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Orchestra of St. Luke's Announces Expanded Carnegie Hall Season for 2023-24, Plus Three Concerts at Caramoor This Summer



Photos: courtesy of OSL

(March 2023)—**Orchestra of St. Luke's (OSL)** – “one of the most versatile and galvanic ensembles in the U.S.” (WQXR) with an well-deserved reputation as New York’s “**hometown band**” (*New York Times*) – announces a record **six performances** at **Carnegie Hall** during its **2023-24 season**. Highlights include **Lang Lang** performing music of Saint-Saëns, **Isabelle Faust** in music of Brahms, and Principal Conductor **Bernard Labadie** conducting both Bach’s ***Christmas Oratorio*** and an **all-Brahms** program centered on ***Ein deutsches Requiem***. A special **Veteran’s Day** program, featuring historian **John Monsky**, and a performance of ***Carmina***

Burana conducted by **Tito Muñoz** round out OSL's Carnegie season. An equally starry lineup is featured in three performances at **Caramoor** this summer. For the **Opening Night Gala**, the orchestra performs with superlative actor and singer **Audra McDonald** under the baton of her longtime music director, **Andy Einhorn**, and subsequent performances feature pianist **Hélène Grimaud** with conductor **Lina González-Granados** and cellist **Alisa Weilerstein**'s collaboration with conductor **Roderick Cox**.

James Roe, OSL's President and Executive Director, elaborates:

"This will be a banner season for Orchestra of St. Luke's, with an expanded calendar of six concerts presented by Carnegie Hall in Stern Auditorium. Our subscription series has expanded to four concerts, opening in October 2023 with the internationally celebrated pianist Lang Lang, continuing in December with Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, and featuring concerts of Mozart and Brahms and an assortment of high-profile soloists and choirs in 2024. Additionally, we'll be performing the beloved choral work *Carmina Burana* in concert as part of Carnegie Hall's "Fall of the Weimar Republic: Dancing on the Precipice" festival and, in honor of Veterans Day, a multimedia performance called "November 1918: The Great Gatsby and the Great War" with historian John Monsky and Broadway vocalists. We're proud to show our versatility and prowess on the world's greatest stage for classical music next season."

Summer concerts at Caramoor

OSL is joined for the **Opening Night Gala** of Caramoor's 2023 summer season by Tony, Emmy, and Grammy Award-winning singer and actor **Audra McDonald** performing classics from the Great American Songbook, with the concert conducted by McDonald's longtime musical director **Andy Einhorn**. The *Los Angeles Times* says of McDonald: "Talent this manifold is too miraculous to deconstruct, but there is at the heart of McDonald's art a moral radiance, a desire to align beauty with truth and justice" (**June 17**).

OSL gives two more summer performances at Caramoor, first with passionate pianist **Hélène Grimaud**, whom Gerard Schwarz called simply "one of the greatest pianists in the world today," and conductor **Lina González-Granados** – praised for her "rich, heartfelt orchestral sound" (*Chicago Sun-Times*) – for a program of Gabriela Lena Frank's *Elegía Andina*, Ravel's Piano Concerto in G and Brahms's Second Symphony (**July 16**). In August, MacArthur "genius grant"-winning cellist **Alisa Weilerstein**, along with conductor **Roderick Cox**, joins OSL for Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1. Also on the program are Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 and George Walker's *Lyric for Strings* (**Aug 6**).

OSL Carnegie season 2023-24

Lang Lang joins OSL for the opening concert of its expanded 2023-24 season. Led by guest conductor **Jahja Ling**, he performs Saint-Saëns's Second Piano Concerto and collaborates with his wife, pianist **Gina Alice Redlinger**, for the same composer's *Carnival of the Animals*. The program is rounded out by the overture to Rossini's *Semiramide* and Kodály's evocative *Dances of Galánta* (**Oct 12**).

Historian **John Monsky** returns for a powerful **Veteran's Day** performance in November. In a program titled "November 1918: The Great Gatsby and the Great War," celebrated Broadway vocalists join OSL for music from the era as Monsky applies his signature blend of meticulously researched history and rare archival film and photography to this fascinating exploration of World War I, fought, in large part, to "make the world safe for democracy" (**Nov 8**).

OSL's Principal Conductor **Bernard Labadie** conducts Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* in December. Renowned worldwide for his interpretations of eighteenth-century repertoire, the conductor is joined by soprano **Lauren Snouffer**, contralto **Avery Amereau**, tenor **Andrew Haji**, and baritone **Joshua Hopkins**, along with **La Chapelle de Québec**, of which Labadie is founding music director (**Dec 7**). When the conductor led OSL in the *St. Matthew Passion* last spring, the *New York Times* declared that under his baton "**the music was unwaveringly measured but balanced; its flashes of grandeur didn't need to be overstated to land powerfully.**"

In February 2024, Labadie and OSL return to Carnegie Hall for Mozart's Symphony No. 40 and Brahms's Violin Concerto featuring the OSL debut of **Isabelle Faust**, about whom the *New York Times* said: "Her sound has passion, grit and electricity but also a disarming warmth and sweetness that can unveil the music's hidden strains of lyricism" (**Feb 8**).

