guest, followed by the ensemble’s historic first-ever international tour.



Jennifer Taylor

Artemis

December 7, 2019
Artemis

Jazz supergroup Artemis made its Carnegie Hall debut in Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage in 2019. Each renowned for her outstanding solo work, these powerhouse musicians included Cécile McLorin Salvant, Renee Rosnes, Anat Cohen, Melissa Aldana, Ingrid Jensen, Noriko Ueda, and Allison Miller.

February 19, 2022
Jon Batiste:
STREAMS

Oscar winner and 2021–2022 Carnegie Hall Perspectives artist Jon Batiste gave an entirely improvised solo recital that showcased his artistic philosophy of “social music”: bringing music back to its roots within community, defying genre constructs, and performing live as a spiritual practice.

March 9, 2024
Jason Moran:
James Reese Europe and the
Harlem Hellfighters:
From the Dancehall
to the Battlefield

Jazz pianist Jason Moran celebrated the groundbreaking James Reese Europe, who brought the first taste of jazz to Carnegie Hall in 1912 and to France during WWI with his Harlem Hellfighters.



Todd Rosenberg

Dianne Reeves and Sean Jones with NYO Jazz



Stephanie Berger

Jon Batiste