



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

## **FACTSHEET**

### **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.

In addition to 2017 being Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Awards are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> year of honouring exceptional Canadian performing artists and arts volunteers.

#### **LIFETIME ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

Each year, five **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.

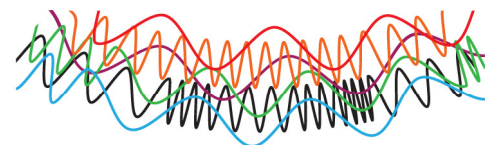
#### **RELATED AWARDS**

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 donated by the Royal Canadian Mint.



### **THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

The Governor General's Performing Arts Awards also include a unique Mentorship Program, a partnership inaugurated in 2008 between the GGPAA Foundation, the National Arts Centre and The Keg Spirit Foundation. Designed to benefit a talented mid-career artist, the program 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 four 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**

#### **Awards Ceremony at Rideau Hall**

*Wednesday, June 28, 2017*

The Awards are presented to the recipients at a special ceremony at Rideau Hall, followed by a celebratory dinner.

#### **Gala Awards Show**

*Thursday, June 29, 2017*

The recipients are celebrated at a glittering gala performance at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, presented by Birks. 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** on March 9, 2017, at noon ET at the NAC Box Office and through Ticketmaster.

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

This year the Gala Awards show will be live streamed by broadcast partner CBC/Radio-Canada on [cbc.ca](http://cbc.ca) and [radio-canada.ca](http://radio-canada.ca) as part of their 2017 programming. In addition, CBC/Radio-Canada will air a one-hour special presentation of the Gala, on both CBC and ICI Radio-Canada Télé, on June 30, 2017 at 9 p.m. ET.

## **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 based in Ottawa.

### **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
- **Denise Donlon**, broadcasting executive, author
- **John M. Gray**, playwright/composer
- **D’Arcy Levesque**, Western Canada Chair, Hill+Knowlton Strategies Canada

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

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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