

Well-Being Concerts |



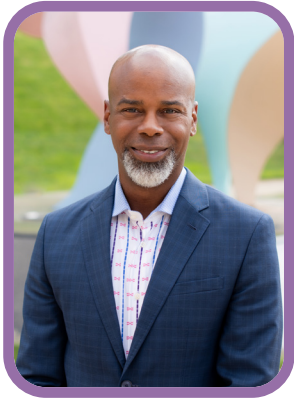
2026 2027



**ZOELLNER
ARTS CENTER**
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY



These concerts are created in partnership with
CARNEGIE HALL'S Weill Music Institute.



DEAR FRIENDS,

At Zoellner Arts Center, we believe the arts are more than entertainment, they are an essential part of a healthy, connected community. We are excited to continue our partnership with Carnegie Hall to bring the Well-Being Concerts and the Lullaby Project back to the Lehigh Valley. Together, these programs are helping reframe the arts as a powerful tool for community health and well-being. Through music, mindfulness, and creative expression, participants are discovering new ways to reduce stress, strengthen relationships, and build meaningful connections with one another.

The impact of these experiences is best shared through the voices of those who have participated:

"The immersive experience was so ethereal beginning with the breath, intention setting, and then enhanced by the energy exchange between musicians and audience. The setting was a key factor and the guidance by the facilitator kept this focus." - Well-Being Concert Attendee

"Thank you for this remarkable experience. Thank you for your time spent with me. I feel like I am with my family, I am among family – able to share emotional stories. I wish more people would experience what I experienced today." - Lullaby Project Participant

These programs would not be possible without the partnership and expertise of the Mindful Child Initiative and Lehigh Valley Health Network part of Jefferson Health. From training local teaching artists to transform mothers' words into original lullabies to bringing world-class artists to the Lehigh Valley to foster reflection, relaxation, and rejuvenation, these collaborations have helped create a growing Arts & Wellness initiative that continues to serve our community.

We are also grateful to our early supporters whose belief in this vision has helped make this work possible: United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Capital Blue Cross, Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, and The Dexter F. and Dorothy H. Baker Foundation. We extend our deepest gratitude to three Lehigh University alumni whose generosity has helped establish this work in our community:

W. Beall Fowler '59 P'85 P'89 GP'16

Barbara and Harvey L. York '67 P'94 P'98

Marcie and Glenn M. Yarnis '80

Their belief in the transformative power of the arts helped bring *The Lullaby Project* and *Well-Being Concerts* to the Lehigh Valley. Together with our existing partners, we are working toward a future where these arts-based experiences are accessible to everyone who can benefit from them.

We invite you to experience this year's Well-Being Concert series. Take time to breathe. Reflect. Relax. Reconnect. In the midst of a busy day, give yourself permission to pause and care for your own well-being.

With gratitude,

Mark Wilson

Marc Falato '87 Executive Director of Zoellner Arts Center

Thanks to:



Season at a Glance



Piers Faccini & Ballaké Sissoko

pg. 4

WED SEP 23 | 12:00pm & 4:00pm | Baker Hall



Wu Fei

pg. 5

THU OCT 15 | 12:00pm | Baker Hall

THU OCT 15 | 6:00pm | Linderman Library | For Lehigh Campus Community



Ablaye Cissoko & Cyrille Brotto

pg. 6

THU JAN 21 | 12:00pm & 4:00pm | Fowler Black Box Theatre



Cantus

pg. 7

THU FEB 18 | 12:00pm | Linderman Library | For Lehigh Campus Community

THU FEB 18 | 6:00pm | Baker Hall | Cantus will be joined by The Bach Choir & Lehigh University Choral Arts



Palaver Strings

pg. 8

THU MAR 11 | 4:00pm | Baker Hall



Lisa Fischer & Clay Ross

pg. 9

TUE MAY 4 | 12:00pm & 4:00pm | Iaccoca Hall Mountaintop Campus

Piers & Ballaké



WED SEP 23 | 12:00pm & 4:00pm | Baker Hall

The exchange between Ballaké Sissoko and Piers Faccini began almost 20 years ago when the two artists met at the same record label: Label Bleu. Immediately, an engaging dialogue emerged between the London folk songwriter – passionate about African music – and the musician from Bamako – inheritor of the great tradition of the kora and Mandingue music. The most beautiful conversations sometimes unfold slowly. To move beyond stereotypes, time is needed. Contrary to the saying, music is not a universal thing, but rather a matter of languages. It takes time to learn each other's languages, not just to listen, but to truly understand them.

