

Community Partners Monthly Highlights

September 2026

In September, musicians served more than **1,900** community members of all ages, through **17** events across **5** New Jersey counties.



Museum of Jersey City History

On September 10, Derek Fenstermacher, Olivia Pidi, James DeLaGarza, Sue Panny, and Sam George performed the “Patriotic Favorites” program at the Museum of Jersey City History. The performance was part of the Jersey City Free Public Library’s Community Awareness Series and continued the city’s 250th anniversary celebrations. A special thank you to the Jersey City Free Public Library for including New Jersey Symphony in its summer cultural series.

9/11 Memorial Service

On September 11, New Jersey Symphony participated in Jersey City’s 9/11 Memorial Service. The ceremony featured prelude and postlude performances by Maya Shiraishi, Theo Bockhorst, Izia Weyman, and Jonathan Spitz, with Olivia Pidi and Brad Siroky performing during the service. Marking the 25th anniversary of 9/11, the ceremony brought together members of the Jersey City community for a time of reflection and remembrance.





Van Vorst Park

On September 15, Héctor Falcón, Helen Vassiliou, Izia Weyman, Hyewon Kim, and Greg LaRosa performed the "Hispanic Roots" program at Van Vorst Park in Jersey City as part of the Jersey City Free Public Library's Community Awareness Series. The performance celebrated the start of Hispanic Heritage Month and brought live music to the park for community members and passersby.

Newark KidsFest

On September 19, Frank Foerster, Helen Vassiliou, and Hyewon Kim performed *The Ugly Duckling*, narrated by Crystal Gaynor, at Newark KidsFest. Families enjoyed a day filled with music and activities, and attendees had the chance to win Symphony merchandise and free concert tickets. Thank you to the TD Charitable Foundation for sponsoring this event!



Montclair Art Museum

On September 20, Jim Tsao, Xin Zhao, Rosa Ortega Iannelli, and Noah Chen performed at Montclair Art Museum for the 5th Annual Latino Heritage Celebration in partnership with Latinos of Montclair. The musicians played classic and current favorites such as "Como la flor", "Despacito", "Bésame Mucho", and ended with an upbeat performance of "El Cantante" with a salsa band! The performance was warmly received by attendees and added to an afternoon celebrating Latino heritage through music, art, and culture.

As always, thank you for your support of the Community Partners program. Stay tuned for the next edition of Monthly Highlights!