Also in February, as part of the citywide festival "Fall of the Weimar Republic: Dancing on the Precipice," **Tito Muñoz** leads OSL in Orff's *Carmina Burana* featuring soprano **Ying Fang**, tenor **Nicholas Phan**, baritone **Norman Garrett**, the **Westminster Symphonic Choir**, and the **Young People's Chorus of New York City** (**Feb 27**).

OSL concludes its 2023–2024 series with an evening of **Brahms choral works**, again conducted by Labadie. The program opens with the **Carnegie Hall premiere performance** of Brahms's *Begräbnisgesang*, a short early work likely written in remembrance of the composer's close friend Robert Schumann. The centerpiece of the program is Brahms's magnificent *Ein deutsches Requiem*, a masterpiece of the choral repertoire that combines sacred music with a profoundly universal and humanistic spirit. Soloists for the *Requiem* are soprano **Erin Morley** and baritone **Andrè Schuen**, along with **La Chapelle de Québec** and the **Handel and Haydn Society Chorus** (**May 9**).

About Orchestra of St. Luke's

Orchestra of St. Luke's (OSL) grew from a group of virtuoso musicians performing chamber music concerts at Greenwich Village's Church of St. Luke in the Fields in 1974. Regular seasons see OSL perform in diverse musical genres at New York's major concert venues, drawing on an expanded roster for large-scale works, and collaborating with artists ranging from Joshua Bell and Renée Fleming to Bono and Metallica. The orchestra has commissioned more than 60 new works and has given more than 175 world, U.S., and New York City premieres, while also participating in 118 recordings, four of which have been recognized with Grammy Awards. Internationally celebrated for his expertise in 18th-century music, **Bernard Labadie** was appointed as OSL's Principal Conductor in 2018, continuing the orchestra's long tradition of working with proponents of historical performance practice. Built and operated by OSL, **The**

DiMenna Center for Classical Music opened in 2011. New York City's only rehearsal, recording, education and performance space expressly dedicated to classical music, it serves more than 500 ensembles and 30,000 musicians each year.

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Orchestra of St. Luke's: Caramoor and Carnegie Hall in 2023-24

Caramoor: Venetian Theater

June 17

Opening Night Concert: Audra McDonald

Orchestra of St. Luke's/Andy Einhorn

Audra McDonald, vocalist

TBD Classics from the American Songbook

July 16

Orchestra of St. Luke's & Hélène Grimaud

Orchestra of St. Luke's/Lina González-Granados

Hélène Grimaud, piano

Gabriela Lena FRANK: *Elegía Andina*

RAVEL: Piano Concerto in G

BRAHMS: Symphony No. 2 in D, Op. 73

Pre-Concert talk with Lina González-Granados

Aug 6

Orchestra of St. Luke's & Alisa Weilerstein

Orchestra of St. Luke's/Roderick Cox

Alisa Weilerstein, cello

WALKER: Lyric for Strings

SHOSTAKOVICH: Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat, Op. 107

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 7 in A, Op. 92

Pre-concert talk with Roderick Cox and Alisa Weilerstein

Carnegie Hall: Stern Auditorium, Perelman Stage

Oct 12

Orchestra of St. Luke's/Jahja Ling

Lang Lang, piano

Gina Alice Redlinger, piano

Narrator tbd

ROSSINI: Overture to *Semiramide*

SAINT-SAËNS: Piano Concerto No. 2

KODÁLY: *Dances of Galánta*

SAINT-SAËNS: *Carnival of Animals*

Nov 8

Veteran's Day Performance: "November 1918: The Great Gatsby and the Great War"

Orchestra of St. Luke's

John Monsky, historian

Broadway vocalists TBA

Dec 7

Orchestra of St. Luke's/Bernard Labadie, Principal Conductor

Lauren Snouffer, Soprano

Avery Amereau, Contralto

Andrew Haji, Tenor

Joshua Hopkins, Baritone

La Chapelle de Québec

J.S. BACH: *Christmas Oratorio*, BWV 248 (Complete Part I–VI)

Feb 8

Orchestra of St. Luke's/Bernard Labadie, Principal Conductor

Isabelle Faust, violin

MOZART Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550

BRAHMS Violin Concerto in D, Op. 77

Feb 27

Orchestra of St. Luke's/Tito Muñoz

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* (1935-6)

May 9

Orchestra of St. Luke's/Bernard Labadie, Principal Conductor

Erin Morley, soprano

Andrè Schuen, baritone

La Chapelle de Québec

Handel and Haydn Society Chorus

All-BRAHMS program

Begräbnisgesang, Op. 13 (MIXED CHORUS)

Ein deutsches Requiem, Op. 45

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