



Unit 1

Welcome to Carnegie Hall!

Explore the exciting history of Carnegie Hall and meet our characters: Elvis, Violet, Gino the Cat, and the Conductor.

Authors

Kirstin Anderson
Richard Mannoia

Contributing Editors

James Blachly
Sue Landis
Audrey Sherer
Marte Siebenhar
Nina Stern

Design

David Silva

Illustration

Sophie Hogarth

Associate

Managing Editor
Lora Dunn

Audio Production

Leszek Wojcik

© 2009 The Carnegie Hall Corporation. All rights reserved.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

"A Simple Melody," music and lyrics by Nick Scarim, © 2000 Nick Scarim, © 2008 Carnegie Hall. Performed by Sue Landis and Michael Mizrahi.

"Tideo," traditional American song. Performed by Sue Landis and Shane Schag.

"De Colores," traditional Mexican song. Performed by Sue Landis and Shane Schag.

"Ode to Joy" by Ludwig van Beethoven. Adapted by John Whitney. Performed by Sue Landis and Shane Schag.

"Au Claire de la lune" by Claude Debussy. Arranged by Richard Mannoia. Performed by Sue Landis.

"Hot Cross Buns," traditional American song. Performed by Sue Landis.

All songs © © 2009 Carnegie Hall, except where noted.

LinkUP! is made possible through the generous annual support of The Marie Baier Foundation, Wachovia, The Rose M. Badgeley Residuary Charitable Trust, The Seth Sprague Educational and Charitable Foundation, and The Barker Welfare Foundation.

Unit 1: Welcome to Carnegie Hall!



Elvis: Wow! Look at this beautiful building! It's one of my favorite places to experience music in New York City—Carnegie Hall! Wait a second! Hey, cat, you can't go in there. That's a concert hall!

Elvis: Oh! Hi, Violet. It's funny bumping into you here at Carnegie Hall.

Violet: I came to watch my aunt, who is a conductor, rehearse. She's conducting a symphony orchestra.

Elvis: A symphony orchestra? Does that mean tons of instruments and a conductor playing onstage?

Violet: Yeah! Want to come in with me and listen?

Elvis: Sure!

When playing together as a group, orchestra musicians know how and when to play by watching a **conductor**, like Violet's aunt. Conductors use their hands, arms, and facial expressions to show the orchestra when to start, stop, and make loud and soft sounds. They can also show the mood of the music—whether it should be happy, sad, angry, scary, or even funny.



Want to see what the performers see when they come to Carnegie Hall?

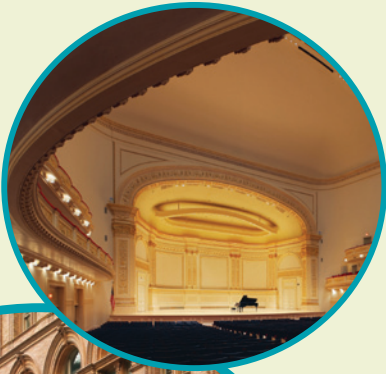


Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage



Exterior of Carnegie Hall

Stern Auditorium /
Perelman Stage



Violet: Come up these stairs and into the main area, called Isaac Stern Auditorium / Robert O. Perelman Stage.

Elvis: Wow! It's so beautiful! The lights, the colors, the ceiling, the seats ...

Entrance to Carnegie Hall



Violet: Yes, isn't it? Did you know that there are 2,804 seats and the walls are three feet thick in some places? Also, before they had air conditioning, they cooled the Hall by blowing air with big fans over huge blocks of ice. Wild, huh?

Elvis: Wow! Hey, Violet, has your aunt worked at Carnegie Hall since it opened?

Check out Carnegie Hall's interactive timeline and animated history!
carnegiehall.org/article/the_basics/HallHistory.aspx.

Violet: Definitely not! A man named Andrew Carnegie made it possible to build this famous music hall in 1891. Not only have there been hundreds of classical musicians and composers who have performed here, but, over the years, Carnegie Hall's audiences have also heard swing, jazz, rock, and pop concerts by musicians from **all over the world!**



Elvis: Wow! I didn't realize there were so many types of music, let alone that they've all been performed in one place! You can hear every kind of music here!

Violet: You're right! Carnegie Hall is a very special place! I bet there's a lot more we can learn about it.

Elvis: Hey! There goes that cat again! Why is he here? And what's that paper he left behind?

Violet: Oh, that's Gino. He's the Carnegie Hall cat, and he knows everything there is to know about Carnegie Hall. I guess he's trying to tell us something by giving us that scroll. Let's take a closer look.



Carnegie Hall wasn't just used for concerts! Many important meetings and public speeches took place here. Carnegie Hall hosted American women during their campaign for the right to vote, and many famous leaders and public figures, such as Martin Luther King Jr., Booker T. Washington, and 13 US presidents, have made speeches here.

Musicians like the Rolling Stones and The Beatles have played at Carnegie Hall, and there have even been some circuses with elephants, eagles, and wolves!



Elvis: Wow, that's amazing. Now I understand why Carnegie Hall is so famous—so many different kinds of important events have taken place here for more than 100 years.

Violet: Yeah, I feel like I'm walking into history every time I come through the doors. Look, there's my aunt, the conductor!

Conductor: Hi, Elvis and Violet! That's some interesting information on that scroll.

Violet: Hi, Auntie—it sure is!

Conductor: Did you know that Carnegie Hall was almost demolished in the 1960s?

Elvis: What? Why?

Conductor: Well, people started forgetting about music and Carnegie Hall's important history. They thought that this corner would be a great place for a skyscraper.

Violet: Wow, I can't believe people could forget about what happens at Carnegie Hall. So many famous people gave concerts and spoke here.

Conductor: Luckily, not everyone forgot. A famous violinist named Isaac Stern believed in saving Carnegie Hall and found lots of other people who believed in it, too. They worked together to raise enough money and change the laws to save Carnegie Hall and turn it into a national landmark. Well, I'm happy you're here. We won't hear any speeches at Carnegie Hall today, but come inside with me. We can hear a fantastic orchestra playing some music!

Elvis: A real, live orchestra? Yeah, bring them onstage!

One time, a famous pianist named Vladimir Horowitz was giving a concert at Carnegie Hall, and the lights blacked out—but he never stopped and didn't miss a note!

