



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

NEWS RELEASE

**CELEBRATING CANADIAN TALENT:
2014 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PERFORMING ARTS AWARD LAUREATES
ANNOUNCED**

MONTREAL, March 26, 2014 – The Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation is pleased to announce this year's recipients of Canada's highest and most prestigious performing arts awards.

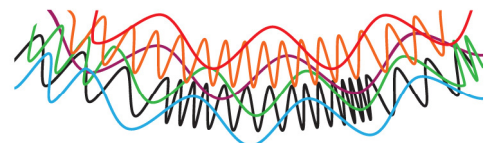
The 2014 laureates of the **Governor General's Performing Arts Awards (GGPAA) for Lifetime Artistic Achievement** are:

- **Anik Bissonnette, O.C** – *Dancer, teacher & artistic director*
- **Blue Rodeo** – *Rock band, bluerodeo.com, [@BlueRodeo](https://twitter.com/BlueRodeo)*
- **Brent Carver** – *Actor and singer*
- **Tom Jackson, O.C.** – *Actor, singer-songwriter, producer & humanitarian, tomjackson.ca, [@tomjacksonca](https://twitter.com/tomjacksonca)*
- **Louise Lecavalier, O.C.** – *Dancer & choreographer, louiselecavalier.com*
- **Janine Sutto, C.C.** – *Actress & teacher*

The Lifetime Artistic Achievement Awards are accompanied by two complementary awards. The **Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts** will be given this year to **Jean Giguère**, while actor, director and artistic director **Albert Schultz, C.M.** will receive the **National Arts Centre Award**, which recognizes exceptional achievement over the past performance year.

The 2014 laureates were announced today at events held in Montreal, Toronto, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Winnipeg and Calgary and via live stream.

"We are thrilled to honour and celebrate each of these exceptionally talented Canadians who have brought us a lifetime of joy, insight and wonder," said Douglas Knight, Chair of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation (GGPAAF). Added Paul-André Fortier, Co-chair of the Foundation, "These prestigious awards continue to demonstrate the extraordinary pool of artistic talent in this country, as well as the extent to which the performing arts are truly part of who we are as Canadians."



“Since 1992, the Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards have made it possible for members of the public to recognize the careers of influential artists who have given their time, talent and resources to the arts,” said His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada. “As Canadians, it is important that we continue to celebrate our homegrown talent, and I very much look forward to celebrating this year’s talented recipients in our nation’s capital this May.”

In addition to honouring the 2014 laureates, the Awards feature a unique **Mentorship Program**, a partnership inaugurated in 2008 between the Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards Foundation, Canada’s National Arts Centre (NAC) and The Keg Spirit Foundation. The NAC and the GGPAA Foundation are delighted to announce the continuing partnership with The Banff Centre, Canada’s leading institution for advanced training in the performing, visual and literary arts, film, television, and digital media. Designed to unite past Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award recipients and talented mid-career artists, the program serves as a creative catalyst and as an investment in future Canadian artistic achievement. This program is a unique opportunity for the potential laureates of tomorrow to benefit from the creativity and experience of icons who have blazed the trail before them. This year’s **mentor** is internationally renowned Canadian operatic bass and Governor General’s Performing Arts Award recipient **Joseph Rouleau, C.C.**, and the **protégé** is Montreal-based tenor **Jean-Philippe Fortier-Lazure**.

The 2014 laureates will be honoured at various events in Ottawa in early May, culminating in the Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards Gala presented by Enbridge at the National Arts Centre on Saturday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m. “We believe that investing in artists and arts organization benefits us all, making our communities more vibrant and meaningful places in which to live and do business,” said D’Arcy Levesque, Enbridge’s Vice President, Enterprise Communications, Brand & Community Partners. “On behalf of Enbridge, I’d like to offer our congratulations to each of this year’s laureates. After their many decades of contributing to the cultural fabric of our country through their art, we are honoured to join with Canadians in this opportunity to recognize and celebrate their achievements.”

The gala, produced by the National Arts Centre, will feature superb performances, evocative short films about the Award laureates (created by the National Film Board of Canada), and personal tributes by guest stars. “Over our seven years of partnership with the Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards, the National Film Board of Canada has worked with filmmakers across the country to produce a growing collection of short signature films—now totalling 56 productions,” said Claude Joli-Cœur, Acting Government Film Commissioner and Chairperson of the National Film Board of Canada. “This body of work represents a unique cinematic dialogue between artists, as we pay tribute to the talent and contributions of all our laureates. In addition to premiering at the Gala, these films are available at NFB.ca and our mobile platforms, offering people everywhere an inspiring look at excellence in Canadian performing arts.”

Media are invited to attend the gala red carpet event on May 10 as of 6:30 p.m. Tickets for the **Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Gala** go on sale to the public on March 26 at 10 a.m. at the NAC Box Office and through Ticketmaster, 1-888-991-2787 or www.ticketmaster.ca.

Created in 1992 under the distinguished patronage of the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, then Governor General of Canada, these prestigious awards are presented annually to Canadians whose accomplishments have inspired and enriched the cultural life of our country. Nominations for these highly acclaimed awards are submitted by members of the public to recognize artists who have made a lifetime commitment and contribution to the performing arts in Canada.

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