



2025 Carnegie Hall Concert Guidelines/FAQ

Dear Friends,

We are starting to organize ACMA's 2025 Passion through Performance concert(s). Once again, we will showcase our organization beautifully at Carnegie Hall's 268-seat Weill Recital Hall. This world class venue will serve as a fitting celebration of amateur musicians: your talent, your dedication, and your passion for performance. I invite you to share this experience with us!!

Please read this document carefully*: your diligence is required to ensure a high-quality event.

***Audition attendance/participation automatically implies understanding and agreement of these guidelines by every ensemble member. Attendance/participation does not guarantee selection.**

1. Basic Information

Concert Date	TBD - sometime in Fall 2025 (actual date(s) will be secured in the Winter of 2024)
Concert Location	Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall 881 7th Avenue (between 56th and 57th Streets) New York, NY 10019
Concert Duration	The concert will run approximately 100 minutes, with a 5-minute delay, and a 15-minute intermission.
Audition Date/Time	Saturday, Feb 8th, 2025 1:30 - 3:30p.m. Opera America Scorca Hall (7th Floor) 330 7th Avenue (bet. 28 th and 29 th Streets) New York, NY 10001
Concert Rehearsal Dates and Locations	TBD, once the concert date(s) are finalized
Concert Ticket Prices	To be determined (<i>probably in the \$30-40 range</i>).
Concert Dress Code	Formal/ dress to impress (<i>this is Carnegie Hall!</i>).

2. What music genres are allowed?

We're pretty flexible; we accept solo and ensemble auditions in the following genres:

- Classical music
- "Classical improvisation/variation": a reinterpretation of a classical piece by a 20th/21st century composer (e.g. Sorabji's Carmen Pastiche, Paganini Jazz), or the ACMA performer/ensemble's improvisation/modification of the original piece to fit their unique style.
- Jazz/Crossover/Stage and Screen
- World music
- Original compositions
- Music/dance ensembles

3. If You'd Like To Audition

- If you intend to audition, please use ACMA's [recital scheduling tool](https://www.nycclassical.com/ars/user.html) (<https://www.nycclassical.com/ars/user.html>) to sign up for an audition spot. On the tool, please indicate:
 - Exact name of your musical work/composer
 - Names/e-mail addresses of all performers for your selection
 - Approximate performance time (in minutes)
- All performances must be 10 minutes or less in duration.
- As a professional courtesy, please inform your ensemble partners if you intend to audition multiple times (either solo or with other groups).
- All performers must be present for the audition, and perform approximately 60-90 seconds of any piece of music that demonstrates their general performance quality and ensemble dynamics.
- Memorization is not required for the audition or the concert(s). Performers may read from sheet music.
- For ensemble performances, we strongly suggest looking within ACMA for your ensemble partners. ACMA will be starting an online collaboration exchange to bring together members who are open to collaboration. Join the ACMA mailing list to get the latest updates.
- If selected, performers are required to attend or perform in at least three ACMA-related events prior to the concert date. Events are located on the <https://www.nycclassical.com/schedule> page. Performers that do not comply with this requirement will be disqualified from the Carnegie concert(s).
- Everyone who is selected to perform must purchase at least one ticket prior to the concert. Tickets for our event can be purchased via our concert ordering process, or via Carnegie Hall ticketing services.
- Due to the number of pianists auditioning, a pianist may only perform in one performance at the concert. A pianist may audition multiple times, but if more than one of their performances is selected, they will be asked to choose one to perform at the concert, and we will find a replacement for the other performances.

4. Selection Criteria

- Following the auditions, the ACMA judging panel will meet to review potential performances. The panel will use the following criteria to assist the evaluation process:
 - **Overall artistic value:** How will your performance move and inspire several hundred paying attendees? Strive to design a performance that is passionate and clearly conveys a musical message to its audience.
 - **Originality/diversity of repertoire:** Please refrain from selecting very commonly known or predictable musical pieces. Rather, display creativity and imagination in your choices.
 - **Ensemble dynamics:** How does your ensemble perform together? Is there musical “chemistry” and good harmonic balance between all instruments/voices?
 - **Stage presence:** Can you perform confidently on stage without an excessive amount of stage fright? Are you a compelling performer?
 - **Emotional Intelligence:** Are you able to take direction and criticism well? Are you committed to ACMA's vision, and a “drama free” team player?
- Initial concert repertoire and performer selection will be announced in the Spring/Summer 2025 timeframe.
- The ACMA judging panel reserves the right to select a set of performances that it deems the best overall fit for the concert, based on audition performance, artistic value, piece selection and ensemble dynamics. It also reserves the right to add, modify or remove performers and/or piece selections from the concert program at any time.
- Initial selection does not guarantee performance on the day of the concert. Performers must prepare to ensure a high level of musical quality and artistic value and meet the requirements stated above. If performers are unable or unwilling to adhere to these or any concert guidelines, they will be removed from the program.

Frequently Asked Questions

If I performed in a previous Carnegie Hall concert, can I still audition?

Yes. Even if you have performed previously with us, you are welcome to audition.

Do I have to find my ensemble partners, or can ACMA assist me?

Most concert ensembles come together via networking at monthly recitals or word of mouth. ACMA also has an online collaboration exchange to facilitate finding chamber music partners.

How can you judge performers based on a 1.5 minute performance?

1.5 minutes is plenty of time to judge ensemble dynamics, stage presence and musical value. Choose your 1.5 minutes carefully, something that brings out the best in all you and your ensemble members.

Is there anything else that you expect of an ACMA Carnegie performer?

Yes. We expect a level of commitment to ACMA (as outlined above), and not just a “hit and run” approach. Our approach is to work hard but also have fun and enjoy the process of building a concert performance. We seek artists who are team players and are able to take instruction/constructive criticism with good cheer.

Do I have to be an advanced amateur to be selected for Carnegie?

Absolutely not! However, Carnegie Hall performance standards are quite high. If you are a less advanced amateur, try to collaborate with more seasoned musicians. Piece selection is also important; try to find a collaboration where all ensemble members (including you) are heard and contribute equally to the quality and success of the performance.

When do tickets go on sale?

ACMA will conduct an internal ordering process, usually 120 days prior to the concert date; the box office ticket sale should begin shortly after the conclusion of this process.

Can I select the location for my purchased tickets?

Yes, depending on number ordered and ticket available