

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**LAST CHANCE TO SEE *LEONARD BERNSTEIN: THE POWER OF MUSIC***  
**AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY**  
**ON VIEW THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2, 2018**

PHILADELPHIA—The special exhibition *Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music* is on view through **September 2** at the **National Museum of American Jewish History** (NMAJH). The first large-scale museum exhibition to illustrate the famed conductor and composer’s life, Jewish identity, and social activism, *Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music* features **approximately 100 historic artifacts**—from Bernstein’s piano and conducting suit to family heirlooms—along with original films and immersive sound installations. The exhibition is part of the **worldwide centennial celebration of Bernstein’s birthday**.



Leonard Bernstein, 1956. © Made available online with permission of The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. Friedman-Abeles, Billy Rose Theatre Collection. Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations.

The exhibition explores how Bernstein’s approach to music was informed by the political and social crises of his day. Bernstein used the arts to express the restlessness, anxiety, fear, and hope of an American Jew living through World War II and the Holocaust, the Vietnam War, and turbulent social change that shook his faith: in God, in humanity, and in government. The exhibition focuses on what Bernstein referred to as his “**search for a solution to the 20th-century crisis of faith**” and how he confronted this “crisis” by breaking racial barriers in his casting decisions for *On the Town* (1944), addressing America’s changing ideas about race and ethnicity in *West Side Story*, and giving a voice to

the human rights crisis during the Vietnam era in his provocative theater piece, *MASS* (1971), as examples.

*Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music* brings together approximately 100 original artifacts, some never-before-exhibited in public. Artifact highlights include **Bernstein's piano, an annotated copy of *Romeo and Juliet*** used for the development of *West Side Story*, the **program for his Carnegie Hall debut**, his **conducting suit**, his **easel used for studying scores and composing**, and much more. Bernstein's Jewish heritage, so deeply ingrained in him by his parents and so intricately woven through his life and work, will be conveyed through a number of artifacts, including the **mezuzah** that hung in his studio, the Hebrew prayer book he carried with him when he traveled, his **ketubah** (Jewish marriage contract), his family's **Passover seder plate**, and the **Talmud** (book of Jewish law) given to Bernstein by his father. The exhibition also features a variety of films, sound installations, and interactive media. Visitors can hear from Bernstein himself through archival recordings and documentary footage, alongside interviews with those who knew him best.

The exhibition has garnered significant media attention, including coverage by *The New York Times*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *WHYY*, *CBS*, and *The Jewish Exponent*. *The New York Times* has called *Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music* "**among the most notable homages to Mr. Bernstein.**" Following its run at NMAJH, the exhibition will be on view at **Brandeis University** (Waltham, MA), October 5 - November 20, 2018 and then at **Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage** (Beachwood, OH), September 22, 2019 – February 22, 2020.

A calendar listing of exhibition-related programming at the Museum follows.

#### **Free Summer Friday afternoons at NMAJH**

1 – 5PM, through August 24, 2018

#### **Leonard Bernstein's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Saturday, August 25, 10AM – 5:30PM

The Museum will be open and FREE on what would have been musical icon Leonard Bernstein's 100th birthday. Visitors will have access to the entire Museum for free as the special exhibition *Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music* enters its final week on view at the Museum. Celebrate with special events throughout the day, including chalk art on the plaza.

#### **Happy Birthday Bernstein! A Midsummer's Eve Celebrating Life, Love, and Lenny**

Saturday, August 25, 8PM – midnight

Join the Young Friends of NMAJH as we gather for our annual summer party! This year we are celebrating Leonard Bernstein's 100th birthday (on his actual birthday) with a night full of music, dancing, and a special late night view of the special exhibition *Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music*. Drinks and light fare included with ticket purchase.

Cost: \$40 non-members / \$30 for Young Friends of NMAJH Members.

Tickets: [bit.ly/HappyBirthdayLenny](http://bit.ly/HappyBirthdayLenny)

Discover more Leonard Bernstein centennial celebrations in Philadelphia at [bit.ly/phillyloveslenny](http://bit.ly/phillyloveslenny) and on social media using [#PhillyLovesLenny](https://twitter.com/PhillyLovesLenny).

**For high-resolution images and additional information on *Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music*, visit [Dropbox](#).**

*Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music* received generous support from the **National Endowment for the Humanities**, which awards grants to programs demonstrating the highest scholarship and excellence. For more information, visit [NMAJH.org/Bernstein](http://NMAJH.org/Bernstein).



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#### About the National Museum of American Jewish History

The National Museum of American Jewish History, located on historic Independence Mall in Philadelphia, brings to life the more than 360-year history of Jews in America. Tracing the stories of how Jewish immigrants became Jewish Americans, the Museum invites visitors of all backgrounds to share their own stories and reflect on how their histories and identities shape and are shaped by the American experience. An open door for all, NMAJH honors the past and contributes to a better future by sharing the power of imagination and ideas, culture and community, leadership and service, in ways that turn inspiration into action.

The National Museum of American Jewish History is located at 101 South Independence Mall East at the corner of Fifth and Market Streets in Philadelphia. Museum hours are Wednesday to Friday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, and

Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am - 5:30 pm. The Museum will also be open Tuesday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm during *Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music*. Museum admission is \$15.00 for adults, \$13.00 for senior citizens and youth, free for children 12 and under, Museum Members, and active military with ID; reduced prices available if purchased online. Connect with the Museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Pinterest](#). For more information, visit [NMAJH.org](http://NMAJH.org) or call 215.923.3811.

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