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GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS

PRESENTED BY RBC



NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE, OTTAWA, JUNE 14





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THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS

The Governor General's Performing Arts Awards are Canada's highest distinction in the performing arts. In 1992, Peter A. Herndorf (1940–2023) and Brian Robertson approached then-Governor General Ramon John Hnatyshyn (1934–2002) and his wife, Gerda (1935–2023), with their vision for the Awards. Since that time, the Awards have established themselves as the ultimate recognition from Canadians for Canadians whose accomplishments have inspired and enriched the cultural life of our country.

Laureates of the **Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award** are selected from the fields of classical music, dance, popular music, screens and voices (formerly broadcasting and film), and stages (formerly theatre). Nominations for this award and the **Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts** are open to the public and solicited from across the country.

Nominations for the Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award are reviewed by juries of professionals in each discipline; each jury submits a short list to the Board of Directors of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation (GGPAAF), which makes the final selection.

Each laureate of a Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award receives a commemorative medallion and a \$25,000 cash prize provided by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Recipients of the Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award, which recognizes outstanding contribution in voluntary service to the performing arts in Canada, are selected by the Board of Directors of the GGPAAF. Each laureate receives a commemorative medallion.

Recipients of the **National Arts Centre Award**, which recognizes work of an extraordinary nature in the previous performance year, are selected by a committee of senior programmers from the National Arts Centre (NAC). This award comprises a commemorative medallion and a \$25,000 cash prize provided by the NAC.

All commemorative medallions are generously donated by the Royal Canadian Mint.

The Awards also feature a unique **Mentorship Program** designed to benefit a talented mid-career artist. The Program brings together a past Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award recipient with a next-generation artist, helping them to develop their work, explore ideas and navigate career options. The Program is an opportunity for the laureates of tomorrow to benefit from the creativity and experience of icons who have blazed the trail before them. The Keg Spirit Foundation is the Founding Mentorship Program Partner.

The Awards are administered by the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation, a non-governmental, not-for-profit charitable organization based in Ottawa.

Who do you think should receive a Governor General's Performing Arts Award?

Nominations for the GGPAA come from the public! For more information, please visit ggpaa.ca.



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA
LA GOUVERNEURE GÉNÉRALE DU CANADA

Welcome to this year's Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Show!

The arts speak to who we are as a nation—one that embraces diversity, inclusion, equality and respect. One that fosters understanding, empathy and connection between peoples. And one that proudly celebrates excellence in all its forms.

Too often we let others tell our story, speak for us, define us. When we tell our own stories in our way, we can start to shape how others perceive us. We can spark conversations on matters of equality, justice and reconciliation, of compassion and generosity. We can create safe spaces for others to speak their truths, without judgment or recrimination.

This year's recipients are being honoured for bringing Canada to the world. On screen and stage, in song and symphony, in speech, verse and movement, they have inspired and mesmerized audiences everywhere.

Jeremy Dutcher, Bob Ezrin, Denis Gougeon, Graham Greene, Patrick Huard, April Hubbard and Sandra Laronde: congratulations to all of you on receiving this prestigious honour.

I wish everyone an exciting and memorable evening!

Mary Simon

Governor General of Canada



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

Welcome to the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Show, celebrating Canada's highest distinction in the performing arts.

Tonight, we gather in this beautiful room at Canada's National Arts Centre to honour seven exceptional artists. On behalf of the Foundation, we are honoured to recognize the laureates for their remarkable contributions to Canada. Their work has enriched our lives and helped us make sense of the world around us.

The Governor General's Performing Arts Awards celebrate not only excellence in the performing arts, but also the profound impact our artists have on our national story. Our artists build bridges between regions and languages, generations and perspectives, and connect us across our vast country. Through their work, they reflect Canada back to us: the spirit of our shared experience, the connection to our communities, and the stories we carry forward, together.

They help us tell our story, here at home and around the world. We are deeply appreciative and offer them our warmest congratulations.

The Foundation is deeply grateful for the commitment of Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada.

On behalf of the Foundation, thank you for joining us.

Douglas Knight, C.M.
Chair and CEO

Anik Bissonnette, O.C.
Co-Chair



**NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS**

Canada is our stage. Le Canada en scène.

In recent months, we have witnessed an outpouring of Canadian pride unlike any in many years. This evening, as we celebrate the extraordinary contributions of some of our greatest Canadian artists and arts volunteers, no doubt your pride in this country will swell further still, as it should.

The National Arts Centre is proud to be a founding partner of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards, Canada's highest distinction in the performing arts. We congratulate the "class of 2025" for Lifetime Artistic Achievement: Bob Ezrin, Denis Gougeon, Graham Greene, Patrick Huard and Sandra Laronde. We are thrilled that Jeremy Dutcher, an exceptionally gifted artist whose star continues to rise, is this year's National Arts Centre Award recipient in recognition of his incredible performance year. And we know you will be inspired by April Hubbard, a passionate arts supporter, outspoken advocate, and now recipient of the Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts.

