CARNEGIE HALL FESTIVALS

FALL OF THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

Dancing on the Precipice

A Citywide Festival | January–May 2024

FALL OF THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

Dancing on the Precipice

The centerpiece of Carnegie Hall's 2023–2024 season is a powerful exploration of one of the most complex and consequential chapters in modern human history: Germany's Weimar Republic of 1919–1933.

Even with a progressive new constitution and the adoption of democracy, Germany emerged from World War I into a period of overwhelming economic hardship, social inequality and unrest, political polarization, and extremism. These challenges paved the way for the opportunistic rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party, ultimately leading to the outbreak of World War II and the horrific devastation and genocide that followed.

Yet despite the turmoil and upheaval of the Weimar period, the arts and culture flourished as artists sought bold and innovative avenues for creative expression and sociopolitical commentary. At the same time, a thriving and decadent nightlife provided desperately needed escapism from the struggles of daily life, becoming an essential part of the social fabric.

At Carnegie Hall, audiences are invited to embark upon a thought-provoking journey through artistic movements in classical music, jazz, cabaret, opera, art song, and more as we investigate the forces that led to the fall of the Weimar Republic—and the many lessons about the fragility of democracy that can be gleaned from its extraordinary collapse.

Highlights at Carnegie Hall include esteemed conductor and Perspectives artist **Franz Welser-Möst** leading the renowned **Vienna Philharmonic** and **The Cleveland Orchestra**; the **Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra** under the baton of **Sir Simon Rattle**; **Ensemble Modern**, led by **HK Gruber**, in a program that showcases the Weimar Republic's urgent blend of desperate defiance and vast artistic possibility; and superstar German crooner **Max Raabe** and his **Palast Orchester**—known worldwide as one of the leading ensembles of music from the Weimar Republic era.

Celebrated jazz pianist **Jason Moran** presents his acclaimed meditation on the life and legacy of James Reese Europe, who created the band of WWI's African American 369th infantry regiment (Harlem Hellfighters) and helped popularize jazz throughout France. In addition, an immersive three-concert cabaret series features acclaimed chanteuse and actress **Ute Lemper**, who explores the music of Weimar Berlin and the many artists exiled from it; postmodern cabaret sensation **Meow Meow**—who blends performance art, cabaret, comedy, and pop culture—in *Sequins and Satire, Divas and Disruptors: The Wild Women of the Weimar Republic*; and New York City's own vintage jazz favorites **The Hot Sardines** with special guest **Alan Cumming**.

This exploration of the Weimar Republic extends beyond Carnegie Hall through public programming and events at various cultural and academic institutions to highlight different facets of this creatively daring, intellectually curious, and artistically innovative period in history.

Support for the *Fall of the Weimar Republic* festival is provided by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation.

Cover art: *Der Totentonz* by Matthew Hancock, 2023 (commissioned by Carnegie Hall). Photo: Welser-Möst by Chris Lee.

Franz Welser-Möst with The Cleveland Orchestra

Carnegie Hall Events

The Weimar Republic was one of the most exhilarating periods in music history, a time of enormous artistic experimentation, innovation, and a proliferation of different styles. From Neue Sachlichkeit, expressionism, and 12-tone composition, to the increasing influence of jazz and novel approaches to modern musical theater, the breadth of music from this era is highlighted in 27 concerts across the Hall's three performance venues.

Saturday, January 20 at 8 PM | Stern/Perelman

The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, Music Director and Conductor

KRENEK Little Symphony

G. MAHLER Adagio from Symphony No. 10 (completed by Krenek)

BARTÓK String Quartet No. 3 (arr. for string orchestra); Suite from *The Miraculous Mandarin*

Perspectives: Franz Welser-Möst

Sunday, January 21 at 2 PM | Stern/Perelman

The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, Music Director and Conductor

PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 2

WEBERN Symphony, Op. 21

PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 5

Perspectives: Franz Welser-Möst

Monday, January 22 at 7:30 PM | Weill

The Met Orchestra Chamber Ensemble

The Golden Twenties

WEILL *Little Threepenny Music*

HINDEMITH *Overture to the Flying Dutchman as Played by Bad Spa Orchestra at 7 AM by the Well*; Kammermusik No. 1, Op. 24

J. STRAUSS JR. *Kaiser-Walzer* and *Rosen aus dem Süden* (arr. Schoenberg)

This concert is supported by the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc.

Tuesday, January 23 at 8 PM | Stern/Perelman

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Music Director and Conductor

Marcus Roberts Trio

STRAVINSKY *Pétrouchka* (1947 version)

WEILL Symphony No. 2

GERSHWIN *Rhapsody in Blue*

This concert is supported by the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc.

Monday, January 29 at 8 PM
Stern/Perelman

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Andris Nelsons, Music Director and Conductor
Seong-Jin Cho, Piano

TANIA LEÓN New Work (NY Premiere)
RAVEL Piano Concerto for the Left Hand
STRAVINSKY *The Rite of Spring*

Tania León is holder of the 2023–2024 Richard and Barbara Debs Composer's Chair at Carnegie Hall.

