



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

**FACTSHEET
ABOUT THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS**

The Governor General's Performing Arts Awards (GGPAA) are Canada's foremost distinction for excellence in the performing arts. Created in 1992 by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn (1934–2002), then Governor General of Canada, and his wife Gerda, these awards are the ultimate recognition of Canadians whose accomplishments have inspired and enriched the cultural life of our country and showcased Canadian talent abroad.

LIFETIME ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Each year, up to six **Governor General's Performing Arts Awards for Lifetime Artistic Achievement** are presented for outstanding achievement in the fields of theatre, dance, classical music, popular music, radio and television broadcasting, and film. Each award is accompanied by a \$25,000 cash prize contributed by the Canada Council for the Arts, and a commemorative medallion.

RELATED AWARDS

Two other awards are presented as complements to the GGPAA for Lifetime Artistic Achievement.

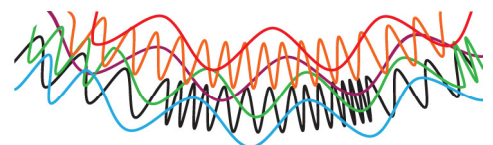
The Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts recognizes outstanding volunteer service to the performing arts by an individual or group. Each laureate receives a specially commissioned artwork created by a Canadian artist, and a commemorative medallion.

The National Arts Centre Award recognizes work of an extraordinary nature and significance in the performing arts by an individual artist and/or company in the past performance year. It consists of a \$25,000 cash award contributed by the National Arts Centre (NAC), a specially commissioned artwork by a Canadian artist, and a commemorative medallion.

All commemorative medallions are generously by the Royal Canadian Mint.

THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Governor General's Performing Arts Awards also include a unique Mentorship Program, a partnership between the GGPAA Foundation and the National Arts Centre. Inaugurated in 2008, the program is designed to benefit a talented mid-career artist. It brings together a past GGPAA recipient with a next-generation artist who has the opportunity to share, learn and grow from the experience and insight of their mentor. The Mentorship Program serves as a creative catalyst and an investment in future Canadian artistic achievement.



NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Nominations for the **Governor General's Performing Arts Awards for Lifetime Artistic Achievement** and the **Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts** are submitted by the general public and reviewed by juries composed of specialists in each discipline. Each jury selects the three candidates they feel are most deserving of the award. The names are then submitted to the Board of Directors of the GGPAA Foundation, which makes the final selection of the recipients.

The recipient of the **National Arts Centre Award** is selected by a committee of senior NAC artistic programmers.

HONOURING THE RECIPIENTS

Parliamentary Reception

The Speaker of the House of Commons hosts a private luncheon in his chambers for the Award recipients, representatives of all political parties, sponsors and other dignitaries. After the luncheon, the recipients are introduced in the House of Commons following Question Period. The Speaker then hosts a parliamentary reception for cabinet ministers, MPs from all parties, Award sponsors and other VIPs.

(Thursday, May 28, 2015)

Awards Ceremony at Rideau Hall

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, presents the Awards to the recipients at a special ceremony at Rideau Hall, followed by a celebratory dinner.

(Friday, May 29, 2015)

Gala Awards Show

The recipients are celebrated at a glittering gala performance at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. The evening includes a star-studded tribute performance by leading Canadian artists, a VIP dinner with sponsors, members of the cultural community, cabinet ministers and senior federal officials, and receptions for the entire audience both before and after the show.

Tickets go on sale to the public on April 9, 2015 at the NAC Box Office and through Ticketmaster.

(Saturday, May 30, 2015)

Previous Galas have featured appearances by such stars as Measha Brueggergosman, Blue Rodeo, Diane Dufresne, Colm Feore, The Guess Who, Angela Hewitt, Guy Nadon, Michel Pagliaro, Christopher Plummer, Martin Short, Veronica Tennant and Bryan Adams.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS FOUNDATION

The Awards are administered by the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation (GGPAAF), a not-for-profit, charitable, non-governmental organization.

GGPAAF Board of Directors

- **Douglas Knight**, GGPAAF Chair; President, St. Joseph Media Inc.
- **Paul-André Fortier**, GGPAAF Co-Chair; creator, performer and teacher, Fortier Danse-Création
- **Peter Herrndorf**, President and CEO, National Arts Centre
- **Claude Joli-Coeur**, Government Film Commissioner and Chairperson of the National Film Board of Canada
- **Simon Brault**, Director and CEO, Canada Council for the Arts
- **Stephen H. Saslove**, GGPAAF Treasurer; Chartered Accountant
- **D'Arcy Levesque**, Vice-President, Enterprise Communications, Brand & Community Partners, Enbridge Inc.
- **Denise Donlon**, broadcasting executive
- **John M. Gray**, playwright/composer

The Members of the Foundation are the **Canada Council for the Arts** (Founding Member), the **National Arts Centre** (Founding Member), the and the **National Film Board of Canada**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact the **Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation**:

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