We remain deeply grateful to our NAC Foundation donors, sponsors and partners from across the country for making this evening possible.

Finally, as we come together to pay tribute to these remarkable laureates, our very big thanks to you for being here: your presence is truly the magic ingredient that brings this unique Canadian celebration to life. Enjoy the show!

Christopher Deacon
President and CEO

Guy Pratte, C.M.
Chair, Board of Trustees



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada

The National Film Board of Canada is proud to be partnering with the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards (GGPAA) Foundation since 2008 to honour GGPAA laureates.

In keeping with our unique role as Canada's public film producer and distributor, the NFB works with the GGPAA to create short films capturing the essence of these talented and dedicated individuals, who help to make us who we are as Canadians.

It's a mission that the NFB is honoured to be part of.

This year, film portraits of Jeremy Dutcher, Bob Ezrin, Denis Gougeon, Graham Greene, Patrick Huard, April Hubbard and Sandra Laronde have been added to the collection, which now totals an amazing 125 films, available on NFB.ca.

It's a precious audiovisual legacy that we're committed to preserving and sharing with Canadians, now and in the years to come.

To our directors, producers and creative teams, and our wonderful partners at the GGPAA, thank you for another amazing year.

Congratulations to all the laureates!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Suzanne Guèvremont'.

Suzanne Guèvremont

Government Film Commissioner
and Chairperson of the National Film Board of Canada

The performing arts are a vital part of Canadian society. They bring people together, encouraging a sense of belonging and collective well-being. They also introduce us to new perspectives, help us explore who we are and what we stand for, and inspire us to create a better future together.

As a founding member of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards and sponsor of the Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award, the Canada Council for the Arts is honoured to celebrate the 2025 laureates and their important contributions and achievements. These inspiring laureates represent the very best of the performing arts in our country, giving creative expression to the ideas, values and aspirations that define what it means to be Canadian.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Michelle Chawla'.

Michelle Chawla

Director and Chief Executive Officer

LEADERSHIP DONATIONS

The **National Arts Centre Foundation** would like to thank the following individuals for their generous philanthropic support of the 2025 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Evening.

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Enjoy the laureates' work on **Apple Music**, **Apple Books** and the **Apple TV** app.

The information in this program was complete and accurate at the time of printing.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS HALL OF HONOUR

Welcome to the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Hall of Honour!
This elegant, purpose-built space opened in February 2018 as part of the National Arts Centre's Architectural Rejuvenation project.

Inaugurated in the spring of 2012 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Awards, this permanent exhibition pays tribute to each recipient from 1992 to the present. It now comprises over 260 beautifully framed photographic portraits of some of this country's most iconic performing artists and arts volunteers, as well as an interactive station linked to the Awards Foundation website, with information about the laureates and the Awards.

The Hall of Honour is a striking commemoration of what the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards stand for. It is an acknowledgement of the outstanding lifetime contribution of Canada's performing artists and performing arts volunteers to the cultural life of our country, and a tribute to their exceptional creativity, which has given such meaning, beauty and joy to all Canadians.

We invite you to take a few minutes this evening to visit the GGPAA Hall of Honour, located on the second level of the NAC, on the canal side.



LAUREATES 2025



2025 GGPA Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement – Popular Music

BOB EZRIN

Music and entertainment producer, music education advocate and serial activist

In a legendary career as a music and entertainment producer and entrepreneur, Bob Ezrin has worked around the world on recordings, TV, film, and live event production with such prominent international artists as Pink Floyd, U2, Deep Purple, Peter Dinklage, Rod Stewart, Andrea Bocelli, Taylor Swift, Alice Cooper, Edward Burtynsky, Kiss, Lou Reed, The Canadian Tenors, Aerosmith, Hollywood Vampires, Berlin, and Nine Inch Nails, among many others. One of the most highly respected and sought-after producers in the world, he is also a generous philanthropist and a passionate advocate for music education.

Born in 1949 into a musical Toronto family, Mr. Ezrin began his entertainment career at the age of 8 as a child actor on radio and TV. By the time he was 20 he was producing records at Toronto's Nimbus 9 Productions. It was then that he began working with Alice Cooper in what would become an enduring creative partnership.

Mr. Ezrin's commitment to music education is well known. He co-founded Wow Unlimited Media and The Nimbus School of Recording and Media, both in Vancouver, BC; 7th Level Inc. in Richardson, TX, and Enigma Digital in Los Angeles, CA, both specializing in interactive education, entertainment, and social media; and (with U2's The Edge) Music Rising, an initiative to replace musical instruments lost in natural disasters. He is co-chair of the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation in Los Angeles, which provides musical instruments to underfunded music programs, and an advisor to the Canadian music education charity MusiCounts.

"I've had the opportunity to work with some of my childhood heroes, and every single thing I've done has been a highlight on one level or another," he says. "It's a blessing and a privilege and an honour, and I'm thankful for it every single day."

