WORLD MUSIC INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

PRESENTING THE BEST IN MUSIC AND DANCE FROM AROUND THE WORLD
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Mission Statement

WMI is committed to presenting the finest in traditional and contemporary music and dance from around the world with the goal of inspiring wonder for world cultures through music and dance. WMI aims to enrich the lives of people living in New York by promoting awareness of other cultures and their traditions. WMI collaborates with community organizations and academic institutions in fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of the world’s cultural traditions.

WMI presents at venues throughout the city and depends on public and private funding to accomplish its mission.
A Letter from The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Providing New York City audiences with memorable, meaningful cultural experiences that entertain while also fostering an appreciation of the rich diversity of the world’s cultures and traditions drives our thinking and efforts every day. We are delighted and inspired by the enthusiastic response to this year’s programming - 16 soldout performances and more than 25,000 audience members served.

Thank you for sharing our passion for and commitment to high-caliber world music and dance artists who enrich our lives.

Best Wishes,

Gaby Sappington
Executive Director
Media and Press

- The New York Times"

"The Malian kora player and French cellist teamed up for a magical duo performance staged by the World Music Institute that blends phantasmic, cinematic themes, jaunty West African melodies and the baroque. More than one audience member was brought to tears.

Ballaké Sissoko and Vincent Segal at the French Institute - 3/17
New York Music Daily "Best of 2017"

"Scripps names WMI in NYC "Essentials" List:
See the best New York has to offer, from world-class art to serene nature.

"With one of the most diverse artist rosters and audiences, WMI plays an important role in presenting under-recognized dance and music traditions from more than 100 countries and ethnic minorities from around the world. WMI celebrates the culture of the many immigrant communities in New York, while exposing New Yorkers to musical traditions that include Afro-Peruvian, American Gospel, New York Flamenco, Soul music from Mali and Indian dancers.
- Paul McGinniss"
WMI's 2016-2017 Season by the Numbers

- **41** Performances with
- **16** Sold-Out Shows representing
- **18** Cultures and Traditions, serving a total audience of
- **25,019** Members of our Community
Cultures Represented in the 2016-2017 Program

WMI Program in FY17 featured performers from:

Nigeria    Mauritania
Ethiopia   France
India      Dem. Rep. of Congo
Mali       South Africa
Brazil     The Gambia
USA        Korea
Nepal      Syria
Ghana      Taiwan
Spain      

Image of performers from different countries.
2016-2017 Program

8 Concert Series and 2 Festivals

Series:

Top: Masters of African Music, Masters of Brazilian Music, Masters of Indian Music, Desert Blues

Bottom: Collaborations, Origins, Counterpoint, Global/Local

Festivals:

Africa Now! at The Apollo Theater
Dancing The Gods Classical Indian Dance Festival
**WMI PLUS EVENTS**

WMI PLUS events offer experiences that go beyond the presentation of performances yet are aligned with our mission of promoting awareness and appreciation of the world’s cultures and traditions, fostering greater understanding and cross-cultural dialogue.

Our 2017 Program (clockwise):

Acoustic Mandala Project: A Sound Bath Experience
Laughter and Sound Meditation with Laraaji
Meredith Monk and Ani Choying Drolma Talk
Documentary Screening: Don’t Think I’ve Forgotten
Venue Partners

Our venue partners range from intimate settings and clubs to concert halls and public spaces.

First-Time Partnership With:
- BAM Howard Gilman Opera House
- Brooklyn Bowl
- Central Park SummerStage
- David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center
- Littlefield
- Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center
- Miller Theatre at Columbia U. School of the Arts
- National Sawdust
- Pioneer Works

Continuing Partnerships With:
- The Apollo Theater
- BAM Café
- French Institute Alliance Francaise (FIAF)
- (le) poisson rouge
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Storm King Art Center
- Symphony Space
- The Town Hall
Funding

WMI programs are made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

$25,000+
Andrew & Emily Faulkner
Howard Bayne Fund
Howard Gilman Foundation
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs
New York State Council on the Arts
Paul Palmer
Daisy & David Paradis
Phaedrus Foundation / Thomas & Kamala Buckner
Anupam & Rajika Puri

$10,000 - $24,999
The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation
Jinghong Li

$2,500 - $9,999
ConEdison
Zette Emmons
NYC & Company Foundation
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP
Anonymous
Credit Suisse

$1,000 - $2,499
Consulate General of Spain
Kamakshi Rao
Haricharan Reddy
Cafe Un, Deux, Trois
Three Star Printing
Kate Winn
Kellie Specter
Raman & Aditya Kaul
The Amphion Foundation, Inc.

$250 - $999
Adobe
Helen M. Anderson
Ruchika Bajaj
Angela de Lara
Tarek Dabbous
Hal Freedman
Herbert Ginsburg
Edward Haber
Mariana Hallock
David Hansen
Bill Henry
Kenneth Kail
Katharine Kean
Marina Livanos-Coletti
Delrosa Marshall
John McCormick
Lauren Merkel
Rona Pocker
Gaby Sappington
Jean Wardle & Roy Mortenson
Jacob Yahiayan

& the support of many friends and members of WMI. We are grateful for all contributions to our mission.
World Citizen Membership Program

**STUDENT/SENIOR - $70**

10% discount on a pair of tickets for up to four eligible performances per year
Free access to member events
$58 is tax-deductible

**INDIVIDUAL - $100**

10% discount on a pair of tickets for ALL eligible performances per year
Special CD gift
Free access to member events
$60 is tax-deductible

