



**GOVERNOR GENERAL'S
PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS FOUNDATION
FONDATION DES PRIX DU GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL
POUR LES ARTS DU SPECTACLE**

In Memory of Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C. (1935-2023)

Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C., President of the Ramon John Hnatyshyn Foundation, wife of the late Governor General Ramon John Hnatyshyn, passed away on July 14 at the age of 88. We are saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. Hnatyshyn who was a staunch supporter of these awards since their creation in 1992.

Mrs. Hnatyshyn's husband, Ramon John Hnatyshyn, served as Canada's twenty-fourth Governor General from 1990 to 1995. Together, they were founding patrons of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards, created by the late Peter Herrndorf and Brian Robertson. The Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts is presented annually and recognizes outstanding contribution by an individual or group in voluntary service to the performing arts in Canada made without direct or indirect financial or other compensation. After Mr. Hnatyshyn's passing in 2002, Mrs. Hnatyshyn often participated in presenting the award to the laureate of the Hnatyshyn award on stage at Rideau Hall and regularly attended the Gala celebrations.

Mr. and Mrs. Hnatyshyn founded the Ramon John Hnatyshyn Foundation to assist emerging and established artists in all disciplines with their schooling, training and career development, and promote to the Canadian public the importance of the arts in our society. In June, the Hnatyshyn Foundation presented a gala in support of the rebuilding or restoration of a cultural institution in Ukraine.

We are grateful for Mrs. Hnatyshyn's support of these awards and of artists from all walks of life across this country. Canadian artists have benefited from her dedication for decades. We send our condolences to the Hnatyshyn family and colleagues at the Hnatyshyn Foundation and at Rideau Hall.

We encourage you to [read more](#) about the amazing work of the Hnatyshyn Foundation, and if you're able, [make a donation](#) in memory of Mrs. Hnatyshyn.

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