Bob Ezrin is an Officer of the Order of Canada. He has been inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, Canadian Music Industry Hall of Fame, and Canada's Walk of Fame, and is a Fellow of the Royal Conservatory of Music and the Royal Society of Arts. He has received three Juno Awards and, with his wife Janet, the inaugural MusiCounts Inspired Minds Ambassador Award, and holds an honorary doctorate from Trent University.

*"We work for joy,
for love and for
harmony forever."*

— Bob Ezrin

2025 GGPA Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement – Classical Music

DENIS GOUGEON

Composer

A prolific and versatile composer, Denis Gougeon is a prominent and influential figure on the contemporary classical music scene in Canada and internationally. The Canadian Music Centre has described his music as “at once accessible, dynamic, forceful and highly melodic.” Passionate about his craft, he is highly respected and trusted in the music community. With over 120 works to his credit—including music for solo instruments, chamber groups, orchestra, young audiences, voice, theatre, ballet, and opera—he is one of Canada’s most widely recognized composers.

Denis Gougeon was born in 1951 in Granby, Quebec. He taught himself music theory and guitar, then undertook formal studies in musicology, guitar and composition.

In 1989, he was appointed the first composer in residence of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, in which role he composed several orchestral works and many concertos.

From 2001 to 2019, he taught composition at the Faculty of Music of the Université de Montréal. Popular with his students, he encouraged young musicians and helped train more than 100 graduate composers.

Through his longstanding association with fellow GGPA laureate Denis Marleau, artistic director of Montréal’s UBU Compagnie de création, he has composed the score for a dozen of the company’s productions. He has received numerous commissions from various ensembles, soloists and institutions, as well as ballet and theatre companies throughout Canada and abroad.

Mr. Gougeon’s body of work reflects his enduring curiosity and his passion for music and sound. Among his favourite compositions, he lists *Clere Vénus* (2001), written for his spouse, soprano Marie-Danielle Parent; and *À l’aventure!*, an energetic piece written for the 1990 New Music America festival.

“I write to order,” he says. “I like to make musical garments tailored for the instrumentalists. I’m inspired by their talent and their expressive capacity: what a wonderful gift!”

Denis Gougeon’s awards and distinctions include a Juno Award, four Opus Awards, seven SOCAN Awards, the Prix du Québec for his outstanding contribution to the performing arts, and the Prix Serge-Garant from the Fondation Émile-Nelligan. In 2013, the Société de musique contemporaine du Québec dedicated its season to him.



Photo: Florence Mennessier

“Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without passion.”

—Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel



Photo: Terry Manzo

2025 GGPA for Lifetime Artistic Achievement – Screens and Voices

GRAHAM GREENE

Actor

Graham Greene is one of the most respected actors of his generation. In a career spanning over five decades, he has worked on stage and in film and television productions in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Argentina, in roles ranging from police officers to judges, doctors, lawyers, and a Shakespearean antagonist. An accomplished character actor of uncommon intensity, he has served as a role model for countless aspiring performing artists.

Mr. Greene was born in 1952 in Southwestern Ontario. Before moving into acting, he worked as a draftsman, steelworker and welder, carpenter, and audio technician.

His many stage credits include *The Crackwalker*, *Jessica*, *History of the Village of the Small Huts*, and *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing* (1989 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best Actor). In 2007, at the Stratford Festival, he played Lenny in Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* and Shylock in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*.

He co-starred with Kevin Costner in the immensely popular film *Dances With Wolves* (1990), earning global recognition and an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor for his performance as Sioux medicine man Kicking Bird. His extensive filmography also includes *Die Hard: With a Vengeance* (with Bruce Willis and Samuel L. Jackson), *North*, *The Green Mile* (with Tom Hanks), *Maverick* (with Mel Gibson and Jodie Foster), *Snow Dogs*, and most recently the comedy thriller *Seeds* and the drama *The Birds Who Fear Death*.

His television credits include *Wolf Lake*, *Northern Exposure*, *The Red Green Show*, *North of 60*, *Dudley the Dragon* (two Gemini Awards), *Exhibit A* (host, 1997–2001), *Longmire*, *Reservation Dogs*, and *Echo*.

On opportunities for Indigenous artists, he comments, “At first there was nothing, no real outlet for our acting, our storytelling, our careers, our talent. But today, there are a lot more Indigenous writers and actors, a lot of young kids coming up who are breaking into the industry. It's great to see that.”

Graham Greene's awards and honours include Member of the Order of Canada, inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame, the Earle Grey Award (Canadian Screen Award), a Grammy Award, and an honorary doctorate from Wilfrid Laurier University.

“We have no rights.
We have only obligations
to the children
coming up behind us.”

— Graham Greene

2025 GGPA Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement – Screens and Voices

PATRICK HUARD

**Comedian, film and television actor, host,
screenwriter and producer**

Patrick Huard is a dynamic and versatile artist who has enjoyed great success in film and on television, stage and radio. One of Quebec and Canada's most recognizable stars, he has appeared in many of the most successful Canadian films (notably the beer-league hockey story *Les Boys*, the bilingual comedy *Bon Cop, Bad Cop*, and their respective sequels) and Quebec television series. He has hosted several radio programs and prestigious award galas, and has received numerous acting and screenwriting awards.

