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Classical Around Town | May 2023



Damien Sneed conducts The Harlem Chamber Players and Chorale le Chateau at the Riverside Church in Harlem

(Photo provided by The Harlem Chamber Players)

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This month, hear opera downtown, strings in the Bronx, Latin choral music in Queens, a kora-piano duo in Brooklyn, and much more.

City Lyric Opera: *La Traviata*

Neighborhood: NoHo

Wednesday-Friday, May 3rd-5th, 7pm; Saturday, May 6th, 3pm

The Sheen Center for Thought & Culture, 18 Bleecker St, New York, NY

The City Lyric Opera's fully staged production of Verdi's classic takes a keen look at how the patriarchal system of Violetta's world treats "fallen" women, and borrows imagery from Verdi's original source material, Alexandre Dumas's novel-turned-play *La Dame aux Camélias*. Directed by R. Lee Kratzer (stage) and Michelle Rofrano (music), and the production stars Laura Soto-Bayomi as Violetta.

The New York Metropolitan Flute Trio in Concert

Neighborhood: Park Slope

Saturday, May 6th, 2pm

The Old Stone House of Brooklyn, 336 3rd St, Brooklyn, NY

The New York Metropolitan Flute Trio was born during the early days of the pandemic, when three renowned flutists came together to serenade their neighbors every weekend in the backyard of a Park Slope brownstone. Now on stage at the Old Stone House in Park Slope, the trio (Amy Z. Cohen, Paul-Lucien Kulka, and April Klavins) will perform both canonical and contemporary classical works, including some of their own arrangements.

Melodia Women's Choir: "Always Something Sings"

Neighborhood: Chelsea

Saturday, May 6th, 7:30pm

Church of the Holy Apostles, 296 9th Ave, New York, NY

Melodia Women's Choir celebrates its 20th anniversary with a concert of treble choir music spanning twelve centuries, including works the choir has commissioned. On the program are selections by Hildegard von Bingen, Florence Price, Margaret Bonds, Ola Gjeilo, and more.



Melodia Womens Choir performing (Abby Verbosky)

The Gena Branscombe Project presents Bringing Back Branscombe to the Upper West Side

Neighborhood: Upper West Side

Saturday, May 6th, 5pm

New York Society for Ethical Culture, Adler Hall, 2 West 64th St, New York, NY

The Gena Branscombe Project champions the music of Gena Branscombe (1881-1977), a Canadian-born composer, conductor, pianist, educator, and long-time Upper West Side resident. This concert brings some of Branscombe's remarkable output back to the neighborhood, including songs, piano works, a violin sonata, and works for french horn.

Concerts in the Heights: "Obsession"

Neighborhood: Kingsbridge Heights, The Bronx

Thursday, May 11th, 1pm

Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY

This month's presentation from the free concert series at Lehman College takes its title from a violin sonata by composer Eugène Ysaÿe , which will be performed in a special arrangement for six violins from the String Orchestra of New York. The unique program, which also features works by Bach and contemporary composer Karl Kramer, will additionally include a music-inspired one man play performed by actor Jack Clark, as well as choreography by dancers Angelina Laguna and A'lia Martin.



New York String Orchestra, conducted by Jaime Laredo ([Courtesy of The New School / Mannes](#))

Harlem Chamber Players' Family Concert

Neighborhood: Newark, NJ

[Saturday, May 13th, 12pm](#)

Newark School of the Arts, 89 Lincoln Park, Newark, NJ

The Harlem Chamber Players head across the Hudson to perform a free concert for families. The performance will feature Adolphus Hailstork's "Detroit" Piano Quintet, a work first premiered by the Harlem Chamber Players in 2019.

NYC Master Chorale: "Cor Dulce, Cor Amabile"

Neighborhood: Woodside and the Upper West Side

Saturday, May 13th, 7pm

PS 151Q, 50-05 31st Ave, Woodside, NY

Saturday, May 20th, 7pm

The New York Society for Ethical Culture, Adler Hall, 2 West 64th St, New York, NY

The New York City Master Chorale will present the second concert of its 2022-23 season in both Queens and Manhattan. Highlighting choral works from Latin America, the concert features music by Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos, Hispanic Baroque works from the New World by Antonio de Salazar, Manuel de Zumaya, and Ignacio de Jerusalem, and a world premiere of a new commission by composer-guitarist João Luiz.



New York City Master Chorale (Mike Benigno)

Park Avenue Chamber Symphony presents Tales and Transformations: The Family InsideOut Concerts Experience

Neighborhood: Hell's Kitchen

Saturday, May 20th, 2pm

DiMenna Center for Classical Music, 450 West 37th St, New York, NY

The Park Avenue Chamber Symphony continues their “InsideOut” series especially designed for families and children, which allows audiences to sit directly inside the orchestra during the performance. This installment highlights the music of Sergei Prokofiev, including his Symphony No. 5 and the beloved *Peter and the Wolf*, featuring narration by WQXR’s very own Terrance McKnight.

TENET Vocal Artists: “Rejoice! Rejoice!”

Neighborhood: Upper West Side

Saturday, May 20th, 7pm

Saint Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church, 552 West End Ave, New York, NY

The New York-based chamber choir closes out its 2022-23 season with a concert dedicated to the sacred music of 16th century England. Featuring works by Thomas Tallis, Robert White, John Sheppard, William Mundy, and William Byrd.



TENET Vocal Artists (Tatiana Daubek Photography)

Crossings: Malang Jobarteh, kora & Chelsea Randall, piano

Neighborhood: Park Slope

Thursday, May 25th, 7pm

Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, 58 7th Ave, Brooklyn, NY

The Brooklyn Conservatory presents “Crossings,” a unique encounter between New York-based pianist Chelsea Randall and Gambian kora player Malang Jobarteh. The evening will include piano works by György Ligeti and Philip Glass, traditional kora music passed down in Jobarteh’s family, and a brand new collaborative composition by Jobarteh and Randall.

Music for a While: A Composer Portrait of Henry Purcell

Neighborhood: Brooklyn Heights

Wednesday, May 31st, 7:30pm

McKinney Chapel at First Unitarian Congregational Society, 121 Pierrepont St, Brooklyn, NY

Repast Baroque Ensemble returns to First Unitarian to present a program celebrating the works of English composer Henry Purcell, including songs, fantasies, keyboard works, and the Chaconne. The evening will feature the vocals of soprano Sonya Headlam.



RePast Baroque Ensemble perform (Andrew Cribb)

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