

**Joseph Rouleau
(1929-2019)**

Joseph Rouleau, world-renowned operatic bass, 2004 Governor General's Performing Arts Award laureate and 2014 Mentorship Program mentor passed away on July 12. Mr. Rouleau was a visionary in the world of opera. He performed on the world's most prestigious stages. Throughout his lifetime he remained committed to teaching and mentoring youth starting out in the opera world.

Mr. Rouleau was born in Matane, Quebec. He honed his voice while studying under many notable Canadian and Italian singers. In 1956 Mr. Rouleau joined the Royal Opera House in London where he took part in 850 performances. He rose to international fame and performed with Pavarotti, Domingo, and Maria Callas, to name a few. His notable roles include parts in *Don Carlos*, *The Barber of Seville* and *Faust*.

Mr. Rouleau supported many causes that were close to his heart. He was president of the board of directors of Jeunesses Musicales du Canada. He was instrumental to Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal and the Opéra de Montréal, and to the establishment of the Centre Pierre-Péladeau. Mr. Rouleau taught voice at Université du Québec à Montréal for 18 years.

Since receiving a Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement in 2004, Mr. Rouleau's support of the Awards never wavered. He and his wife Renée attended the GGPAA Gala, laureate announcement and related receptions as often as possible. In 2014 Mr. Rouleau mentored tenor Jean-Philippe Fortier-Lazure. In their Legacy Interview with then GGPAA Foundation co-chair Paul-André Fortier, Mr. Rouleau spoke of how honoured he was when given the opportunity to mentor a young artist.

In addition to his Governor General's Performing Arts Award, Joseph Rouleau received the Prix Calixa-Lavallée, a silver medal at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, a 100th anniversary medal of the Metropolitan Opera (New York), a Félix as best artist of the year (ADISQ) and the Prix Denise Pelletier for the performing arts. He was an officer of the Order of Quebec and the Order of Canada.

Mr. Rouleau, known for his generous spirit, quick wit and bright smile, leaves behind his wife Renée. The board of directors and staff at the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation send our sincere condolences to Mrs. Rouleau and family.