Mr. Huard was born in 1969 in Montréal, Quebec. After discovering his passion for comedy in his late teens, he trained at the École nationale de l'humour. His career took off in 1991, when he was named Discovery of the Year at the Festival Juste pour rire.

He has held lead roles in several successful Quebec TV series, including the hugely popular *Taxi 0-22* (2007–10), which he also produced and directed.

In film, he has appeared in some 20 features, and made his directorial debut in 2007 with *The 3 Li'l Pigs* (Golden Reel Award for top-grossing Canadian film of the year). More recently, he produced and starred (alongside his son Nathan) in *Les hommes de ma mère* (2023), directed by his spouse, Anik Jean.

He is probably best known for *Bon Cop, Bad Cop* (2006), which he co-wrote and in which he stars opposite fellow GGPA laureate (2019) Colm Feore. The film won the Genie for Best Feature Film and the Golden Reel Award, and earned Mr. Huard two Canadian Comedy Awards. He also co-wrote, produced, and starred with Mr. Feore in *Bon Cop, Bad Cop 2* (2017), and is currently working on a spinoff TV series.

Of the *BCBC* films' culture-bridging premise, he says, "As a group we can say all sorts of things about each other, but when you're stuck in an elevator with someone, you're going to focus not on your differences but on what you have in common. So I wrote the story with that in mind."

Patrick Huard's awards and honours include several Félix Awards, the Earle Grey Award (Canadian Screen Award), and two Iris Awards.



Photo: Vivien Gaumand

"If I could choose an official title, one I'd be proud of, to describe what I do, it would be: storyteller. But that's not accepted at Customs or on my tax returns!"

—Patrick Huard



Photo: V. Tony Hauser

2025 GGPA for Lifetime Artistic Achievement – Dance

SANDRA LARONDE

**Multidisciplinary artist, artistic director, choreographer,
producer and author**

Sandra Laronde is a highly accomplished arts innovator, multidisciplinary artist, and visionary leader, recognized across Canada and internationally for her exceptional work in bringing Indigenous arts to the forefront. She is the founding artistic director of Red Sky Performance, Canada's leading contemporary Indigenous performance company. Renowned for its powerful storytelling and hybrid innovation in dance, theatre, music, and multimedia, her practice reflects a deep commitment to exploration and experimentation. Her inexhaustible energy extends to cultural diplomacy, forging stronger ties by representing Canada on prestigious global stages and at influential international events.

Ms. Laronde hails from the Teme-Augama Anishinaabe and grew up in Temagami, Ontario. She attended the University of Toronto (Honours Bachelor of Arts) and founded Red Sky Performance in 2000. Acclaimed for its groundbreaking collaborations and boundary-pushing approach, the company has toured 22 countries on 4 continents, driven by its mission to create inspiring experiences of contemporary Indigenous arts that bring meaningful transformation to society.

From 2007 to 2016, Ms. Laronde was Director of Indigenous Arts at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, providing visionary leadership and artistic and strategic direction for a compelling future of Indigenous arts at the Centre.

Much in demand as a speaker and lecturer, she has spoken at arts summits, educational institutions, and special events across Canada, the United States, Africa, and Asia.

She recently added "author" to her list of accomplishments with her debut novel, *She Holds Up the Stars* (Annick Press, 2022). The novel received the Kirkus Star, which recognizes books of exceptional merit, was named one of CBC Books' Best Canadian Books for Young Adults, and won the Horace Mann Upstander Award.

"I love putting feet to my ideas," she says. "I love putting ideas into motion to change the way people perceive and relate to the world."

Sandra Laronde's many awards and honours include the Governor General of Canada's Meritorious Service Cross, the Order of Ontario, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Heritage Award for Excellence in Conservation, the Canada Council for the Arts Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award for outstanding artistic achievement, the Indspire Award for the Arts, the Toronto Arts Foundation's Indigenous Artist Award, the Johanna Metcalf Performing Arts Prize, and an honorary doctorate from Trent University.

*"There is no greater
agony than
bearing an untold
story inside you."*

— Maya Angelou

2025 Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award
for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts

APRIL HUBBARD

April Hubbard is a Halifax-based performance artist, arts administrator, and Mad Disability advocate. Active in the cultural community for over 20 years, particularly through her association with the Halifax Fringe Festival, she is a passionate arts supporter and an outspoken advocate whose focus is to create inclusive and accessible spaces for disabled and underrepresented artists, and to empower disabled people to discover and celebrate their creativity.

April Hubbard was born in 1985 in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Her acting career was cut short following her diagnosis at 17 of tethered cord syndrome. She lives with chronic pain and is a proud wheelchair user.

Shortly after moving to Halifax in 2003, she volunteered at the Halifax Fringe Festival, eventually joining the board of directors. In 2017, she was named the festival's first female chair and its first Disabled chair. During her tenure, she ensured that the festival was not only a haven for those who did not see themselves reflected onstage, but an organization that champions accessibility and inclusivity.

