BRYANT PARK PICNIC PERFORMANCES

THE TOWN HALL: CENTENNIAL CONCERT
We are incredibly excited to welcome performing arts back to New York City!

Since March 2020 — when all our lives changed — Bryant Park has not wavered from its mission to provide a safe and stimulating public space for everyone to enjoy. Outdoor space has never been so vital, and live events have never been more necessary. I want to thank our courageous and dedicated staff who have kept Bryant Park not only open but flourishing throughout the pandemic.

This season Picnic Performances celebrates the return of live music, theater and dance to Midtown and the resiliency of artists and cultural organizations throughout this difficult period. All of our cultural partners have re-imagined what it means to perform, and it is with great pleasure we share their innovative works with you.

We welcome those of you seated on the lawn, as well as our new virtual audience, too. For the first time, these performances are available by livestream so viewers can enjoy no matter where they are.

We extend sincere gratitude to our neighbor, Bank of America, whose support is integral to the park year-round and who make the livestreams of Picnic Performances possible.

Enjoy the show!

Dan Biederman
President, Bryant Park Corporation
As a major supporter of arts and culture nonprofit organizations, Bank of America believes in the power of the arts.

We are proud to sponsor the livestream of the 2021 season of Bryant Park Picnic Performances.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE POWER TO DO?
Protocols for All Attendees

- Doors open at 5:30pm.
- Bryant Park chairs are available. Please do not bring plastic tarps.
- All event attendees are invited to bring food and drink. Food and beverage is also available for purchase from vendors in the park.
- The bathroom is located at the northeast corner of the park.
- If you have recently been in contact with a person with COVID-19 or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home and join us on the livestream.
Protocols for the Vaccinated/Tested Area

In line with current CDC and state guidelines, attendees may remove masks at their own discretion once within the fully vaccinated areas.

Bring your own blanket or use a Bryant Park chair.

Within the fully vaccinated/tested area, attendees will have ample space to distance from others at their own discretion.
Protocols for Distanced Area

Masks are required unless seated in socially distant chairs.

Attendees must keep six-foot distance from other parties at all times.

Bryant Park chairs will be placed in exact positions by event staff. Please do not move chairs. Individuals in the distanced area may not enter the fully vaccinated/tested areas.
TONIGHT’S PROGRAM

The Town Hall’s Centennial Kickoff Concert
Celebrating 100 Years!

Hosted by Chris Thile

Monday, September 20, 2021
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Hosted by MacArthur Fellow and Grammy Award-winning mandolinist, singer, songwriter Chris Thile and featuring and special guests Cécile McLorin Salvant and Sullivan Fortner, Zakir Hussain and Ganesh Rajagopalan, Emily King, Damon Daunno, and Timo Andres, the concert will commemorate the remarkable history of The Town Hall.

The Town Hall’s centennial concert in Bryant Park commences the storied hall’s centennial season. The evening will pay tribute to the great artists and art forms that the hall nurtured and introduced to New York City. Known for being at the vanguard, the Town Hall held the concert hall debuts of many great artists like Marian Anderson, Isaac Stern, Billie Holiday, Glenn Gould, Leontyne Price, Nina Simone, Bob Dylan, Coretta Scott King and João Gilberto, among others. From 1935-1956, The Town Hall hosted America’s Town Meeting of the Air, one of the first of the radio “talk shows,” a program which featured guests, scholars, and experts who discussed important issues of the day. Over its two-decade run, the program’s guests included Eleanor Roosevelt, Langston Hughes, Earl Browder, Senator Joseph McCarthy, Carl Sandburg, Pearl Buck and Mary McLeod Bethune.

MacArthur Fellow and Grammy Award-winning mandolinist, singer, songwriter Chris Thile, who The Guardian calls “that rare being: an all-round musician who can settle into any style, from bluegrass to classical,” and NPR calls a “genre-defying musical genius,” is a founding member of the critically acclaimed bands Punch Brothers and Nickel Creek. For four years, Thile hosted public radio favorite Live from Here with Chris Thile (formerly known as A Prairie Home Companion). With his broad outlook, Thile creates a distinctly American canon and a new musical aesthetic for performers and audiences alike, giving the listener “one joyous arc, with the linear melody and vertical harmony blurring into a single web of gossamer beauty” (The New York Times). Most recently, Chris released Laysongs on Nonesuch.
HOST
Chris Thile

FEATURING
Cécile McLorin Salvant
Damon Daunno
Emily King
Ganesh Rajagopalan
Sullivan Fortner
Timo Andres
Zakir Hussain

BAND
Eric Doob, drums
Alexander Hargreaves, fiddle
Shaun Martin, piano
Chris Morrissey, bass
Becca Stevens, guitar
Franky Rousseah, Arranger

PRODUCTION
Jeffy Hnilicka, Producer
Carl Acampora, Production Manager
Carly Henry, Production Assistant
Adam Macks, Stage Manager
Tyler Learned, Lighting Design
Boulevard Carroll Entertainment Group, Inc.
Steinway & Sons
Audio, Inc.
LCM247
ABOUT THE TOWN HALL

The Town Hall’s mission is to provide affordable world-class entertainment by new and established artists to a diverse audience; to inspire the youth in our community to appreciate and participate in the arts at The Town Hall and in schools through our Education Outreach Program; to preserve and enhance The Town Hall as an historic landmark venue for the enjoyment and cultural enrichment for generations to come.

