

TRENDING

Celebrate 100 Years of Leonard Bernstein With These Festivals

Wherever you are, there's likely a Bernstein at 100 concert, festival or performance near you. Here are some notable ones, and how to find one close to home.



The Leonard Bernstein exhibition at the National Museum of American Jewish History. Jessi Melcer

By Shivani Vora

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Whether you're a fan of show tunes, operas or classical music, the name Leonard Bernstein likely rings a familiar melody. The composer, conductor and educator, who died in 1990, would have turned 100 on Aug. 25, and events to commemorate his centennial, collectively called "Leonard Bernstein at 100," are happening all over the world in 2018, from Vancouver to Vienna.

Bernstein's three children, Jamie, Alex and Nina, co-own [Leonard Bernstein Office, Inc.](#), and according to their research, there are some 3,000 celebrations honoring their father this year. The majority of them take place during the summer, and a full, searchable calendar is available [on their website](#) so you can find an event near you.

"The diversity of the events is incredible," Jamie Bernstein said. "There are symposiums at universities, exhibits and film festivals. Opera and theater companies, ballet houses and orchestras are also participating." She added that her and her siblings are traveling to as many of the celebrations as possible.

Among the most notable homages to Mr. Bernstein is an exhibition, "[Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music](#)," running at the [National Museum of American Jewish History](#), in Philadelphia, until Sept. 2.

Bernstein has a special connection with Philadelphia. He earned his conducting diploma at the [Curtis Institute of Music](#) and frequently returned in subsequent years, according to exhibition curator Ivy Weingram. Spread over 2,200 square feet, the show includes more than 100 artifacts from Bernstein's life, including his Steinway piano (a gift from his piano teacher, Helen Coates), and an annotated copy of "Romeo and Juliet" in which he formulated ideas for "West Side Story."

Visitors can also see clips of his musicals and personal photos from his childhood in Boston. There's a photograph, for example, of Bernstein as a teen conducting a summer-camp orchestra. Museum admission is \$15.

Another noteworthy commemoration for the artist is [BBC Proms](#), a classical music festival in London's [Royal Albert Hall](#) that runs from July 13 to Sept. 8. The lineup features more than 10 concerts where Mr. Bernstein's work will be played, including a performance on Aug. 11 of music from "West Side Story." Also, on Aug. 31, Marin Alsop, who was a student of Bernstein's, along with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, will perform Bernstein's "Slava! A Political Overture" as well as his "Symphony No. 2." Prices for performances start at 6 pounds, about \$8.

But perhaps one of the biggest birthday celebrations will be in Lenox, Mass. The [Boston Symphony Orchestra's](#) summer season at Tanglewood, running from June 15 to Sept. 2, is called "[Bernstein Centennial Summer — Celebrating Lenny at Tanglewood!](#)" and will pay tribute to Bernstein's contributions to the festival from 1940 to 1990. The lineup has 14 performances that include Bernstein's works like the opera "A Quiet Place" and his operetta "Candide."

The culmination, on Aug. 25, is a gala concert that features artists and ensembles from the worlds of classical music, film, and Broadway including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who worked with Bernstein, concert singers Susan Graham and Isabel Leonard and Broadway singers Jessica Vosk and Tony Yazbeck. Tickets start at \$12, and visitors ages 17 and younger get free lawn tickets.