In 2020, finding themselves once again on the same label, this time No Format, the exchanges resumed. Ballaké Sissoko invited Piers Faccini to sing *Kadidja*, a song in Bambara, on his album *Djourou*. Then, in quick succession, Piers Faccini composed another song for the duo: "The Fire Inside." The two friends then decided to record an entire album together.

CHOOSE-WHAT-YOU-PAY FREE/\$5/10/20

General Admission - Run time 60 min. approx.
Located on-stage, seating options: chair, mat, cushion
Post-Show Reflection - up to 60 min.





THU OCT 15 | 12:00pm | Baker Hall

THU OCT 15 | 6:00pm | Linderman Library* | For Lehigh Campus Community

Born and raised in Beijing, Wu Fei is a composer, vocalist, and performer of the *guzheng* (Chinese zither), as well as the piano. She began performing on the guzheng at the age of six and spent her formative years studying composition at the China Conservatory of Music. She holds an M.A. in Composition from Mills College, where she studied improvisation and composition.

Wu Fei has performed and recorded with musicians such as John Zorn, Fred Frith, Billy Martin (Medeski-Martin-Wood), Carla Kihlstedt (Tin Hat Trio), and Grammy-winning musicians Abigail Washburn and Béla Fleck. Her commissions range from a composition for the Percussions Claviers de Lyon (France) that premiered in the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing, to live performances in Paris and Tokyo for Hermès. Fei has performed at The Great Hall of the People in Beijing and MoMA in New York City, and has been a guest lecturer and performer at institutions including China Conservatory of Music, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo.

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**Arts &
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*Metered street parking is available for this event

Cissoko & Brotto

“Masterful collaborations of kora and accordion... a gem from start to finish.”

- Songlines Magazine



THU JAN 21 | 12:00pm & 4:00pm | Fowler Black Box Theatre

Music's ability to bridge cultures, expand traditions, and connect individuals can be felt in this powerful, interactive Well-Being Concert with Senegalese kora master and *djeli* Ablade Cissoko and French accordionist Cyrille Brotto. In an interview with the UK's *Songlines*, Cissoko says, "Both the kora and accordion somehow carry a living tradition. They awaken all our senses and allow us to see humanity differently."

Cissoko is one of his generation's finest kora players – an 800-year-old instrument which combines the features of the lute and harp. It is used extensively in West Africa by *djeli* families - traditional historians, genealogists and storytellers - who pass their skills on to their descendants. He incorporates Mandinka griot traditions with contemporary musical creation, performing with artists across genres, including world music, jazz, classical and baroque. Brotto is an accomplished diatonic accordionist and multi-instrumentalist, with a distinguished performing and educational profile in France and across Europe. The rapport between these two artists is evident in their mesmerizing music. This intimate performance by the acclaimed duo aspires to foster new feelings of connection and leave a long-lasting, uplifting impression on audience members.

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Seating options: chair, mat, cushion
Post-Show Reflection - up to 60 min.





THU FEB 18 | 12:00pm | Linderman Library* | For Lehigh Campus Community

THU FEB 18 | 6:00pm | Baker Hall

Now in its 32nd season, the “engaging” (*New Yorker*) low-voice ensemble Cantus is widely known for its trademark warmth and blend, innovative programming and riveting performances of music ranging from the Renaissance to the 21st century. The *Washington Post* has hailed the Cantus sound as having both “exalting finesse” and “expressive power” and refers to the “spontaneous grace” of its music making. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* called the group nothing short of “exquisite.” As one of the nation’s few full-time vocal ensembles, Cantus has come to prominence with its distinctive approach to creating music. As the *Star Tribune* has written, “The main hallmark of the Cantus sound has always been sheer quality and an unbroken belief in the special way that vocal music has of warming and invigorating the human spirit.” Cantus will be joined by The Bach Choir & Lehigh University Choral Arts for the Baker Hall performance.