Her enthusiastic involvement and highly visible presence earned her the nickname of "Fringe Momma." "I've always prided myself on being a face of the festival," she says. "My record is watching 48 shows in 11 days, on top of volunteering, performing in a show, and giving every waking minute and all of my energy to the festival."

In 2019, she returned to the stage with her atypical body proudly on display, first as a trapeze artist and acrobat with LEGacy Circus, then as her drag persona, Crip Tease.

In 2021, she authored a report for Eastern Front Theatre outlining barriers to participation in the performing arts in Nova Scotia and making recommendations for change. The report laid the groundwork for the theatre's ongoing Accessibility Project.

Through her example, April Hubbard has inspired others to be leaders in designing the society in which they wish to live by challenging assumptions and normalizing the presence of disabled people in our world.



Photo: Paul Vienneau

*"You never change
things by fighting the
existing reality.
To change something,
build a new model
that makes the existing
model obsolete."*

—R. Buckminster Fuller

2025 National Arts Centre Award

JEREMY DUTCHER**Composer, performer, language carrier,
ethnomusicologist and activist**

Photo: Vanessa Heins

*“The limits of my
language mean the limits
of my world.”*

—Ludwig Wittgenstein

Jeremy Dutcher is a Two-Spirit composer, ethnomusicologist, and classically trained tenor, and a Wolastoqiyik member of the Tobique First Nation in northwest New Brunswick. His music transcends boundaries: it is deliberately playful in its incorporation of classical elements, respectful of the traditional songs of his community, and infused with the urgency of modern-day resistance. Through his music, he seeks to preserve Wolastoqiyik culture and inspire Indigenous youth to appreciate the importance of language and heritage.

Mr. Dutcher was born in 1990 in Fredericton, New Brunswick. He studied music and anthropology at university, and after training as an operatic tenor, he expanded his professional repertoire to include the traditional singing style and songs of his Wolastoqiyik community.

His debut album (2018), *Wolastoqiyik Lintuwakonawa* (“the songs of the people of the beautiful river”), sung entirely in Wolastoqey, was inspired by an archival research project at the Canadian Museum of History. Mr. Dutcher transcribed early 20th-century recordings of traditional Wolastoqiyik songs and transformed them into “collaborative” compositions. The album won the 2018 Polaris Music Prize and the 2019 Juno Award for Indigenous Music Album of the Year.

He released his second album, *Motewolonuwok* (“people of great spiritual power”), in 2023. It again features some traditional Wolastoqiyik songs, but also includes English-language material. The album won the 2024 Polaris Music Prize, making Mr. Dutcher the first artist to win the prize twice.

“When you’re sitting down to make music, it is about, what are the strands that you have and how are you going to weave them together?” he says. “And I realized that I’m the intersection; I’m the weaving point of these two worlds.”

Mr. Dutcher has toured internationally and has worked with such iconic artists as Beverly Glenn Copeland, Leslie Feist, and Yo-Yo Ma. He is regularly sought out for his perspectives on queerness, Indigeneity, and language revitalization.

In 2022, he and his family launched Kekhimin, the first ever Wolastoqey language immersion school, in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Reaching across disciplines, he composed the score for the Atlantic Ballet production of *Pizuwin* (2023) and is currently scoring a Mi’kmaq horror film.

Jeremy Dutcher holds an honorary doctorate from Nipissing University.



NOMINATE!

You can have a say in who receives a GGPAA.

Your nomination could determine a future recipient of Canada's most prestigious award in the performing arts.

April Hubbard, Michael J. Fox, Molly Johnson, Martin Short, Wes "Maestro" Williams, Andrea Martin and **Graham Greene** are laureates of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards because they were nominated by people like you!

THE PROCESS IS SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD.

For details, please visit our website at ggpaa.ca.

THE GGPAA MEDALLION

The distinctive GGPAA medallion, produced by the Royal Canadian Mint, was designed by the Canadian College of Heraldry. Each medallion bears on one side the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards emblem: a coat of arms with the Latin inscription *Artes nos tenent et inspirant* ("The arts engage and inspire us"). On the other side are engraved the name of the recipient and the date, encircled by maple leaves. The medallion is hung from a ribbon striped in burgundy, yellow and blue.

COMPOSITION

90% copper, 10% zinc,
plated with 24 karat gold

WEIGHT

78 g

DIAMETER

57 mm

FINISH

Frosted background and
brilliant relief



Photo: Royal Canadian Mint

The Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Mentorship Program



The Keg Spirit Foundation is honoured to be a founding supporter of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Mentorship Program. We take great pride in celebrating the powerful impact of Canada's esteemed artistic mentors, whose guidance has shaped the journeys of mid-career artists across the country.

Aligned with our commitment to youth mentorship, we are privileged to play a role in nurturing the next generation of Canadian talent—artists who will themselves inspire and lead for years to come.

