

stars turned pop girlies (**Ariana Grande** at Barclays Center; July 12-13, 16, and 18-19, and **Hilary Duff** at Madison Square Garden; Aug. 5-6) in addition to trailblazers in Spanish-language pop (**Rosalía** at M.S.G.; June 16-17, and **Shakira** at Barclays Center; July 20-21). The summer goes full bore when one of the rap GOATS, **Jay-Z**, takes over Yankee Stadium (July 10-12) to celebrate the anniversaries of two home-town classics—"Reasonable Doubt" and "The Blueprint."—*Sheldon Pearce*

Classical Music



Illustration by Nicholas Stevenson

ADVERTISEMENT

Summer Festivals, Beautiful America

If you need a break from un-air-conditioned subway platforms this summer, there's a multitude of classical events to stop by. The contemporary **Time:Spans Festival** kicks off, on Aug. 8, with the New York premiere of Wolfgang Rihm's "Jagden und Formen," an orchestral piece that begins with hand claps—listen up! The series also includes a world premiere by Suzanne Farrin, honoring the Hungarian composer György Kurtág (Aug. 10); the **International Contemporary Ensemble**, performing "I did not paint the war. I lived the war," by the Iranian composer Farzia Fallah (Aug. 17); and the Grammy-winning chamber group **Alarm Will Sound**, with Georg Friedrich Haas's "in vain," hopefully not in vain (Aug. 21).

Lincoln Center holds its third annual **Festival Orchestra**, the successor of the Mostly Mozart Festival. **Jonathon Heyward**, the director, will once again lead us in a "**Symphony of Choice**," where the audience can vote for pieces on their phones (July 8). "**A Mother's Love**" (July 31, Aug. 1) features Brahms's "Lullaby." Frau Brahms, for her part, wrote her son dozens of heartfelt letters, including one saying that he was always her "first thought" in the morning. (He had two other siblings. A mother's love!)

The **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's** "**Summer Evenings**" series returns to Alice Tully Hall, with performances that include Gershwin's Three Preludes for Violin and Piano (July 11), Bernstein's Meditations for Cello and Piano, from "Mass" (July 14), and Beethoven's Quintet Op. 29 (July 18). At the Rose Theatre, **Teatro Nuovo** will put on Mozart's beloved "**Don Giovanni**" (July 15) and Rossini's less-loved "**Il Turco in Italia**" (July 16). Strauss's "**The Egyptian Helen**," set after the Trojan War, will make an appearance at **Bard Summerscape** (Fisher Center, Annandale-on-Hudson; July 24-Aug. 2)—move over, Christopher Nolan's "Odyssey."

In Brooklyn, on June 3, National Sawdust honors **Felipe Lara**, the Brazilian American composer and, as of 2024, Pulitzer finalist. Lara's special interest in mosaics and mazes will be reflected in his winding, labyrinthine piece called, neatly enough, "Mosaic Maze." At Green-Wood Cemetery, **Death of Classical** digs into what it means to celebrate the country's two-hundred-and-fiftieth birthday. Its program spotlights compositions that reinvent the song "America the Beautiful," performed by the pianist Min Kwon (June 18-20); tickets include a walking tour of the catacombs. Also embracing the outdoors, the **New York Philharmonic** goes borough to borough for its "**Concerts in the Park**" series. Otherwise, this summer promises music from A.C. to shining A.C.—*Jane Bua*

P.S. Good stuff on the internet:

- **John Waters doesn't think so, honey**
- **Cy Twombly, up close**
- **A visit to the Marfa Lights**

*Published in the print edition of the **June 1, 2026**, issue, with the headline "Goings On: Summer Preview."*