

CARNEGIE HALL



A Snapshot of the History of Latin Artists at Carnegie Hall

Gilberto Gil

Carnegie Hall boasts a rich history of extraordinary Latin artists who have showcased their talents through performances and live recordings, demonstrating the vital role Latin music has played in shaping the cultural fabric of the United States. This timeline reflects select highlights from groundbreaking, once-in-a-lifetime concerts at the storied venue, including events presented by the Hall's Weill Music Institute.

Since Carnegie Hall's doors first opened in 1891, it has become an international platform for artists of all genres. Latin jazz and classical music found a home here—as did mambo, bossa nova, salsa, and more—representing the complexity and diversity of Latin music and showcasing the intersection of the Americas, Europe, Africa, and the Indigenous worlds. The scope of

classical and non-classical Latin artists who have appeared at the Hall ranges from Chilean pianist Claudio Arrau, Argentine-born pianist-conductor Daniel Barenboim, Puerto Rican singer-songwriter Ricky Martin, and Venezuelan composer-pianist Gabriela Montero to Cuban maestro Gilberto Valdés and singer Celia Cruz, Brazilian composer-pianist-guitarist Antônio Carlos Jobim, and Mexican singer-songwriter Natalia Lafourcade, among many others.



Natalia Lafourcade

The citywide *Voices from Latin America* festival in the Hall's 2012–2013 season celebrated Latin American music and arts—specifically from Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, and Venezuela—and their influence on the world. Curated by four iconic musicians—composer Osvaldo Golijov (holder of the 2012–2013 Richard and Barbara Debs Composer's Chair), singer-songwriter Gilberto Gil, jazz pianist and composer Chucho Valdés, and conductor Gustavo Dudamel—the festival presented more than 70 events that encompassed music, dance, film, photography, and visual arts at Carnegie Hall and a dozen partner institutions.

Throughout Carnegie Hall's 2024–2025 season, the *Nuestros sonidos* festival celebrates the vibrant music, richly diverse traditions, and enormous influence of Latin culture in the United States, including contributions from the Caribbean, with more than 16 concerts across all three performance venues. Events at the Hall feature musical styles that range from salsa, bachata, and Latin jazz to reggaeton, hip-hop, *música mexicana*, classical, and more. Additional free concerts presented through Carnegie Hall Citywide, a free Family Day open house in the Hall's Resnick Education Wing, Well-Being Concerts, and online events and exclusive content streaming on Carnegie Hall+ round out the Hall's programming. The festival also features two new works by Gabriela Ortiz, holder of the Hall's 2024–2025 Debs Composer's Chair. In spring 2025, the celebration further extends to include public events hosted by leading partner institutions across New York City and beyond, offering an expansive exploration that includes visual art exhibitions, dance performances, film screenings, and more.



Teresa Carreño

January 8, 1897

Teresa Carreño

Venezuelan pianist, singer, and composer Teresa Carreño—a one-time student of Anton Rubinstein—made her Carnegie Hall debut with the New York Philharmonic and appeared at the Hall 30 additional times before her death in 1917.

December 16, 1916

Guiomar Novaes

Brazilian pianist Guiomar Novaes made her Carnegie Hall debut on this day, performing with the New York Symphony Orchestra. She appeared at the Hall nearly 50 times with such conductors as Wilhelm Furtwängler, George Szell, and Leonard Bernstein.

October 20, 1923

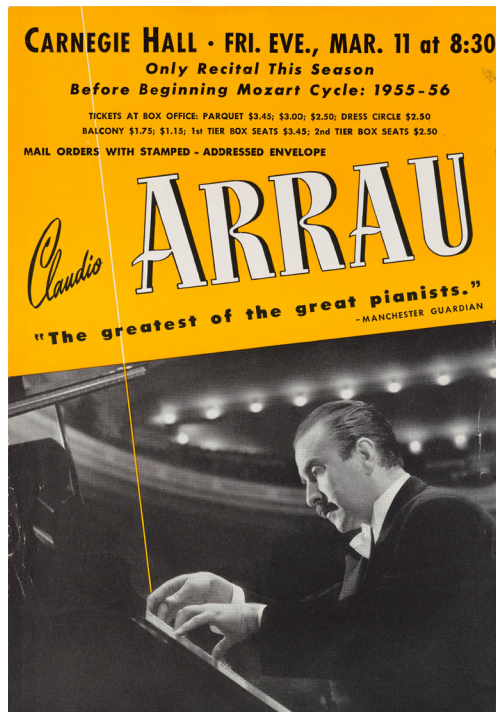
Claudio Arrau

Chilean pianist Claudio Arrau made his American debut at Carnegie Hall in 1923 at the age of 20. He was considered one of the greatest pianists of the 20th century, performing nearly 70 more times at the Hall before 1987.

