



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

We mourn the passing of Peter A. Herrndorf, C.C., co-founder of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards, a GGPAA laureate in 2018 and the former CEO of the National Arts Centre, North America's only multidisciplinary, bilingual performing arts theatre.

"We are deeply saddened to mourn the loss of a great Canadian, a champion of the arts and an unparalleled creative force," said Douglas Knight C.M., Chair & CEO of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards.

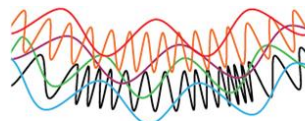
Born in Amsterdam, the Herrndorf family immigrated to Canada when he was a child, and he became a champion of the arts. Alongside Brian Robertson, Mr. Herrndorf co-founded the GGPAA in 1992, under the patronage of then-Governor General Ramon John Hnatyshyn and his wife, Gerda. He served as CEO of the NAC from 1999 to 2018 where he was responsible for re-imagining the NAC as it is today and leading the centre through a major rejuvenation project which was completed in 2018. He was also instrumental in establishing the NAC's Indigenous Theatre department.

Mr. Herrndorf received a special GGPAA in 2018. Handwritten notes were important to him, and he often took the time to pen notes of thanks, best wishes and congratulations. Prior to the 2018 Gala, a massive book was compiled for him of handwritten notes from everyone in his orbit sharing the impact he had on each of them. It was incredibly moving to see the heads of the NAC departments on stage sharing about the book and how the NAC had grown throughout his tenure. Jeremy Dutcher performed in his honour. Upon his retirement from the NAC, during a special event, "Peter Herrndorf Place" at the NAC was unveiled and Buck 65 performed for him.

Mr. Herrndorf was a visionary. He dreamed big things for the NAC and for Canadian artists. In his lifetime, he accomplished a great deal for Canadian performing artists. He was a strong leader and a fiercely dedicated arts advocate, earning himself the nickname "Captain Canada".

He served on the boards of the GGPAA Foundation, the Stratford Festival and Luminato, among many others. Business for the Arts created the Peter Herrndorf Arts Leadership Award, making Mr. Herrndorf the inaugural recipient of the award.

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Mr. Herrndorf will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by all those who knew him. We send our deepest condolences to his friends, colleagues and family, including his wife, Eva Czigler.

“You see things; and you say ‘Why?’ But I dream things that never were; and I say ‘Why not?’”
—George Bernard Shaw

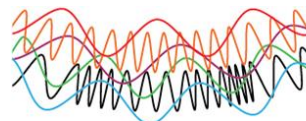
Learn more:

[Award Recipients - Governor General's Performing Arts Awards \(GGPAA\)](#)

[Peter Herrndorf | Biographies | National Arts Centre \(nac-cna.ca\)](#)

[Peter Herrndorf's Legacy Interview](#)

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