Many legendary jazz artists have performed at Carnegie Hall. Early jazz music was first heard at Carnegie Hall in 1912 as part of a concert of African American music by James Reese Europe's Clef Club Orchestra. This performance foreshadowed many stellar evenings that featured jazz greats who include Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, W. C. Handy, Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Billie Holiday, Dizzy Gillespie, Ella Fitzgerald, Charlie Parker, Oscar Peterson, Sarah Vaughan, Gerry Mulligan, Mel Tormé, Miles Davis, and John Coltrane. The 1938 concert by Benny Goodman and his band—one of the most celebrated events in Carnegie Hall's history—marked a turning point in the acceptance of swing music.

**Ella Fitzgerald**

“This is the place that made me legitimate. Coming here [to Carnegie Hall] makes me feel like I am coming home. There's just a feeling I get singing here that I don't get anywhere else.” Ella Fitzgerald's headline debut at Carnegie Hall was as part of a concert that included two other giants of jazz—Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker. Between 1947 and 1991, the “First Lady of Song” went on to perform multiple times.

**Leonard Bernstein**

“I can't live one day without hearing music, playing it, studying it, or thinking about it.” Between 1943 and 1990, Leonard Bernstein appeared at Carnegie Hall nearly 450 times as a conductor, pianist, composer, and educator—including for the famous televised Young People's Concerts.

**Louis Armstrong**

“We all do ‘do, re, mi,’ but you have got to find the other notes yourself.” Trumpet stylist and singer Louis Armstrong made his debut at Carnegie Hall with the Paul Whiteman Orchestra in 1938, and as a headliner for the first time in 1947.

**Duke Ellington**

“There are simply two kinds of music: good music and the other kind ...” By the time he made his wartime Carnegie Hall debut on January 23, 1943, Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington was already a star. The success of his debut and his new approach to jazz composition led to Ellington's series of annual Carnegie Hall concerts, on which he always premiered at least one new work.
Carnegie Hall is one of the most important and historic concert halls in the world. A man named Andrew Carnegie made it possible to build this famous music hall. Since opening in 1891, thousands of classical musicians and composers have performed here, but Carnegie Hall’s audiences have also heard swing, jazz, rock, pop, and hip-hop performances by musicians from all over the world!

In addition, Carnegie Hall wasn’t just used for concerts. Many important meetings and public speeches took place here. Carnegie Hall hosted American women during their campaign for the right to vote, and many famous leaders and public figures—including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dr. Maya Angelou, and 13 US presidents—have made speeches here.

The main hall, named Isaac Stern Auditorium / Ronald O. Perelman Stage, has 2,804 seats.

During the 1950s, Carnegie Hall was almost demolished by people who wanted to build a skyscraper where Carnegie Hall stands. A famous violinist named Isaac Stern believed in saving Carnegie Hall and found lots of other people who believed in it, too. They worked together to raise enough money to save Carnegie Hall, and in 1964, it was turned into a national landmark. Isaac Stern and Carnegie Hall can teach us a great lesson about believing in a cause and working hard for it.