CHOOSE-WHAT-YOU-PAY **FREE/\$5/10/20**

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Post-Show Reflection - up to 60 min.



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*Street parking available via ParkMobile app

Palaver Strings



THU MAR 11 | 4:00pm | Baker Hall

Discover why the GRAMMY-nominated Palaver Strings is hailed as one of New England's most innovative and dynamic chamber ensembles. Featuring acclaimed jazz vocalist Vuyo Sotashe and Grammy-nominated pianist Chris Pattishall, the group performs *Incwadi*, an immersive, hour-long journey into the musical heritage of South Africa, offered as a shared space for presence, connection, and renewal. *Incwadi*--which means "book," or in this case, "collection of songs," in Zulu--draws on traditional folk songs in Zulu, Sepedi, and Xhosa, choral works by Michael Moreane and Bheki Mseleku, and originals by Vuyo Sotashe, all woven together in fresh arrangements for voice, piano, and strings by Chris Pattishall. The program invites audiences to discover how sound can shape the way we feel, reflect, and relate to one another. Moving fluidly between American jazz, South African traditional music, and European classical traditions, *Incwadi* explores music as a living conversation, one that heals, connects, and endures.

The ensemble's elite artistry has been showcased at world-class venues such as Carnegie Hall and Tanglewood.

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Post-Show Reflection - up to 60 min.

Lisa Fischer & Clay Ross



TUE MAY 4 | 12:00pm & 4:00pm | Iaccoca Hall*

Sweet By & By brings together vocalist Lisa Fischer and guitarist Clay Ross, both multiple Grammy Award winners, for an intimate program of American spirituals, folk hymns, and songs of comfort. Stripped down to voice and guitar, these songs slow the room down: melodies carried gently, harmonies left open, and silences given space to breathe. Fischer's voice moves from a whisper to soaring heights with remarkable tenderness, while Ross's guitar draws from the deep roots of American folk traditions. Together, they invite listeners into music as reflection, where familiar songs become pathways to stillness, memory, and renewal. It feels less like a concert than a shared moment of calm.

Celebrated globally for her Grammy Award-winning solo hit "*How Can I Ease the Pain*" and her prominent role in the Oscar-winning documentary *Twenty Feet From Stardom*. She spent decades as a highly sought-after background singer for music royalty like Luther Vandross, The Rolling Stones, and Sting.

Clay Ross is a celebrated guitarist, vocalist, and composer deeply rooted in American roots and jazz traditions. He is a founding member of the jazz group Ranky Tanky.

CHOOSE-WHAT-YOU-PAY FREE/\$5/10/20

General Admission - Run time 60 min. approx.
Seating options: chair, mat, cushion
Post-Show Reflection - up to 60 min.

***Iaccoca Hall Observation Tower**

Lehigh University Mountaintop Campus
111 Research Dr, Bethlehem PA

Passport Parking app is available for this event

THE LULLABY PROJECT

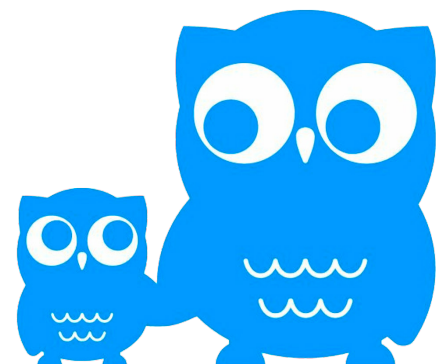
CARNEGIE HALL
Weill Music Institute

Another exciting arts and wellness project!

At Lehigh University's Zoellner Arts Center, we have been engaged in broader conversations about Arts & Wellness with healthcare providers, educators, and community organizations across the Lehigh Valley. The Lullaby Project directly supports the shared goal of using the arts to foster healing, connection, and well-being—especially for those who have traditionally had limited access to support services.

