# **CARNEGIE HALL**

Isaac Stern Auditorium/ Ronald O. Perelman Stage

# JUNE 22-23, 2026

# NASTERIS Orchestra Invitational





I am not interested in having an orchestra sound like itself. I want it to sound like the composer.

-Leonard Bernstein





Ludwig Van Beethoven once wrote that, "To play a wrong note is insignificant, but to play without passion is inexcusable." In a sense, the same can be said of the music Beethoven composed, as well as his fellow prominent contemporaries, Franz Joseph Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Collectively, every note these composers penned produced such rich, passionate music that they became known as the "First Viennese School" of music composers – the originators of a new art music that defined what is now known as the Classical Era of Western music.

In 2026, as part of the celebration of the 250th birthday of America, Music Celebrations International is thrilled to present the Viennese Masters Orchestra Invitational. This special event offers a unique opportunity for orchestras to perform the works of iconic European and American composers on the world's premier concert stage – the Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall. The 250th birthday of America honors not only the founding of the nation but also the rich cultural history that has shaped America's identity. Through this lens, we recognize the profound influence of Classical music on American culture and its enduring legacy in the nation's artistic and educational traditions.

As we commemorate the historic 250th birthday of America, we reflect on the countless ways music has played a pivotal role in the development of American society. From the early days of the United States, when European music laid the foundation for American composers and musicians, to the contemporary orchestral landscape that has shaped the very art form that continues to inspire and unite us today. Four auditioned orchestras will be featured in this prestigious performance at Carnegie Hall.

In addition to the Carnegie Hall performance, ensembles will have a private clinic with Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts. Together, we celebrate not only the cultural contributions of European composers but also the rich American musical heritage that continues to be an integral part of America's artistic expression in its 250th year.

### SAMPLE TOUR 3 Nights / 4 Days

Day One: Sunday, June 21, 2026

- Afternoon arrival in New York City
- Meet your MCI Tour Manager for an orientation tour of the city
- Sightseeing and NYC orientation tour may include Midtown, 5th Avenue, Rockefeller Center, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Radio City Music Hall, NBC Studio store, Grand Central Terminal, United Nations Building, 42nd Street Deco architecture
- Check-in to the (Manhattan) hotel
- Evening dinner at a local restaurant
- Continue sightseeing including the Lincoln Center, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Evening sightseeing includes a trip to the top of the Empire State Building or Top of the Rock for a night view of the Big Apple
- Check-in to the (New Jersey) hotel for overnight

#### Day Two: Monday, June 22

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Morning sightseeing includes a 1-hr narrated NYC Harbor Cruise
- Continue sightseeing of Central Park, Strawberry Fields, Bethesda Fountain, Lincoln Center, and Time Warner Building
- Lunch, on own
- Private clinic with Helen H. Cha-Pyo
- Tour the Lower Manhattan sights of Battery Park, Wall Street, Trinity Church, the Federal Building, Winter Garden, and 9/11 Memorial (pending availability and advance reservation, Museum is additional cost and requires minimum two hours and has strong content), Chinatown, Little Italy, and Greenwich Village, as time allows
- Evening dinner at a Times Square area restaurant
- Optional: Attend a Broadway Play/Musical (additional cost)
- Return to the hotel for overnight

#### Day Three: Tuesday, June 23

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Tour the Upper Westside including the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Harlem, Apollo Theatre, Grant's Tomb, and Columbia University
- Lunch, on own
- Morning sound check and rehearsal at Carnegie Hall
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Viennese Masters Invitational Performance in Carnegie Hall
- Return to the hotel for overnight

#### Day Four: Wednesday, June 24

- Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
- Morning sightseeing may include the High Line elevated park along the Hudson River with public art and gardens, Brooklyn Bridge walk, Greenwich Village, or Macy's shopping
- Afternoon departure for home

















## Capital Orchestra Festival

#### Washington, DC | February 16, 2026 Historically held in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Music Celebrations International is pleased to present the annual Capital Orchestra Festival, an exclusive musical event held over President's Day Weekend historically held in the Concert Hall at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Four select orchestras will be featured in performance at this historic concert venue. Each orchestra will also take part in a clinic with a renowned conductor and clinician.

## Boston Instrumental Festival

#### Boston, Massachusetts | March 28-29, 2026 Symphony Hall

Music Celebrations International presents the Boston Instrumental Festival taking place March 28-29, 2026 in the iconic Boston Symphony Hall. Few cities in the United States rival the historical and musical significance of Boston. From its celebrated symbols of patriotism to its undiscovered neighborhoods, the sights and sounds of the nation's revolutionary birthplace inspire millions of visitors every year. Packed with famous sights, free attractions, and an endless calendar of special events, Boston offers year-round inspiring experiences.

## Crescendo to Cremona Orchestra Series

#### Cremona, Italy | Summer 2026

Music Celebrations International in cooperation with the Cremona City Council and Chamber of Commerce welcome you and your ensemble to perform in the Crescendo to Cremona Orchestra Series. The Orchestra Series will be part of the prestigious twoweeks long Cremona Music Festival. Two or more select orchestras will be featured in performance in this historic city which is filled with musical history and craft. All participating orchestras are selected by application process through Music Celebrations.

## SUMMA CUM LAUDE

#### Vienna | July 3-8, 2026 Musikverein, Wiener Konzerthaus

250 CONCER

A Musical Commemoration of America's Independence

The Summa Cum Laude Festival in Vienna is Austria's premier global youth music festival for choirs, bands and orchestras. Taking place every July in Vienna's two main classical concert venues, the Golden Hall of the Musikverein and the Konzerthaus, it offers an international environment where a thousand young musicians enjoy intercultural exchanges and build bridges that span continents.





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