

NEW YORK SOUNDS OF SUMMER FESTIVAL

NEW YORK CITY

*World Projects Corporation is proud to present*

THE 12TH ANNUAL
NEW YORK “SOUNDS OF SUMMER” FESTIVAL
CARNEGIE HALL
JUNE 7 – 11, 2025 (DATES TBC)

Dear Director:

Thank you for considering the **New York “Sounds of Summer” Festival** as your music performance tour in 2025. This will be the twelfth annual concert for the NYSSF; its success is credited to fine musical ensembles that look for the best performance experience possible, and we strive to provide just that.

It is our mission to present young musicians with an experience that offers the opportunity for musical growth while creating lasting memories. To enhance this experience, the performance venue chosen for the festival is the prestigious Carnegie Hall. Admission into this festival is based on audition only and is limited to a maximum of four ensembles, each receiving 30 minutes of total stage time at Carnegie Hall. However, we encourage groups of varying abilities to apply as music education through live performance can be very beneficial to students at every stage of development.

Festival activities will include a public performance in the New York City area, a dinner dance/cruise along the Hudson River, and a group workshop with a World Projects Faculty member. The festival culminates with the ensemble performances in Carnegie Hall. One ensemble will also be selected to work with a composer on a new work that will be premiered at Carnegie Hall.

We hope you will join us as we celebrate musical excellence in the unique atmosphere of New York City. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance in making this journey a reality for your group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deborah Gibbs'.

Deborah Lee Gibbs
Chief Executive Officer
World Projects Corporation

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2025 NEW YORK “SOUNDS OF SUMMER” FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

JUNE 7 – 11, 2025 (DATES TBC)

*(Itinerary details subject to change)***DAY ONE: Saturday, June 7, 2025 – HOME → NEW YORK CITY**

TBD

Groups arriving at one of the area’s airports will be met by a World Projects staff member in baggage claim who will direct you to your coach(es). Transfer to the festival hotel.

Groups arriving by coach will be met at the festival hotel by a World Projects staff member.

Check-in to the festival hotel in Midtown Manhattan (hotel TBC) with assistance from a World Projects staff member.

Groups arriving before the hotel’s check-in time will have lunch on own and may choose to take a tour of the city *(at an additional cost)*.

Situated in the Midtown area of Manhattan, the festival hotel is within easy walking distance to Times Square, Central Park, Rockefeller Center, and some of the most amazing restaurants and shopping known on the planet! The Midtown area includes the Theatre District, the Diamond District, the Garment District, and major television studios.

Late Afternoon After checking in, the group leader will be given a brief Festival Orientation. Groups will have free time to explore the Times Square area.

Evening Dinner on your own nearby, or it may be arranged through World Projects.
The rest of the evening is free.

**DAY TWO: Sunday, June 8, 2025 – NEW YORK CITY – Workshop**

Morning

Breakfast on your own nearby.

Today, enjoy a one-hour group **workshop** with a Festival clinician *(location and time TBD – a rehearsal may be substituted)*.

Afternoon

Lunch on your own nearby.

Enjoy free time on your own to explore the Times Square area.

This evening may be the best opportunity to see a Broadway show. Other possible day activities include exploring beyond Midtown to neighborhoods such as Harlem, Chinatown, Greenwich Village, or Little Italy. Visit the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and the 9/11 Memorial, or enjoy the exhibits of world class museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, or the Guggenheim. (All additional costs on own.)

Evening Dinner on your own nearby, or it may be arranged through World Projects.
The rest of the evening is free.



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DAY THREE: Monday, June 9, 2025 – NEW YORK CITY (D) – Outdoor Performance

- Morning** Breakfast on your own nearby.
This morning, groups will be transported to the outdoor performance venue (*possibly in Central Park, Bryant Park, Brooklyn Bridge Park, or similar – TBC – weather permitting*).
- Afternoon** Enjoy your **outdoor “pops-style” performance!**
Return to the hotel.
You will have some free time for lunch on own and to explore the Times Square area or enjoy a group sightseeing activity (*additional costs apply*).
- Evening** Meet in the lobby and load the coaches for the Festival Dinner Cruise.
Eat, dance to DJ music, and enjoy the sights (*including a stunning view of the Statue of Liberty*) as you cruise along the Hudson River with other Festival participants.
Following the cruise, load the coaches and return to the hotel.