**SUPPORTER - $300**

All of the above PLUS
Name listed on funding page on WMI website
Name listed in the annual program calendar
$260 is tax-deductible

**PATRON - $500**

All of the benefits of the Supporter level PLUS waived ticketing and processing fees for tickets purchased via the WMI website and/or box office phone line
Autographed item from a WMI performing artist
$330 is tax-deductible

**ARTIST CIRCLE - $1,000**

All of the above PLUS
Access to priority seating (tickets must be purchased no later than 10 days prior to show)
Two (2) free tickets for two (2) eligible performances per year
$650 is tax-deductible

**WORLD CLASS - $5,000**

All of the above PLUS
Name listed as co-sponsor of a concert
$4,650 is tax-deductible
Board of Directors

In the 2016-2017 season, seven professionals who are passionate about world music and dance served in the important role of Board of Directors. They contributed leadership and expertise in the areas of fiduciary oversight and legal advice, as well as aspects of WMI's mission and vision. Board Members provide financial support, generously share their resources, and promote WMI performances and events within their networks.

Paul Palmer (Board Chair), Daisy Paradis, Zette Emmons, Kate Winn, Andrew Faulkner
Missing from photo: Jinhong Li and Cynthia McVay
Advisory Board

Hal Friedman  Cindy Kynard  Lauren Merkel  David Neidhart  Kamakshi Rao  Marggi Vangeli

Honorary Board

Muhal Richard Abrams  Philip Glass  Zakir Hussain  Javier Limón  Mira Nair
WMI Team

Gaby Sappington
Executive Director

Par Neiburger
Artistic Director

Iris Maenza
Manager, Marketing and Events Promotion

Michael Griffin
Manager, Finance and Administration

Sruly Lazaros
Production Manager

Aleba & Co.
Publicity
Financial Reporting

Share of Revenue

- Contributed: 51%
- Earned: 49%

Earned Revenue:
- Ticket Sales
- Membership Sales
- Co-Production Fees
- Booking Fees
- Ticket Handling Fees
- Fundraising Income
- Merchandise Sales

Unearned Revenue:
- Individual Donations
- Corporate Donations
- Foundation Grants
- Government Grants

Share of Expenses

- Program: 81%
- G&A: 18%
- Fundraising: 1%

Audited financials available upon request.
History of World Music Institute

The World Music Institute was founded in 1985 and grew out of the concert series developed at New York’s Alternative Museum by its founders Robert and Helene Browning between 1976 and 1985. The Alternative Museum provided a showcase for people to experience many styles of world music in an intimate setting. Its concerts of classical Indian music, Irish folk music, and Americana such as blues, gospel, and Cajun music are legendary. In addition, it provided a platform for many young American experimental artists and an opportunity for audiences to hear classical music of Persia, Turkey, and the Arab lands, the music of West African griots, and rarely heard music of Southeast Asia.

WMI expanded upon this early world music program to build the most comprehensive concert series of traditional music and dance in the United States. Since its inception, WMI has presented music and dance from more than 100 countries and ethnic minorities in Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe, the Americas and the Middle East, as well as regional music from North America. In addition, WMI has presented innovative programs of contemporary music by American composers and interpreters.

WMI was a pioneer in promoting music from the world of Islam at a time that Americans had little or no understanding of Islamic culture. In 1993-94 and 1995-96, we presented The Musical World of Islam which featured artists from the Middle East and Central Asia.

In the late 1990s when, for a short while, Cuban musicians were able to visit the United States, WMI was able to provide a platform for some of the island’s foremost traditional musicians including Orchestra Aragon, Muñequitos de Matanzas, AfroCuba de Matanzas, and Pancho Quinto. In our 30th Anniversary season, we presented a Masters of Cuban Music Series that featured the “Adios” Tour of the famed Cuban ensemble Buena Vista Social Club - their final ever performance in the continental United States, Chucho Valdés, performing the music of his ground-breaking group Irakere in honor of their 40th anniversary, and Arturo Sandoval, the Cuban Jazz giant who also was originally a member of Irakere prior to his leaving Cuba to live in the United States.

WMI has also spearheaded the presentation of Iranian musicians in the US. In addition to Shahram Nazeri, WMI has presented Iran’s most famous classical singer, Mohammad Reza Shajarian, on numerous occasions and launched the career of Kayhan Kalhor.

Classical Indian music, both Hindustani (North India) and Carnatic (South India), has always been a major part of WMI’s programming. Since 1985, we have presented most of India’s greatest musicians and dancers, most recently Shujaat Khan and Dr. Neena Prasad.

Artists from Africa and the African diaspora have played an important role in WMI’s programming and have most recently included Mulatu Astatke (Ethiopia), Boubacar Traore (Mali), Salif Keita (Mali), Gideon Alorwoyie (Ghana), Rokia Traore (Mali), and Vieux Farka Toure. For the past six years, WMI has partnered with The Apollo Theater in presenting Africa Now! spotlighting emerging and established artists of today’s African music scene.

After the retirement of the Founding Director of 26 years in 2011, WMI entered an era of transition with some management and personnel changes until 2015, when under new leadership a small, committed team continued and expanded on the original vision of WMI’s founders. Aside from expanding the artistic repertoire to include contemporary as well as traditional world music performers, ancillary events such as artist Q&As, pre-show expert talks and demonstrations, as well as after-show meet and greets have been added and aim to provide additional opportunities for learning about and engaging with each presented culture.

To date, WMI has presented more than 1,500 artists from 100 countries and ethnic regions of the world at venues throughout NYC and beyond.

www.worldmusicinstitute.org