April 16, 1936

Bidú Sayão

Brazilian soprano Bidú Sayão made her Carnegie Hall debut with the New York Philharmonic under the baton of Arturo Toscanini and alongside mezzo-soprano Rose Bampton. The favorite singer of composer Heitor Villa-Lobos, Sayão was a mainstay at the Metropolitan Opera from 1937 to 1952 and appeared at Carnegie Hall 15 times before her retirement in 1959.



Claudio Arrau

February 11, 1937

Carlos Chávez

One of Mexico's most important composers, Carlos Chávez made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1937, and returned to conduct 12 additional performances.

February 8, 1945

Heitor Villa-Lobos

Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos made his Carnegie Hall debut on February 8, 1945, conducting the New York Philharmonic in the US premiere of his *Chôros* No. 9 as well as *Chôros* No. 8. Artur Rodziński, music director of the New York Philharmonic, conducted the rest of the program and took it upon himself to reply to a patron who was displeased with the inclusion of the Villa-Lobos works.

September 29, 1947

Chano Pozo

Cuban percussionist and singer Chano Pozo—the first in a long line of Latin percussionists in Dizzy Gillespie's bands—made his Carnegie Hall debut during an event that also marked the Carnegie Hall feature debuts of Gillespie and Ella Fitzgerald. The event became widely regarded as a landmark in the emergence of Latin jazz.

October 29, 1947

Inés Gómez Carrillo

Known as a champion of Argentine composers, Argentinian pianist and composer Inés Gómez Carrillo gave the US premiere of Carlos Guastavino's *Sonatina in G Minor* during her final recital at Carnegie Hall in 1947.



Celia Cruz

February 20, 1954

Gilberto Valdés

At the peak of the 1950s mambo craze, Cuban composer and conductor Gilberto Valdés headlined an event that marked the first mambo concert at Carnegie Hall, featuring Tito Puente and Arsenio Rodríguez (who claimed to have created the mambo). The performance also introduced the cha-cha-chá, a new dance invented the year before by Enrique Jorrín.

January 20, 1957

Daniel Barenboim

Argentine-born pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim made his Carnegie Hall debut at the age of 14 with the Symphony of the Air conducted by Leopold Stokowski.

November 21, 1962

Antônio Carlos Jobim, João Gilberto, and Sérgio Mendes

Brazilians Antônio Carlos Jobim, João Gilberto, and Sérgio Mendes made their Carnegie Hall debuts as part of the first bossa nova concert in the United States. They were joined by 27 other artists, creating one of the most famous concerts and live albums in the Hall's history.

September 27, 1963

Celia Cruz

Cuban-born "Queen of Salsa" Celia Cruz made her Carnegie Hall debut in 1963. She went on to perform at the Hall 11 more times before her final appearance on November 13, 2000.

March 20, 1964

Pedro Vargas

Mexican singer and actor Pedro Vargas, known as the "Nightingale of the Americas," made his Carnegie Hall debut, which was recorded and released as *Pedro Vargas en Carnegie Hall*.



Album cover of *Getz/Gilberto #2*

October 9, 1964

João Gilberto

Following the huge success of their smash hit “The Girl from Ipanema,” Brazilian musician João Gilberto and American jazz artist Stan Getz came together to perform at Carnegie Hall on October 9, 1964. The live recording of the concert was released as *Getz/Gilberto #2*.

March 29, 1973

Hommy

The Latin opera *Hommy* received its world premiere at Carnegie Hall on March 29, 1973. Written by American salsa performer and producer Larry Harlow, the original cast featured some of the greatest Latin jazz musicians, including Celia Cruz, Cheo Feliciano, Adalberto Santiago, Justo Betancourt, and Pete “El Conde” Rodríguez.

February 20, 1974

Martha Argerich

Argentine pianist Martha Argerich made her Carnegie Hall debut with the Minnesota Orchestra on February 20, 1974, in a performance of Ravel’s Piano Concerto in G Major. She has since performed at the Hall numerous times as soloist and in recital.