DAY FOUR: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 – NEW YORK CITY – Carnegie Hall Performance

- Morning** Breakfast on your own nearby.
This morning is free for group sightseeing activities (*additional costs apply*).
- Afternoon** Lunch on your own in the Times Square area.
Assemble in the lobby of the hotel in performance attire with your instruments. You will be escorted to Carnegie Hall by a World Projects staff member.
Arrive at Carnegie Hall for your sound check and group photo on stage.
Following your sound check, store your instruments in your warm-up room.
- Evening** Dinner on your own nearby, or it may be arranged through World Projects.
Arrive back at Carnegie Hall for your **performance** as part of the **Evening Concert** in the Isaac Stern Auditorium / Ronald O. Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall!
Following the concert is the Awards Ceremony.
Return to the hotel.



DAY FIVE: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 – NEW YORK → HOME

- Morning** Breakfast on your own nearby.
Most groups will be leaving New York City today. If your schedule allows, enjoy free time on your own for last-minute sightseeing, shopping, or dining.
Check out of the hotel and depart New York City.



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Thank you for performing in the 2025 New York “Sounds of Summer” Festival!

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Organization

World Projects Corporation located in Benicia, California, produces the New York “Sounds of Summer” Festival. Guest conductors, clinicians, and festival staff are all of the highest quality and reputation.

World Projects Mission Statement

With music education as our priority, World Projects provides musicians with life changing performance opportunities and cultural exchange through travel.

Festival Facilities

The New York “Sounds of Summer” Festival utilizes Carnegie Hall, a Midtown Manhattan Hotel, and an outdoor venue such as the Bryant Park or Pier 1 at Brooklyn Bridge Park. Past hotels have included the Park Central Hotel, New York Hilton Midtown, and Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel.

Festival Concerts

Each participating group will have the opportunity to perform in Carnegie Hall. A maximum of four (4) ensembles will be invited to perform in the non-adjudicated evening concert; each group will be given 30 minutes of on-stage performance time. Each ensemble will receive a Festival Participation Plaque. All groups are asked to attend the full concert.

Ask for our World Premiere Application!

World Projects is thrilled to continue our New Music Initiative with composers from across the United States! One new work will be World Premiered at the New York “Sounds of Summer” Festival. The selected ensemble will have the honor of performing this World Premiere at Carnegie Hall. In addition, the composer will be at the festival to work with the group on the piece at a 90-minute rehearsal prior to their performance as well as attend the World Premiere. A separate application process is available to participating ensembles interested in this opportunity.

Full Ensemble Workshop

Each ensemble will receive one (1) 60-minute workshop from our faculty using a private rehearsal format. Generally, these sessions use your group’s festival music. Ensembles not wishing to have a workshop may opt to use this time for rehearsal instead.

Outdoor Concert Series

An outdoor “pops-style” concert will be scheduled during the festival (weather permitting). In the past, these concerts have been held at the Bryant Park or Pier 1 in Brooklyn Bridge Park. The outdoor concert is informal, allowing ensembles to perform “lighter” music if desired. Each ensemble will have 20 minutes of performance time.

Social Events and Other Festival Activities

Ample time is provided in the Festival schedule to attend Broadway shows, enjoy sightseeing opportunities, and sample the cuisine of a variety of New York’s many fine restaurants. Included in the Festival package is a dinner/dance cruise on the Hudson River.

Limited Participation

In order to ensure a quality experience, the Festival is limited to a maximum of four ensembles. Ensembles that are denied entry based on available festival capacity in 2025 will be given first preference to attend the 2026 event (*unless an organization is denied entry based on its audition submission*). Once accepted, space for an ensemble can only be guaranteed upon receipt of the non-refundable deposit (*see Payment and Cancellation Schedule*).

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Traveling Group Size

As the festival is limited to only four ensembles, each ensemble will be required to have a minimum of 60 travelers. This minimum will be for the full traveling group and may be composed of performers, staff, and chaperones.

Chaperones

World Projects requests all youth groups in attendance to have a **minimum of one adult chaperone for every ten to twelve students**. Chaperones must stay in the same hotel as the students, taking a participant package as part of the group arrangement. Please check your school's chaperone requirements as well.

