



UNGA HEALING ARTS WEEK

by the Jameel Arts & Health Lab in collaboration with the World Health Organization

Jameel Arts & Health Lab designates Carnegie Hall as its first Healing Arts Center of Excellence



Above: Joyce DiDonato (soprano) performs alongside Howard Watkins (pianist) at the WHO's Well-Being Concert at Carnegie Hall as a part of UNGA Healing Arts Week 2023. Photo: Fadi Kheir

- Announcement follows Well-Being Concert for policymakers during UNGA Healing Arts Week on sidelines of UN General Assembly.
- Announcement made by Jameel Arts & Health Lab Founding Co-Directors; Christopher Bailey, Arts & Health Lead at the World Health Organization; Dr. Nisha Sajjani, Associate Professor at NYU Steinhardt; and Stephen Stapleton, CEO of CultuRunners.
- As the Lab's inaugural Healing Arts Center of Excellence, Carnegie Hall will champion the role of cultural institutions and artists as partners in public health.
- UNGA Healing Arts Week includes events at Carnegie Hall, NYU Steinhardt, Lincoln Center, The Julliard School, and Whitney Museum.

NEW YORK—The Jameel Arts & Health Lab announced today that Carnegie Hall has been designated as its inaugural Healing Arts Center of Excellence.

A global initiative, the Jameel Arts & Health Lab was co-founded by the World Health Organization regional office for Europe (WHO Europe), NYU Steinhardt, Community Jameel and CultuRunners, to measurably improve health and wellbeing through the arts.

This inaugural designation recognizes Carnegie Hall as an exemplar in the field of arts and health, with a long history of inclusive and transformative programs. As a Center of Excellence, Carnegie Hall will champion the role of cultural institutions and artists as partners in public health and advance ambitious scientific research on music and wellbeing.

Clive Gillinson, Executive and Artistic Director of Carnegie Hall commented, “Through our own experiences with Carnegie Hall’s music education and social impact programs, we’ve seen the positive impact that the arts can have on people’s health and well-being. We’re thrilled that the Jameel Arts & Health Lab has recognized our work, designating Carnegie Hall as its inaugural Healing Arts Center of Excellence. We look forward to our continued partnership and welcome researchers, policymakers, and members of the healthcare and cultural communities to New York to join us in developing this important area of study.”

The announcement was made by Christopher Bailey, Founding Co-Director of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab and Arts and Health Lead for the WHO after a Well-Being Concert hosted by Carnegie Hall, featuring vocalist Sarah Elizabeth Charles and pianist Jarrett Cherner, with special guest, Grammy Award-nominated harpist Brandee Younger. The concert is part of UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) Healing Arts Week which includes a major research symposium at NYU Steinhardt, a policy panel at Lincoln Center, and collateral events at The Julliard School and Whitney Museum.

Dr. Nisha Sajani, Co-director of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab and Associate Professor at NYU Steinhardt, “Designating Carnegie Hall as our first Healing Arts Center of Excellence represents the beginning of a journey together that will not only deepen our scientific understanding of the healing potential of the arts but also create pathways to wellbeing with communities around the globe.”

Each season, more than 800,000 people across the globe participate in education and social impact programs created by Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute (WMI). For more than a decade, Carnegie Hall has facilitated programs and presented concerts in diverse settings, exploring the ways that music can be catalytic in people’s lives. Inspired by evidence that music can help people heal and thrive, along with Carnegie Hall’s mission to bring the transformative power of music to the widest possible audience, WMI offers a broad range of programs to support health and well-being.

Select program examples include Well-Being Concerts, hour-long concert experiences that combine elements of mindfulness and meditation with performance; the Lullaby Project, which pairs new and expecting parents and caregivers with professional artists to write and sing personal lullabies for their babies, supporting maternal/parental health and the connection between parent and child; Musical Connections, a songwriting workshop for men incarcerated at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, that gives participants the chance to express their perspectives and build community; Future Music Project, a program that gives justice-involved young musicians ages 14–19 the chance to create and perform their own music; and more. Carnegie Hall is also involved in several innovative research projects with scholars and universities around the world to assess the impact of these programs.

The concert was followed by a reception of international policymakers, renowned artists, and notable scholars to celebrate the announcement and explore intersectoral collaborations that center the arts’ ability to support individual and collective well-being.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

About the Jameel Arts & Health Lab:

The Lab was established in 2023 by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the Steinhardt School at New York University, Community Jameel, and CultuRunners, to coordinate and amplify scientific research into the effectiveness of the arts in improving health and wellbeing. Leveraging data, artist-led advocacy and a global 'Healing Arts' campaign, the Lab aims to drive policy implementation across 193 UN member states. The work of the Lab builds on the WHO 's 2019 Report on the evidence base for the arts impact on health and well-being, which identified the contribution that the arts have in promoting good health and health equity, preventing illness, and treating acute and chronic conditions across the life-course.

The four major strands of the Jameel Arts and Health Lab are:

- Research – Rigorous studies to demonstrate measurable impact
- Outreach – Events and communications campaigns to engage the public
- Policy – Government engagement to drive policy implementation
- Capacity Building – Arts & Health training and resources for practitioners and researchers

About UNGA Healing Arts Week

Held on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly, UNGA Healing Arts Week 2024 is a dynamic program of events celebrating innovative approaches to global health and wellbeing through the arts. Produced by the Jameel Arts & Health Lab in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the week features a [research symposium](#) at NYU Steinhardt, a [policy panel](#) at Lincoln Center, a [well-being concert](#) and [reception](#) at Carnegie Hall as well as events at The Julliard School and [Whitney Museum](#).

The new UNGA Healing Arts Week website ungahealingarts.org features an interactive map showing all the Healing Arts activities happening across the city and online.

About Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute

Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute (WMI) creates visionary programs that embody Carnegie Hall's commitment to music education, playing a central role in fulfilling the Hall's mission of making great music accessible to as many people as possible. With unparalleled access to the world's greatest artists, WMI's programs are designed to inspire audiences of all ages, nurture tomorrow's musical talent, and harness the power of music to make a meaningful difference in people's lives. An integral part of Carnegie Hall's concert season, these programs facilitate creative expression, develop musical skills and capacities at all levels, and encourage participants to make lifelong personal connections to music.

For more information, please visit: carnegiehall.org/education

Related links:

[Jameel Arts & Health Lab](#)

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