May 24, 1976

Astor Piazzolla

Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla brought tango to Carnegie Hall with his only appearance at the Hall on May 24, 1976. He studied composition with Alberto Ginastera and Nadia Boulanger, who was initially unimpressed with his classical compositions and asked if he wrote anything else. “I write tangos,” he replied, to which she asked him to play some for her. After several minutes, she stopped him to remark, “This is Piazzolla, never leave it.” The “King of the Tango” never did.



Rubén Blades

June 28, 1978

Paquito D’Rivera, Arturo Sandoval, and Chucho Valdés

Cuban saxophonist Paquito D’Rivera, trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, and bandleader-pianist Chucho Valdés made their Carnegie Hall debuts with Valdés’s band Irakere. Their performance was recorded by CBS and won a Grammy Award for Best Latin Recording the following year.

March 29 and 30, 1985

Antônio Carlos Jobim

Brazilian composer, pianist, and guitarist Antônio Carlos Jobim made his first appearance in the United States in more than 20 years with two performances at Carnegie Hall. The composer of “The Girl from Ipanema” sold out both shows and appeared at the Hall four more times before his death in 1994.

October 26, 1985

Rubén Blades

Panamanian singer Rubén Blades, who was at the center of the New York salsa revolution in the 1970s, made his Carnegie Hall debut on October 26, 1985. The salsa icon has since performed at the Hall on several occasions.

October 15, 1987

Mercedes Sosa

Argentine singer Mercedes Sosa, known as “La Negra,” made her Carnegie Hall debut on October 15, 1987. She was the most prominent and respected folk singer from Latin America of her day. As she sang for human rights and against injustice, many considered her the voice of millions of Latin Americans.



Mercedes Sosa

June 1, 1989

Sonora Matancera 65th Anniversary Celebration

Yayo El Indio, Welfo, Albertico Perez, Jorge Maldonado, Roberto Torres, Vicentico Valdés, Carlos Argentino, Celio González, Alberto Beltrán, Nelson Pinedo, Leo Marini, Daniel Santos, Celia Cruz, and other Latin performers celebrated Sonora Matancera’s 65th anniversary, resulting in the double-album recording *Live! From Carnegie Hall*.

February 6, 1994

American Composers Orchestra’s Sonidos de las Americas: Mexico

As part of the American Composers Orchestra’s *Sonidos de las Americas: Mexico* festival, this concert featured US premieres by composers Federico Ibarra, Mario Lavista, and Marcela Rodríguez. The festival series, which took place at the Hall through 1999, placed the spotlight on important Latin composers and performers each year, also including those from Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela.

March 23, 1995

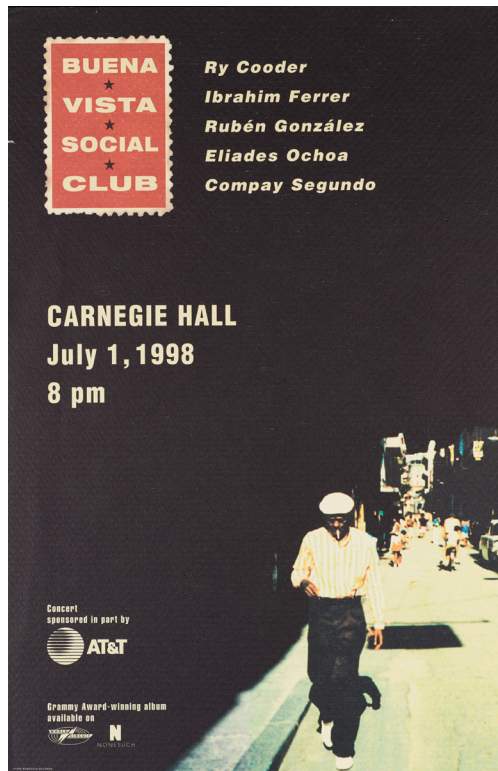
Gilberto Santa Rosa

Puerto Rican singer and bandleader Gilberto Santa Rosa, nicknamed “El Caballero de la Salsa,” made his debut at Carnegie Hall headlining the Gilberto Santa Rosa Orchestra and guest soloists.

November 13, 1997

Gloria Estefan

Cuban-born singer Gloria Estefan made her Carnegie Hall debut, performing with the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band on November 13, 1997.



Buena Vista Social Club



Gustavo Dudamel with the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela



Gregorio Uribe



Tania León (left)

July 1, 1998

Buena Vista Social Club

Members of Cuba's legendary Buena Vista Social Club made their Carnegie Hall debuts on July 1, 1998, later the subject of the award-winning documentary by Wim Wenders. Featured artists included Ibrahim Ferrer, Omara Portuondo, Rubén González, Compay Segundo, Manuel "Guajiro" Mirabal, Barbarito Torres, and Jesus Ramos. In 2008, their Carnegie Hall recording was released.