Director / Group Leader Orientation Meeting

Upon arrival, directors / group leaders will meet individually with the festival coordinator to receive festival materials and tickets. This meeting also allows group leaders to meet the Festival staff and ask any last-minute Festival questions.

Air Travel Arrangements

World Projects can arrange air travel to and from the New York "Sounds of Summer" Festival at competitive market rates. For round-trip air travel from your area to New York City, contact the World Projects office toll free at (800) 922-3976.

Additional Information

- ◆ Please note that walking to and from some festival venues will be required.
- ◆ The public performance is subject to cancellation in the event of inclement weather.
- ◆ Weather in New York is often unpredictable around this time of year. Please be prepared for rain and hot/humid temperatures.
- ◆ **All types of recording and photography are strictly prohibited inside Carnegie Hall.**

Director's Packet

A Director's Packet will be emailed to all accepted and deposited groups. This packet will contain more detailed information regarding the Festival, as well as forms to be completed by each group and returned to World Projects headquarters.

Festival Application Procedure

Send a completed application form (*attached*) and a recent audio or video recording that is representative of your performance level and anticipated festival repertoire to: New York "Sounds of Summer" Festival, 110 East D Street, Suite K, Benicia, CA 94510 USA.

The application deadline for the 2025 festival is December 1, 2024; however, early application is strongly encouraged as this festival fills quickly. Each ensemble accepted for participation will be required to submit a US \$2,000.00 non-refundable deposit in order to hold space in the festival and will be applied to the final group invoice. Ensembles will be admitted based on their audition submission and on a space available basis until the festival is full. An ensemble may be accepted into the festival after the application deadline, if space is available, with the approval of World Project's CEO.

Festival Participation Agreement

Once your group deposit has been received, a Group Performance Agreement will be issued which outlines the terms and conditions of the tour, including costs, inclusions/exclusions, and the payment and cancellation schedule. Additionally, all travelers will be required to submit signed liability waivers and medical authorization forms as issued by World Projects in order to participate in the festival.

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Package Inclusions

- ◆ One (1) gratis package for your staff for every twenty (20) paid participants (*based on double occupancy*)
- ◆ Four (4) nights' accommodation at a Midtown Manhattan hotel (TBC)
- ◆ Hotel taxes, portage & New York room occupancy tax
- ◆ Airport transfers for group and baggage in New York
- ◆ Coach transfers to/from Festival Public Concert Series and the dinner cruise
- ◆ Festival dinner/dance cruise
- ◆ One (1) 60-minute ensemble workshop with festival clinician **OR** ensemble rehearsal
- ◆ One (1) 20-minute Public "Pops-style" performance (venue TBC)
- ◆ One (1) sound check on stage at Carnegie Hall (*30 minutes on stage*)
- ◆ One (1) festival performance at Carnegie Hall (*30 minutes on stage*)
- ◆ One (1) festival performance recording for director, Carnegie house system (*archival use only, there is additional licensing and cost for any broadcast/streaming distribution of recording*)
- ◆ Large instruments & equipment as noted:
 - ◆ Conductor's Podium, Piano/Keyboard, two (2) String Bases, Timpani (set of 4), Concert Bass Drum, Marimba, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Chimes (Tubular Bells), Orchestra Bells (Glockenspiel), Tam-Tam
- ◆ Festival registration fees
- ◆ Official festival t-shirt, artist pass lanyard, and official festival souvenir program (Playbill)
- ◆ Ticket to evening festival concert at Carnegie Hall
- ◆ Large festival artwork poster, per ensemble
- ◆ Group award plaque, per ensemble
- ◆ Official festival photographer at Carnegie Hall sound check (*prints not included – each ensemble will receive a link to images taken during its sound check on stage at Carnegie Hall*)

Package Exclusions

- ◆ Airfare and Airline Baggage Fees (*available through World Projects – see Air Travel Arrangements*)
- ◆ Meals not indicated in the itinerary (*other than the festival dinner/dance cruise*)
- ◆ Sightseeing activities not indicated in the itinerary (*World Projects can arrange a variety of New York City sightseeing activities which are presented as Optional Sightseeing Activities in the Director's Packet*)
- ◆ Group transfers to non-festival events
- ◆ Any baggage storage charges at the hotel (*for arrivals before 4:00pm or departures after 12:00pm*)
- ◆ Additional instrument rentals (*World Projects can arrange rentals at an additional cost*)
- ◆ Items of a personal nature (*laundry, room service, internet connection fees, covid testing, etc.*)
- ◆ Trip Cancellation, Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR), or Instrument Insurance