Thursday, February 1 at 8 PM
Stern/Perelman

The Met Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Music Director and Conductor
Lise Davidsen, Soprano

WEBERN Fuga (Ricercata) a 6 voci from J. S. Bach's *Musical Offering*, BWV 1079
WAGNER *Wesendonck Lieder*
G. MAHLER Symphony No. 5

Monday, February 12 at 8 PM
Stern/Perelman

National Symphony Orchestra

Gianandrea Noseda, Music Director and Conductor
James Ehnes, Violin

BERG Selections from *Lyric Suite*
KORNGOLD Violin Concerto
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3, "Eroica"

Lotte Lenya and Kurt Weill (1929)

Thursday, February 15 at 7:30 PM
Zankel

Soloists of the Kronberg Academy

Tabea Zimmermann, Viola

BRAHMS Clarinet Trio
HINDEMITH String Quartet No. 4, Op. 22
KORNGOLD Piano Quintet, Op. 15

Tuesday, February 27 at 8 PM
Stern/Perelman

Carmina Burana

Orchestra of St. Luke's

Tito Muñoz, Conductor
Ying Fang, Soprano
Nicholas Phan, Tenor
Norman Garrett, Baritone
Westminster Symphonic Choir
James Jordan, Director
Young People's Chorus of New York City
Francisco J. Núñez, Artistic Director

ORFF *Carmina Burana*

Thursday, February 29 at 7:30 PM
Zankel

The Knights

Colin Jacobsen, Artistic Director and Violin
Eric Jacobsen, Artistic Director and Conductor
Wu Man, Pipa
Christina Courtin, Vocals
with Special Guest
Magos Herrera, Vocals

RAVEL *Le tombeau de Couperin*
DU YUN New Work for Pipa and Orchestra (NY Premiere, co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall)
WEILL Symphony No. 1, "Berliner Symphonie"
BOB DYLAN "When the Ship Comes In" (arr. Christina Courtin)
WEILL/BRECHT "Alabama Song" (arr. Christina Courtin)
CHICO BUARQUE "Geni e o Zepelim" (arr. Colin Jacobsen)

This concert is supported by the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc.

Friday, March 1 at 8 PM | Stern/Perelman

Vienna Philharmonic

Franz Welser-Möst, Conductor

BRUCKNER Symphony No. 9
BERG Three Pieces for Orchestra, Op. 6

Perspectives: Franz Welser-Möst

Major support for this concert is provided by the Audrey Love Charitable Foundation.

Photos: Lenya and Weill by Gerty Simon, Courtesy of the Weill-Lenya Research Center, Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, New York; Lemper by Guido Harari; Meow Meow by Karl Giant; Cumming by Francis Hills; The Hot Sardines by Joseph Cultice.

Ute Lemper

Meow Meow

Alan Cumming

Weimar Underground

Friday, February 9 at 7:30 PM
Zankel

Ute Lemper

Weimar Berlin and After the Exodus

With her dramatic flair and bitingly sharp satire, actress and chanteuse Ute Lemper explores the music of Weimar Berlin and the many artists exiled from it. Enjoy her indelible take on music by Hollaender, Weill, Brecht, Schiffer, Spoliansky, and more.

Part of Zankel Hall Center Stage.

This concert is supported by the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc.

Saturday, March 23 at 7:30 PM
Zankel

Meow Meow

Sequins and Satire, Divas and Disruptors: The Wild Women of the Weimar Republic

Meow Meow is a postmodern cabaret "phenomenon ... an international siren, a comedienne extraordinaire, and a creator of beautiful mayhem" (*Broadway World*). In her salute to the Weimar Republic's notable "wild women," Meow Meow channels the era's urgent blend of art, entertainment, and winking social commentary.

This concert is supported by the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc.

Friday, April 19 at 7:30 PM
Zankel

The Hot Sardines

with Special Guest **Alan Cumming**

The Hot Sardines are irreverent, swinging, early-jazz specialists. With the help of Alan Cumming, they invoke 1920s Berlin, where cabarets thrummed with American jazz that represented liberation and modernity to some, and a threat—cultural, racial, and sexual—to others.

The Hot Sardines

Jason Moran

HK Gruber

Photos: Moran by Clay Patrick McBride, Gruber by Jon Super, Raabe by Gregor Hohenberg

Saturday, March 2 at 8 PM | Stern/Perelman

Vienna Philharmonic

Franz Welser-Möst, Conductor

HINDEMITH Konzertmusik für Blasorchester, Op. 41
R. STRAUSS Suite from *Die Frau ohne Schatten*
SCHOENBERG Variations for Orchestra, Op. 31
RAVEL *La valse*

Perspectives: Franz Welser-Möst

Major support for this concert is provided by the Audrey Love Charitable Foundation.

Sunday, March 3 at 2 PM | Stern/Perelman

Vienna Philharmonic

Franz Welser-Möst, Conductor

G. MAHLER Symphony No. 9

Perspectives: Franz Welser-Möst

Major support for this concert is provided by the Audrey Love Charitable Foundation.

Tuesday, March 5 at 7:30 PM | Weill

Justin Austin, Baritone
Howard Watkins, Piano

Songs by Weill/Brecht and others

This concert is supported by the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc.

