



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

2016 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Recipient Biographies

2016 Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award

Susan Aglukark

Singer-songwriter and humanitarian

Susan Aglukark is Canada's first Juno Award-winning Inuk singer-songwriter. Her unmistakable blend of country, world music and pop is distinguished by her gentle voice, upbeat melodies, and moving lyrics (sung in English and Inuktitut) inspired by her Inuit culture and by the issues facing Canada's Aboriginal people. She has released eight albums and is much in demand as a keynote speaker and workshop facilitator.

Marie Chouinard

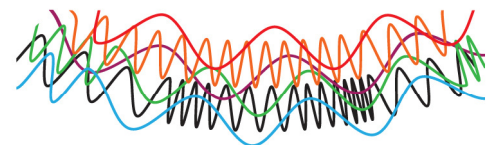
Artist, choreographer, writer and teacher

Marie Chouinard is internationally recognized as a leading creator of contemporary dance. She is also an author, designer, photographer, filmmaker and multimedia artist. Savage yet disciplined, her choreographies are formal masterpieces with the power to challenge and move even contemporary dance neophytes.

Ben Heppner

Dramatic tenor and radio host

Ben Heppner is one of the finest operatic tenors of our time, acclaimed for the beauty and power of his voice, his keen musicianship, his intuitive dramatic sense, and his generosity with audiences. His illustrious career has taken him to major cultural venues around the world, and his performances on the opera stage, in concert with the world's leading orchestras and conductors, in prestigious recital venues, and in recordings have set new standards in his demanding repertoire.



Robert Lantos

Film and television producer

In a career spanning over four decades, producer Robert Lantos has helped develop many of this country's leading filmmakers. He built Alliance Communications Corporation, Canada's first major production and distribution studio, which later—with the launch of the Showcase and History networks—expanded into broadcasting. He produced, invested in and exported to the world films by Denys Arcand, Jean-Claude Lauzon, Robert Lepage, Atom Egoyan, David Cronenberg, Patricia Rozema and many others.

Suzanne Lebeau

Children's playwright and artistic director

In more than 40 years of unwavering commitment to children, playwright and artistic director Suzanne Lebeau has achieved international recognition as a leader in contemporary theatre for young people. Her plays have been translated into two dozen languages, and she is among the most-produced Quebec writers in the world. Her important contributions to changing conventional attitudes and promoting innovative writing for young audiences have earned her many awards and honours.

**2016 Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism
in the Performing Arts****John D McKellar**

In more than 50 years as an active volunteer, generous donor and pro bono legal advisor, John D McKellar has supported dozens of performing artists and arts organizations in Toronto and beyond. His wide-ranging professional and financial contributions are based on a discerning artistic knowledge and appreciation, and he is a tireless advocate for public policy that encourages and promotes arts and culture.

2016 National Arts Centre Award**Michael Bubl **

Singer and Entertainer

A charismatic singer, talented songwriter and brilliant entertainer, Michael Bubl  has become one of the pre-eminent music artists of his generation. Inspired by such classic singers as Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Tony Bennett, as well as modern artists (notably Bryan Adams and Harry Connick, Jr.), he includes jazz standards, adult contemporary pop songs and original material in his repertoire. His rich baritone voice, engaging humour and magnetic stage presence have made him one of the most sought-after performers in the world, and many of his recordings have achieved number one status in Canada and internationally.