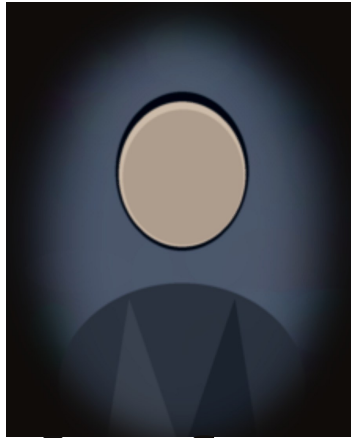




Isaac Stern

July 21, 1920 - September 22, 2001

New York, New York

Isaac Stern - American violinist whose tone and advocacy helped save Carnegie Hall and mentor a generation of soloists - died of heart failure at a New York City hospital on September 22, 2001. He was eighty-one. Born July 21, 1920, in Kremenets (then Poland, now Ukraine), he immigrated to San Francisco as an infant, studied with Naoum Blinder, and debuted with the San Francisco Symphony before World War II concerts and overseas tours made him an international presence.

He recorded extensively, championed new works, and became the public face of the campaign that blocked Carnegie Hall's demolition in 1960 - a civic fight as consequential as any recital. Students and protégés including Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, and Yo-Yo Ma benefited from his blunt coaching and fierce loyalty to the American concert stage. Late in life he remained a restless traveler of the repertoire, even as health narrowed the calendar.

New York, the city of Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center friendships, was also the place of his death weeks after the September 11 attacks - a month when the city's cultural institutions felt especially fragile and necessary.

He died in New York on September 22, 2001. Carnegie Hall's stage still feels like an argument he won for everyone who plays there.

Stern's gift was civic musicianship - virtuosity married to a stubborn defense of the halls where music lives. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 22 remembers the San Francisco-raised violinist who saved Carnegie Hall and taught America how a soloist can serve a city.

Services

Died in New York City, September 22, 2001. Violinist; leader of the campaign to save Carnegie Hall; mentor to Perlman, Zukerman, and Yo-Yo Ma.

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