Thursday, March 7 at 8 PM | Stern/Perelman

Igor Levit, Piano

G. MAHLER Adagio from Symphony No. 10 (arr. R. Stevenson)
HINDEMITH Suite "1922"
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3, "Eroica" (arr. Liszt)

Saturday, March 9 at 9 PM | Zankel

Jason Moran, Piano

James Reese Europe and the Harlem Hellfighters: From the Dancehall to the Battlefield

The Big Bandwagon

Jason Moran celebrates 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.

Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30 PM | Zankel

American Composers Orchestra

America in Weimar: On the Margins

Rei Hotoda, Conductor
Chrystal E. Williams, Mezzo-Soprano
Felipe Hostins, Accordion
Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, Narrator

ANTHEIL *Jazz Symphony*
JEROD IMPICHCHAACHAAHA' TATE *Lowak Shoppala'–Clans* (NY Premiere)
JOHN GLOVER New Work for Mezzo-Soprano and Orchestra (World Premiere)
ELLINGTON "Solitude" and "Sophisticated Lady" (arr. Gould)
TONIA KO New Work (World Premiere, co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall)
WEILL "My Ship" from *Lady in the Dark*

This concert is supported by the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc.

Saturday, March 16 at 8 PM | Stern/Perelman

Orchestre de Paris

Klaus Mäkelä, Music Director and Conductor

ALL-STRAVINSKY PROGRAM
The Firebird
The Rite of Spring

Thursday, March 21 at 7:30 PM | Stern/Perelman

Max Raabe & Palast Orchester

Making their anticipated return to Carnegie Hall, Max Raabe and his Palast Orchester big band give a mischievous, modern edge to hits by Weimar-era composers. Experience the razor-sharp wit and glamour of 1920s and '30s German cabaret and swing with a cool, contemporary twist.

This concert is supported by the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc.

Tuesday, April 9 at 7:30 PM | Weill

Ensemble Connect

Program to include
BERG *Lyric Suite*

Friday, April 12 at 7:30 PM | Zankel

Ensemble Modern

HK Gruber, Conductor
Wallis Giunta, Mezzo-Soprano
amarcord, Vocal Ensemble

HINDEMITH Kammermusik No. 1, Op. 24
KORNGOLD *Much Ado About Nothing* Suite
SCHOENBERG *Accompaniment to a Cinematographic Scene* (arr. Johannes Schöllhorn)
WEILL *The Seven Deadly Sins* (text by Bertolt Brecht; version for 15 players by HK Gruber and Christian Muthspiel)

This concert is supported by the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc.

Max Raabe & Palast Orchester

Sunday, April 21 at 2 PM | Stern/Perelman

Emanuel Ax, Piano

BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 8 in C Minor, Op. 13, "Pathétique"
SCHOENBERG Three Piano Pieces, Op. 11
BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 2 in A Major, Op. 2, No. 2
WEBERN Variations, Op. 27
SCHOENBERG Six Little Piano Pieces, Op. 19
BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 23 in F Minor, Op. 57, "Appassionata"

Wednesday, April 24 at 8 PM | Stern/Perelman

Bamberg Symphony

Jakub Hrůša, Chief Conductor
Hélène Grimaud, Piano

WAGNER Prelude to *Lohengrin*
BRAHMS Symphony No. 3
R. SCHUMANN Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 54
WAGNER Overture to *Tannhäuser*

Thursday, May 2 at 8 PM | Stern/Perelman

Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra

Sir Simon Rattle, Chief Conductor
Lester Lynch, Baritone

HINDEMITH *Ragtime (Well-Tempered)*
ZEMLINSKY *Symphonische Gesänge*
G. MAHLER Symphony No. 6

Sponsored by KPMG LLP

Partner Organizations

Fall of the Weimar Republic: Dancing on the Precipice extends beyond Carnegie Hall and across New York City through events at prestigious partner organizations—including music, exhibitions, lectures, film screenings, digital offerings, and more—to highlight different facets of this creatively daring, intellectually curious, and artistically innovative period in history.

American Composers Orchestra
Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership
Jazzmobile
The Juilliard School
Keyes Art Projects
Leo Baeck Institute—New York | Berlin
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Museum of Modern Art
National Queer Theater
Neue Galerie New York
The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
Orchestra of St. Luke's
Read650
WQXR
Yiddish Book Center
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

The list of partner organizations is as of February 2023; a complete schedule of partner events will be announced in the coming months.

carnegiehall.org/weimar

Carnegie Hall subscription packages that include performances as part of *Fall of the Weimar Republic: Dancing on the Precipice* are currently available.

Single tickets for all Carnegie Hall events go on sale to subscribers and members on August 14, and to the general public on August 21. Please note that tickets for presentations at partner organizations will only be made available through the box office of each specific venue. For more information and updates, visit **carnegiehall.org/weimar** or call CarnegieCharge at **212-247-7800**.

Updated April 2023.

Artists, programs, and dates subject to change. © 2023 Carnegie Hall.

Poster for Bauhaus exhibition by Joost Schmidt (1923)

Max Beckmann, *Dance Club in Baden-Baden* (1923)