Payment and Cancellation Schedule

DATE	PAYMENT / TYPE	CANCELLATION / REFUND
Upon Acceptance	US \$2,000.00 deposit per group	Non-refundable, credited to final payment
December 1, 2024	US \$400 per person	50% refundable to January 15, 2025
April 1, 2025	Balance in Full	50% refundable to April 15, 2025

*All payments must be made by school check, bank check, or cash – credit cards will not be accepted. Individual payments can be accepted for an additional fee via WeTravel.

Festival participation is based on a minimum group size of 60 total travelers.

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FESTIVAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) Do chaperones / adults / non-performing travelers have to pay the same package costs as the performers?

Yes. In order to keep the cost of participating in the Festival affordable for as many students as possible, World Projects presents a blanket package cost. Creating a reduced rate for non-performers would increase the performer costs significantly, and thus we maintain one cost for all travelers.

2) Does the package cost cover any type of Travel or Medical Insurance?

For United States based groups, World Projects will purchase a Student Protection Plan (post departure) for all travelers. The director will be sent details about the plan. Groups traveling from outside the United States are not eligible for the Student Protection Plan, but are encouraged to purchase a similar post departure trip protection plan where possible. Trip Cancellation and Cancel for Any Reason insurance is not included. Information on purchasing optional Trip Cancellation insurance and Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) insurance will be sent to the group leader.

3) Does World Projects have any type of Liability Insurance?

Yes. According to California State Law, World Projects is required to hold \$3 million Travel Agents Professional Liability Insurance Coverage. This is not a form of Travel, Medical, or Trip Cancellation Insurance for groups—rather a form of insurance coverage for World Projects.

Upon request, World Projects can list your school and/or school district as a ‘co-insured’. A customized Certificate of Liability will then be produced showing your school and/or school district as a co-insured for the event you are attending. For further detailed information, World Projects can provide a copy of the Liability Policy upon request.

4) In the event that my child cannot attend the Festival after making payments, what is the refund policy?

World Projects has put in place a cancellation schedule, which can be found in this prospectus. This schedule outlines the percentage of payments made that are refundable and until when. All cancellation charges (if any apply) will be represented on your group’s final invoice.

When cancellations occur, our first recommendation is that a replacement is found to take the cancelled traveler’s spot on the tour. That way, all finances can be dealt with internally at the school or organization, and cancellation fees need not be assessed (unless air transportation is involved).

World Projects does, however, acknowledge that unforeseen circumstances do arise and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. In the event of a death in the family or illness/injury that prevents travel (as examples), World Projects will review what monies can be recovered from outside vendors (such as airlines, hotels, etc.). These vendors establish their own cancellation schedules, which World Projects must adhere to.

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**5) When do I need to submit rooming lists, repertoire, and other information about my group?**

About six months out from the event (or after this date for late applicants), World Projects will send you a Director's Packet. Included in this packet are a number of forms we have created to make submitting necessary information to us as simple as possible. World Projects customizes each Director's Packet so only the forms that apply to your group are included. We ask that these forms be returned to us approximately 3-4 months out of an event, allowing us enough time to make all of the arrangements for your festival experience. We do understand that changes may occur after information is submitted and will try to accommodate changes when possible.

6) I want all of my students to be in quad rooms; however, after putting together my rooming list I've discovered I have an odd number of students left over. Can they stay in a triple, double, or single room at the quad rate?

World Projects has created four different packages based on the different rooming configurations. Unfortunately, in this type of forced rooming situation, World Projects cannot make concessions for the package rates. However, if you would like all students to pay the same rate, we can create a custom Student Multi-Share package. This custom package would account for most students in quad-share rooms and up to a certain amount (will be based on your estimated pax count) in triple-share rooms. The double and single packages would still apply to traveling adults.

7) Can World Projects organize any sightseeing activities or meals for my group outside of the Festival package? Can we arrange sightseeing ourselves?