David Aisenstat
Chairman & Founder,
The Keg Spirit Foundation

A unique partnership inaugurated in 2008 between the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation and the National Arts Centre, the GGPAAs Mentorship Program serves as a creative catalyst and an investment in future Canadian artistic achievement.

The GGPAAs Mentorship Program is designed to offer creative guidance to talented artists in mid-career. Each year, a past laureate of the Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award is invited to select a professional artist (or artists) to share, learn and grow from the experience and insight of their mentor. Each protégé or protégée receives artistic guidance and an honorarium, and, along with their mentor, attends the GGPAAs celebrations.

YEAR	MENTOR	PROTÉGÉ·E
2025	Atom Egoyan, C.C.	Joshua Odjick
2024	Susan Aglukark, O.C.	Angela Amarualik
2023	Margie Gillis, O.C., C.Q.	Anne Plamondon
2022	Alexina Louie, O.C., O.Ont., MSRC	Christopher Goddard
2021	Suzanne Lebeau	Marie-Eve Huot
2019	Alanis Obomsawin, O.C., G.O.Q.	Gop Bartibogue
2018	Tom Jackson, O.C., LL.D.	Sarah Robertson
2017	Karen Kain, C.C.	Robert Binet
2016	Albert Millaire, C.C., C.Q.	Benjamin Pradet
2015	Howard Shore	Nicole Lizée
2014	Joseph Rouleau, C.C., G.O.Q.	Jean-Philippe Fortier-Lazure
2013	John Murrell, O.C.	Anita Majumdar
2012	Eugene Levy, C.M.	Daniel Perlmutter
2011	Evelyn Hart, C.C.	Heather Ogden
2010	Gordon Pinsent, C.C.	Kevin Loring
2009	Oliver Jones, O.C., C.Q.	Dione Taylor
2008	Veronica Tennant, C.C., LL.D.	Crystal Pite

Special thanks to **The Keg Spirit Foundation**,
Founding Mentorship Program Partner.



Photo: Tina Rowden



Photo: Claudia Jurt

ATOM EGOYAN, C.C. **Mentor**

Atom Egoyan (GGPAA 2015) is one of Canada's most respected and influential filmmakers. His body of work—which also includes theatre, opera, and visual art—explores issues of memory, displacement, and the impact of technology and media on modern life. He has mentored many emerging filmmakers, and his dedication to showcasing Canadian talent has raised the international profile of Canada's film industry. He has received the Cannes Grand Prix and International Critics awards, two Academy Award nominations, and 25 Genies, and his work has been celebrated in several retrospectives, documentaries and books.

His feature films include *Family Viewing*, *Speaking Parts*, *The Adjuster*, *Exotica*, *The Sweet Hereafter* (widely regarded as the most acclaimed English-Canadian film ever made), *Felicia's Journey*, *Ararat*, *Chloe*, *Devil's Knot*, *The Captive*, *Remember*, *Guest of Honour*, and *Seven Veils*.

Atom Egoyan is a Companion of the Order of Canada and a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres de la France. He has presided over juries at several prestigious international film festivals, including Cannes, Berlin, and Venice. Other distinctions include the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, Dan David Prize for Creative Rendering of the Past, State Honours from the Republic of Armenia, and honorary doctorates from ten Canadian universities.

JOSHUA ODJICK **Protégé**

Joshua Odjick is a rising star of Algonquin-Anishinabe/Cree heritage from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation. A member of the Deer clan, he is deeply rooted in the teachings and traditions of his people.

With a vision inspired by six years of acting experience, Mr. Odjick is expanding his creative journey into filmmaking. Through the GGPAA Mentorship Program, he will work with iconic filmmaker Atom Egoyan to write, produce, and direct his first short film. He aspires to one day direct a feature film, using his knowledge to bring Indigenous stories to the screen with authenticity and depth.

As an actor, Mr. Odjick has won two Canadian Screen Awards: Best Ensemble Performance for the acclaimed series *Little Bird* (2024), and Best Supporting Actor for his breakout role in *Wildhood* (2022), which also earned him a Vancouver Film Critics Circle Award. His screen credits also include the upcoming adaptation of Stephen King's *The Long Walk*, HBO's highly anticipated prequel series *IT: Welcome to Derry*, and the feature *Sweet Summer Pow Wow*.

Guided by Spirit, Joshua Odjick holds a profound connection to his Creator, his guardians, and the land. He is committed to using his platform to share Indigenous stories, honouring the voices of his ancestors while shaping the future of cinema.

2025 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Show

Executive Producer: **Virginia Thompson**

Show Concept Creator
and Stage Director: **Marlise McCormick**

Host: **Isabelle Racicot**

With the **National Arts Centre Orchestra**

Alexander Shelley, Music Director

Andrew Crust, Guest Conductor

There will be one 20-minute intermission.

Tributes are listed in alphabetical order by laureate
(Lifetime Artistic Achievement Awards, Ramon John
Hnatyshyn Award, National Arts Centre Award).