The Lullaby Project, a project of Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute, pairs new and expecting parents and caregivers with professional artists to write and sing personal lullabies for their babies, supporting parental health, aiding childhood development, and strengthening the bond between parent and child. In New York City, the Lullaby Project reaches parents in healthcare, social service, and justice settings. Extending across the country and around the world, the Lullaby Project enables partner organizations to support families in their own communities.

Our focus is on creating stronger systems of care for mothers who often fall outside the reach of services routinely available in wealthier communities. The Lullaby Project is a trusted program from Carnegie Hall that nurtures emotional connection, supports early childhood development, and provides a creative and therapeutic outlet for caregivers navigating the challenges of early parenthood.



Collaborators & Supporters

This project will bring together several trusted organizations to work with Zoellner Arts Center in order to create a supportive, creative ecosystem for expectant and new parents:

Lehigh Valley Health Network part of Jefferson Health will identify expectant mothers through its clinics and hospital network, providing essential healthcare context and helping us connect with families who might not otherwise have access to creative support.

United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, a trusted voice for families in our region, will help elevate awareness and build relationships with local mothers.

Mindful Child Initiative, provides high-quality mindfulness programs to promote the mental and emotional health of children, and the adults who support them. What began as a modest after-school yoga program has since expanded significantly to address the growing mental health crisis among youth.

Dexter F. and Dorothy H. Baker Foundation, a long-standing champion of arts, education, and youth development in the Lehigh Valley, will help ensure the Lullaby Project reaches families who have historically lacked access to culturally enriching and healing experiences.

Capital Blue Cross is committed to improving the health and well-being of the communities we serve. Supporting programs that provide access to the arts and emotional support is a vital way to advance this commitment, particularly for families facing vulnerable circumstances.

Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, promotes philanthropy in order to improve the quality of life in our region, encourage collaboration among area philanthropists, and serve as a source of information and expertise regarding charitable giving.

Lehigh University College of Health, we work to prevent disease and suffering by integrating diverse fields of study, prioritizing real-world impact, and educating our students through experience.

Lehigh University College of Education, offers premier graduate-level programs focused on innovative research, interdisciplinary applications, evidence-based practices, and partnerships at the local, national and international level.

Kellyn Foundation, we believe that a collaborative Healthy Neighborhood Immersion Initiative, including education in schools, access to healthy food, and medically based lifestyle change programs can positively affect the short- and long-term health of children and their families while providing cost savings to individuals, families, employers, and the healthcare system as a whole.

CONTACT US

IN PERSON

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ONLINE

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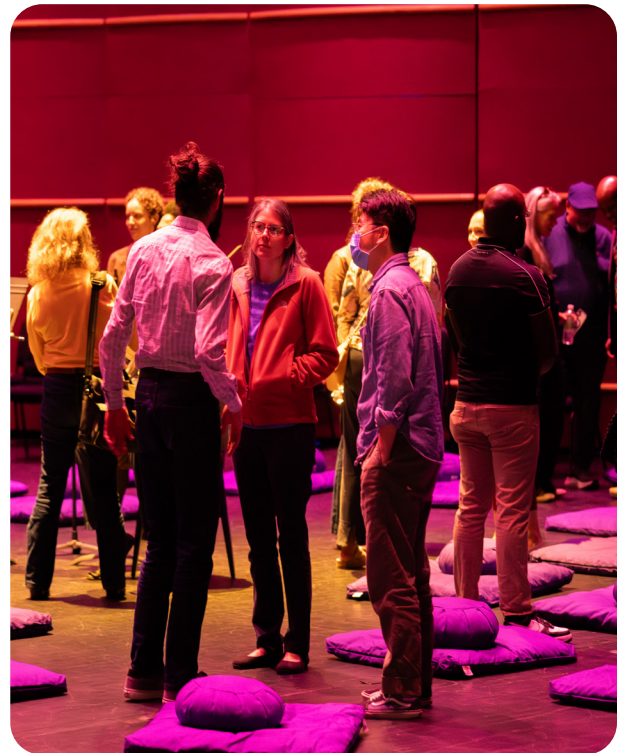


PHONE

610-758-2787 ext: 0

Box Office Hours: TUE 12-6PM, WED-FRI 12-5PM

For ticketed events: 90 mins. prior to curtain



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