April 14–18, 2004

Caetano Veloso

Brazilian vocalist Caetano Veloso curated a Carnegie Hall Perspectives series in April 2004 that included singers Mart'nália, Virginia Rodrigues, and David Byrne.

November 11, 2007

Gustavo Dudamel

Venezuelan-born conductor Gustavo Dudamel, a product of his country's renowned El Sistema social-action education program, made his Carnegie Hall debut conducting the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela on November 11, 2007. He has since performed at the Hall with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Vienna Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra. He leads the Los Angeles Philharmonic in three concerts in October 2024 as part of the *Nuestros sonidos* festival, including Carnegie Hall's Opening Night Gala.

November 18, 2009

Milton Nascimento

Twenty-five years after the great Brazilian singer-songwriter Milton Nascimento made his Carnegie Hall debut on June 3, 1984, he returned with his band, featuring pianist Kiko Continentino, lead guitarist Wilson Lopes, bassist Gastão Villeroy, and drummer Lincoln Cheib.

November 30, 2012

Yoruba Andabo

As part of Carnegie Hall's *Voices from Latin America* festival, the legendary folkloric group Yoruba Andabo presented an evening of Cuban rumba in Zankel Hall.

December 4, 2012

Egberto Gismonti, Danilo Pérez, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, and Chucho Valdés

Legendary pianists Egberto Gismonti, Danilo Pérez, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, and Chucho Valdés performed as part of Carnegie Hall's citywide festival *Voices from Latin America*.

September 24, 2017

Fall Family Day: Rhythms of Latin America

Children and families celebrated the rhythms of Latin America in the Resnick Education Wing during the musical open house that encouraged people to sing, dance, build instruments, and more.

July 30, 2019

Carlos Miguel Prieto, Gabriela Montero, and Paquito D'Rivera with NYO2

Mexican conductor Carlos Miguel Prieto led Carnegie Hall's NYO2 in a concert that featured Venezuelan composer-pianist Gabriela Montero performing her own Piano Concerto No. 1, "Latin." Paquito D'Rivera also joined as special guest.

January 16, 2020

Gregorio Uribe

Colombian singer, songwriter, accordionist, and big-band leader Gregorio Uribe performed a Musical Explorers concert for thousands of New York City schoolchildren. Since 2008, the vibrant, interactive Musical Explorers concerts have introduced children to diverse musical genres, including Latin music that ranges from *bomba*, *plena*, and *son jarocho* to Argentine folk and samba. Through the program's digital platform, students in classrooms across the US and worldwide have access to artist-led videos and digital concert experiences filmed live at Carnegie Hall.

October 14, 2022

São Paulo Symphony Orchestra

The São Paulo Symphony Orchestra, led by Marin Alsop, made its Carnegie Hall debut with a program that included works by illustrious 20th-century Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos: his *Prelúdio* from *Bachianas brasileiras* No. 4; *Harmonica Concerto*, featuring Brazilian harmonica player José Staneck; and *Chôros* No. 10 with the Sao Paulo Symphony Choir. Alsop and the orchestra returned the following evening for a multimedia event, "The Amazon Concert: Sights and Sounds of Brazil," to celebrate the Amazonian rainforest.

October 27, 2022

Natalia Lafourcade

Internationally beloved Mexican singer and composer Natalia Lafourcade made her Carnegie Hall debut performing a sold-out concert that featured the first-ever live performances of music from her new album and timeless songs that have earned her universal adoration. She appears as special guest with Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic in October 2024 as part of the Hall's *Nuestros sonidos* festival.

July 7, 2023

Arturo O'Farrill

Arturo O'Farrill performed with his Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra in Bryant Park as part of the Carnegie Hall Citywide summer concerts series, breaking attendance records at the park.

March 18, 2024

Tania León and Ensemble Connect

Holder of Carnegie Hall's 2023–2024 season Debs Composer's Chair, Tania León and members of Ensemble Connect co-curated an Up Close concert that featured music written by contemporary composers, including León and Paquito D'Rivera, in the Resnick Educating Wing.

To learn more about Carnegie Hall's *Nuestros sonidos* festival in the 2024–2025 season, visit carnegiehall.org/NuestrosSonidos.