Built by The League of Political Education, a women’s suffragists group, The Town Hall was envisioned as a meetinghouse for all New Yorkers. A public forum for the free discussion of political and civic matters, where all sides would have equal privileges and where any law-abiding person could voice their opinion on the affairs of the day. When the hall opened, they quickly realized that the acoustics designed for the human voice was also perfect for music as well.

The Town Hall is a 1,500-seat National Historic Landmark venue in the heart of New York City, and host to countless cultural and musical milestones. Margaret Sanger was arrested for talking about birth control, Norman Mailer and Germaine Greer debated the women’s movement, James Baldwin called for the 1964 Christmas boycott -- protests and rallies have been part and parcel of The Town Hall for over 97 years.

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The Town Hall’s mission is ever-evolving, but we never lose sight of our founders’ vision. We endeavor to keep their principles in mind with every facet we add to the jewel that is Town Hall.

This year, The Town Hall is celebrating 100 years of bringing art, culture, and conversation to the people of New York. As the hall embarks on our Centennial Celebrations, we are committed to honoring its history as a gathering place for New York and its status as a National Historic Landmark.

As a New York City beacon of culture, The Town Hall is working to make programming more accessible, bringing our audiences to our hall safely, both in person and virtually.
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The Town Hall programs are supported, in part, by public funds from The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Programs are also made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.

The Town Hall would like to thank the following foundations, corporations, and government institutions for their support this year:

- Bank of America  
- Consolidated Edison Company of New York  
- Cowen, Inc.  
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- MultiFaith Alliance  
- New York City Department of Cultural Affairs  
- New York State Council on the Arts  
- The Hearst Foundations, Inc.  
- The Hyde & Watson Foundation  
- Gund Investment Corporation  
- The Shubert Foundation

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THE TOWN HALL PRESENTS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021 • 7PM
PUTTING IT TOGETHER: An Evening with JAMES LAPINE and STEPHEN SONDHEIM
In Partnership with Strand Books

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 • 7PM
THE TOWN HALL’S CENTENNAL KICKOFF CONCERT
Hosted by CHRIS THILE. Special guests CÉCILE MCLOVIN SALVANT and SULLIVAN FORTNER, ZAKIR HUSSAIN and GANESH RAJAGOPALAN, DAMON DAUNNO, TIMO ANDRES, and EMILY KING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 • 8PM
BELIEVING WITH ANITA HILL: An Evening with ANITA HILL and EDDIE S. GLAUDE JR.
In Partnership with NYCLU and Strand Books

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021 • 7PM
THE BOYS: RON HOWARD and CLINT HOWARD in Conversation
In Partnership with Strand Books

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2021 • 8PM
JUDY COLLINS: WINTER SONGS
With Special Guests CHATHAM COUNTRY LINE
THE SECRET SISTERS and Friends

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2021 • 8PM
DARLENE LOVE: LOVE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29-31, 2021 • 8PM
NEW YEARS EVE • 9PM
JOHN CAMERON MITCHELL & STEPHEN TRASK
RETURN TO THE ORIGIN OF LOVE
More Songs and Stories of Hedwig

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2022 • 8PM
DJANGO A GO GO
STEPHANE WREMBEL presents a celebration of guitar through the music of DJANGO REINHARDT

Seth Rudetsky’s BROADWAY starring JANE KRAKOWSKI and VANESSA WILLIAMS
MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022 • 8PM
BRIAN STOKES MITCHELL
With SETH RUDETSKY as Music Director & Host

21/22 CENTENNIAL FALL/WINTER SEASON

THE TOWN HALL
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Steinway & Sons is proud to be the Piano Partner of BRYANT PARK PICNIC PERFORMANCES.
AMAZON SUPPORTS THE ARTS IN NYC.
VULTURE

PROUD TO SUPPORT THE ARTS AND THE RETURN OF FOMO AT BRYANT PARK PICNIC PERFORMANCES

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nymag.com/bryantpark
2021 Picnic Performances Season

All shows begin at 7pm.
For more information visit bryantpark.org/picnics
Watch the livestream @bryantparknyc

**JUN**
- 9,10,11,12: New York Philharmonic
- 18: New York City Opera
- 25: New York Chinese Cultural Center
- 26: Joe’s Pub

**JUL**
- 2: New York City Opera
- 9,16,23,30: Carnegie Hall Citywide
- 31: Greenwich House Music School

**AUG**
- 6: Carnegie Hall Citywide
- 12: Harlem Stage
- 13,14: Jazz at Lincoln Center
- 16: Limón + Music from the Sole
- 20: Paul Taylor Dance Company + Emerge125
- 21: New York City Opera
- 27: Ballet Hispánico + Jamel Gaines
- Creative Outlet

**SEP**
- 3: New York City Opera
- 10: Classical Theatre of Harlem
- 17: National Sawdust
- 20: Town Hall Centennial Concert