Yes. World Projects will supply you with an 'Optional Sightseeing Activities' form in the Director's Packet. This form will include a number of popular sightseeing activities in the Festival city and the additional costs. Once you have selected the activities you wish to enjoy, World Projects will arrange these tours for your group around your Festival commitments.

Should you wish to partake in a sightseeing activity not listed on the form, World Projects will research costs and present these to you. All additional costs for optional sightseeing activities will be represented on your group's final invoice.

You are also welcome to make your own sightseeing arrangements for your group or for individual travelers. However, World Projects does request that we are informed of the date and times of your group sightseeing activities to ensure that there are no conflicts with your Festival commitments.

8) Can World Projects arrange air travel for my group? If so, how does this work?

World Projects will be able to provide competitive quotes and prompt service to all of our clients requesting air costs.

World Projects will make all of the initial inquiries on your behalf, and should you decide to take any of the quotes offered, we will act as your representative on all aspects of your air transportation including the names list, equipment list, etc.

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9) Can you explain the invoicing process to me in further detail?

Upon acceptance, each performing group will be invoiced for the \$2,000 nonrefundable deposit which secures your position in the Festival.

The next payment request is a per person progress payment. World Projects will invoice you for the total number of travelers indicated in recent correspondence or on your Festival application form. This total number of travelers invoiced will include any applicable gratis travelers. The value amount of a gratis package (the cost of a double occupancy package) will be credited to your final invoice.

The Final Invoice will show a detailed breakdown of all costs associated with your tour (including the rooming summary, any optional sightseeing or meals, and any applicable cancellation charges). Your final balance due will be based on these calculations. Any additions to your tour after the final invoice has been created and sent will be billed on a Supplemental Invoice.

10) Can World Projects organize additional equipment for our group to use during the Festival (i.e. harp, additional percussion, etc.)?

Depending on the availability of the instrument(s) requested, World Projects can arrange the rental of extra instruments not provided by the Festival at an additional cost. In some cases, there may be other ensembles that are also in need of the same additional equipment. In this instance, World Projects can often split the additional equipment cost between ensembles. Please contact the Festival Manager with your requests as early as possible.

11) At what point can we expect a personalized itinerary for our time during the Festival?

The itinerary shown in the prospectus acts as a guide for what you can expect during the event. After your progress payment has been received, World Projects will send you a draft individual schedule, which will give you a better idea of your group's movements during the event.

From this point on, the Festival Manager will continue to update your group's schedule with new information such as exact performance, workshop, and meal times, venues, etc. Before you depart for the festival, you will have a final itinerary for your time during the event.

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NEW YORK "SOUNDS OF SUMMER" FESTIVAL

JUNE 7 – 11, 2025 (DATES TBC)

Official Application Form

NOTE: Applications close on December 1, 2024 or when the Festival is full.

Please circle the type of ensemble applying to participate
(a separate application form must be submitted for each ensemble applying):

Concert Band/Symphonic Band	Symphony Orchestra	Concert/Mixed Choir	Treble Choir
Wind Ensemble	String Orchestra	A Capella/Madrigal Choir	Tenor / Bass Choir

Please indicate the year your group wishes to participate: 2025 _____ 2026 _____

Name of School/Organization: _____

Name of Ensemble: _____

Name of Director (with title): _____

Address of Ensemble: _____ City: _____

State or Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Anticipated Number of Participants

Performers in Ensemble: _____

Directors: _____

Staff: _____

Administrators: _____

Chaperones: _____

Total Number of Anticipated Participants: _____

Previous festivals and tours attended by group: _____

Recent repertoire: _____

*Please send the following items with this application:***1. Recent audio or video recording (CD, DVD, and YouTube links, etc. will also be accepted).****2. Any copies of previous adjudication or judging forms (if available) OR a current repertoire list.**

If accepted, a non-refundable deposit of US \$2,000.00 per group made payable to WORLD PROJECTS is required to hold space in the Festival.

Signatures: _____

Group Director

Date: _____

School Principal or Group Administrator

Date: _____

Please return this form and all materials to:

New York "Sounds of Summer" Festival
World Projects Corporation
110 East D Street, Suite K
Benicia, CA 94510 USA



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