WELCOME BLESSING

Claudette Commanda

“O CANADA”

Performers: **Sofia Ackovic, Daania Alli,
Chinmayi Anujeyan, Leah Christie, Estelle Mes,
Cate Percival, Eva Wright**

from the **Ottawa Children's Choir Chamber Choir**

Artistic director and conductor: **Robert Filion**

“SAND DREAMS”

Composition and symphonic arrangement: **Robert Buckley**

Choreographers: **Marlise McCormick**
and **Esther América Caron**

Sand art: **Chloé Poirier Sauvé**

Performers: **Mandi Orozco** and students from
**The School of Dance: Éva Armijo-Chan, Darya
Boisvenue, Abel Caron Wheable, Ayame Davignon,
Emmanuelle Dufourmantelle, Sebastian Henderson,
May Higashimura, Lauren Jones, Lyon Kilpatrick,
Brienne Klein, Mirabella Kyer, Elise Vogel**

Artistic director: **Merrilee Hodgins**

Rehearsal director: **Esther América Caron**

“WALK-ON MUSIC”

Heard throughout the show

Composition and symphonic arrangement:
Daniel Desaulniers

TRIBUTE TO BOB EZRIN



Bob Ezrin: The Damn Book

Director: **Tara Johns**

Producer: **Robert Vroom**

“The Trial”

Music and lyrics: **Roger Waters** and **Bob Ezrin**

Marching band arrangement: **Daniel Desaulniers**

Performers: **Nepean High School music students**

Music teacher: **Jeannie Hunter**

“Solsbury Hill”

Music and lyrics: **Peter Gabriel**

Performer: **Serena Ryder**

**Medley: “School's Out / Another Brick in the Wall,
Part 2”**

Music and lyrics: “School's Out” – **Alice Cooper, Michael
Bruce, Glen Buxton, Dennis Dunaway** and **Neal Smith**;
“Another Brick in the Wall, Part 2” – **Roger Waters**

Symphonic arrangement: **Daniel Desaulniers**

Performers: **Crown Lands** and **Serena Ryder**

Catwall Acrobats: **Carl Rom Coltoff, Marie-France Huet,
Hugo Noel**

TRIBUTE TO DENIS GOUGEON



Denis Gougeon: Time Flies

Director: **Tara Johns**

Producer: **Robert Vroom**

Spasiba Yuli – Scherzo

Composer: **Denis Gougeon**

Performers: **Noémie Raymond** and **Stéphane Tétreault**

2025 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Show

TRIBUTE TO GRAHAM GREENE



Graham Greene: I'm Just Me

Director: **Tara Johns**

Producer: **Robert Vroom**

Speech by **Lorne Cardinal**

"Fear of the Flame"

Music and lyrics: **Logan Staats**

Symphonic arrangement: **Daniel Desaulniers**

Performer: **Logan Staats**

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK HUARD



Patrick Huard: The 'Hood in Me

Director: **Tara Johns**

Producer: **Robert Vroom**

The Heart Between Laughter and Tears

Writer: **Pierre Fiola**

Performers: **Michel Courtemanche** and **Isabelle Racicot** with **Rick Mercer**, **Joshua Odjick**, **Louis-José Houde**, **Pierre Lebeau** and **Yvon Deschamps**

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA LARONDE



Sandra Laronde: Embodied Stories

Director: **Monique LeBlanc**

Producer: **Christine Aubé**

***Kinship* by Red Sky Performance**

Choreographer: **Sandra Laronde**

in collaboration with performers

Dancers: **Joey Arrigo**, **Daniela Carmona**, **Kristin DeAmorim**, **Maira Humana-Blaise**, **Justine Méthé** and **Jérémy Saint-Jean**

Music: **Rick Sacks**

with **Marie Gaudet**, **Pura Fe**, **Marc Merilianen**, **Julian Cote** and **Pierre Mongeon**

TRIBUTE TO APRIL HUBBARD



April Hubbard: Leading by Example

Director: **Monique LeBlanc**

Producer: **Christine Aubé**

"Warrior"

Music and lyrics: **The Phantoms**

Spoken word: **Zoey Roy**

Performers: **Luca Patuelli** and **Mandi Orozco** with **Liz Winkelaar** and **Robert Chartier (Propeller Dance)**

TRIBUTE TO JEREMY DUTCHER



Jeremy Dutcher: A Sonic Rematriation

Director: **Tara Johns**

Producer: **Robert Vroom**

"Take My Hand"

Music: **Jeremy Dutcher**

Lyrics: **Basia Bulat**

Performers: **Jeremy Dutcher** and **Susan Aglukark**

The Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Show is an original concept by Brian W. Robertson and David Langer.

Artists are subject to change without notice.

