



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

AWARDS FACT SHEET

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, these Awards are the ultimate recognition, from Canadians, for Canadians whose accomplishments have inspired and enriched the cultural life of our country.

LIFETIME ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Each year, six **Governor General's Performing Arts Awards for Lifetime Artistic Achievement** are presented for outstanding achievement in the fields of theatre, dance, classical music, radio and television broadcasting, popular music 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 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards for Lifetime Artistic Achievement.

The Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts recognizes outstanding service to the performing arts by an individual or group. The recipient is presented with 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 provided by the Royal Canadian Mint.



THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Governor General's Performing Arts Awards feature 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 early- to 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 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 five-member peer assessment 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 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards 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 3, 2012)

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 4, 2012)

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.

(Saturday, May 5, 2012)

Previous Galas have featured appearances by such stars as Measha Brueggergosman, Diane Dufresne, Colm Feore, The Guess Who, Anton Kuerti, Louise Lecavalier, Guy Nadon, Michel Pagliaro, Christopher Plummer and Martin Short.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS FOUNDATION

The Awards are administered by the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation (GGPAAF), incorporated on September 25, 1992 as a not-for-profit, charitable, non-governmental organization.

GGPAAF Board of Directors:

- **Douglas Knight**, GGPAAF Co-Chair; President, St. Joseph Media Inc.
- **Peter Herrndorf**, President and CEO, National Arts Centre
- **Robert Sirman**, Director, Canada Council for the Arts
 - Represented by **Joanne Larocque-Poirier**: Head, Endowments and Prizes
- **Tom Perlmutter**, Government Film Commissioner and Chairperson of the National Film Board of Canada
- **Alain Pineau**, National Director, Canadian Conference of the Arts
- **Stephen H. Saslove**, Treasurer, Chartered Accountant
- **D'Arcy Levesque**, Vice-President, Public & Government Affairs, Enbridge Inc.
- **Denise Donlon**, Broadcasting Executive
- **John M. Gray**, Playwright/composer

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Mailing address	406 – 130 Slater Street Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6E2
Telephone	613-241-5297
Fax	613-238-4849
E-mail	whitneytaylor@ggpaa.ca
Website	www.ggpaa.ca (English) / www.pggas.ca (French)