

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center

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Merkin Concert Hall's innovative programming, intimate scale and near perfect acoustics have earned it a reputation as one of New York City's finest concert venues. Noted in the *New York Times* for its "reputation for avant-gardism of a cool and cerebral nature," Merkin presents adventurous work—including many world premieres—by contemporary composers and some of today's most acclaimed and inspiring performers. Merkin "plays a critical role because it features music that's about the 21st century—about right now," says **Michael Gordon**, co-founder and co-artistic director of the Bang on A Can ensemble.

In addition to cutting-edge new music, Merkin presents some of the best new talents in the classical world, celebrations of musical theater with Broadway's top professionals, and lively musical reviews for children and families. Merkin also fills a vital need in the New York City musical landscape by providing a welcoming venue for a wide range of performances produced by other artists.

Concert Series

- Launched in 2011 to great critical acclaim, the annual **Ecstatic Music Festival** features world premieres of collaborations by artists who are re-defining contemporary music. The Festival includes the popular **New Sounds Live** concerts hosted by **John Schaefer** that are live streamed on WQXR/Q2 and broadcast on WNYC.
- **Tuesday Matinees**, Merkin's longest-running series, presents some of today's brightest young classical stars.
- Merkin Concert Hall celebrates American musical theater old and new with the **Broadway Close Up** series, an inside look at the world of musical theater that offers backstage insights from Broadway legends. The series has featured artists such as **Karen Ziemba**, **Chita Rivera** and **David Hyde Pierce**.
- Musical reviews for children and families include **Broadway Playhouse** presentations, which introduce children to the masterpieces of American musical theater, and **Musical Adventures with the Poppy Seed Players**, musical plays for families about Jewish history and heritage.
- Other popular long-running series including **The New York Festival of Song** and **The New York Guitar Festival**.

Kaufman Music Center is New York's go-to place for music education and performance.

It's where music lovers, from curious fans to renowned performers, come together to explore their musical passions. Founded in 1952 as a community music school, today's Kaufman Music Center is one of the city's most vibrant cultural organizations, combining world-class teaching with electrifying performances featuring rising young classical stars, Broadway icons and cutting-edge performer/composers who are re-defining contemporary music. Kaufman Music Center is home to **Lucy Moses School**, **Merkin Concert Hall** and **Special Music School**, New York's only K-12 public school for musically gifted children.