The information in this program was complete and accurate at the time of printing.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

2025 Awards Show: Creative and Production

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

TRIBUTE TO BOB EZRIN

**Nepean High School
music students**

Marching band

E-flat clarinet: **Josh Wong**

B-flat clarinet: **Carys Earle**

Bass clarinet: **Ayden Rajabali**

Alto sax: **Evan O'Brien, Jessy Wu**

Tenor sax: **Mason Pratt**

Baritone sax: **Kai Tudiver**

Trumpet: **Alex Lake, Micah Hou**

Trombone: **Kaveh Dakhili**

Sousaphone: **Adam Polis**

Percussion: **Quinn Arcand,
Oliver Cheeseman, Kevin Dang,
Simon McDougall, Kinley Wall**

Vocals

**Liam Carnegie, Oliver Clarke,
Matt Lake, Cameron McIntyre,
Gregory Nicholas, Cordelia Porter,
Wolf Schoenherr Bornais,
Emma Stangret, Nicholas Stangret,
Liam Zsigo**

TRIBUTE TO DENIS GOUGEON

Noémie Raymond plays the
"Ex-Curtis" (1700) cello by
Matteo Goffriller, generously provided
by Canimex Inc. (Drummondville, QC).

Virginia Thompson
Executive Producer

Mike D'Amato
Executive Director of Production

Marlise McCormick
Show Concept Creator and Stage Director

Cynthia Shaw
General Manager

Andrew Crust
Guest Conductor

Spike Lyne
Production Manager

Sophie Pigeon
Artistic Consultant and Coordinator

Mandi Orozco
Assistant Director and Choreographer

Robin Archer
Karen K. Burrows

Mary Gordon
Carl Martin
Marlise McCormick
Writers

Karen K. Burrows
Producer, Vérité Films

Robin Archer
Co-Producer, Vérité Films

Michel Henry
Technical Director

Erin Finn
Production Services Officer

Mark Vreeken
Sound Designer and Mixer, ARH Inc.

Thierry Francis
Émilie Fortier
Video Designers, StockMotion Studio Inc.

Vincent Colbert
Vincent Fournier
Lighting Designers, 3id Design Corporation

Danielle Skene
Stage Manager

Kevin Waghorn
Lia Wright
Assistant Stage Managers

Peter Kealey
Sylvain LeBlanc
Technical Directors, Front-of-House

Mike Caluori
Head of Properties

Amanda Baumgarten
Mentorship Advisor

Stefanie Séguin
Backstage Talent Coordinator

Julien Brisson
Off Site Talent Coordinator

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Technical Director, Scenic Workshop

Beatrice Freedman
*Intern Assistant to the
Stage Management Team*

Eiden French
Intern Production Assistant

Aren Okemaysim
Intern Audio Engineer

Sephora N'Kosi
Intern Production Office Assistant

Provided by Affinity Productions
Teleprompter Operator

Provided by Christie Lites
Lighting Equipment

Provided by Encore Canada
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Video Wall

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National Arts Centre Orchestra

Alexander Shelley
Music Director

Andrew Crust
Conductor

Pinchas Zukerman
Conductor Emeritus

Jack Everly
Principal Pops Conductor

Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser
*Principal Youth Conductor and
Creative Partner*

FIRST VIOLINS

Yosuke Kawasaki (*concertmaster*)

Jessica Linnebach (*associate
concertmaster*)

Noëmi Racine Gaudreault (*assistant
concertmaster*)

Jeremy Mastrangelo

Manuela Milani

Marjolaine Lambert

Jessy Kim

** Emily Westell

* Renée London

* Martine Dubé

* Andréa Armijo Fortin

SECOND VIOLINS

Emily Kruspe (*principal*)

Carissa Klopoushak

Jeffrey Dyrda

Leah Roseman

Frédéric Moisan

Mark Friedman

Edvard Skerjanc

Karoly Sziladi

** Winston Webber

* Oleg Chelpanov

* Alexander Lozowski

VIOLAS

Jethro Marks (*principal*)

David Marks (*associate principal*)

David Goldblatt (*assistant principal*)

Tovin Allers

David Thies-Thompson

Paul Casey

CELLOS

** Rachel Mercer (*principal*)

Julia MacLaine (*assistant principal*)

Leah Wyber

Timothy McCoy

Marc-André Riberdy

* Karen Kang

* Desiree Abbey

DOUBLE BASSES

Sam Loeck (*principal*)

Max Cardilli (*assistant principal*)

Vincent Gendron

** Marjolaine Fournier

* Paul Mach

FLUTES

Joanna G'froerer (*principal*)

Stephanie Morin

OBOES

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Anna Petersen

ENGLISH HORN

Anna Petersen

CLARINETS

Kimball Sykes (*principal*)

Sean Rice

* Shauna Barker

BASSOONS

Darren Hicks (*principal*)

Vincent Parizeau

HORNS

Julie Fauteux (*associate principal*)

Lauren Anker

Louis-Pierre Bergeron

* Olivier Brisson

TRUMPETS

Karen Donnelly (*principal*)

Steven van Gulik

TROMBONES

* Nate Fanning (*guest principal*)

* Keith Dyrda

BASS TROMBONE

Zachary Bond

TUBA

Chris Lee (*principal*)

TIMPANI

* Nicholas Stoup (*guest principal*)

PERCUSSION

Andrew Johnson

Jonathan Wade

* Andrew Harris

HARP

* Angela Schwarzkopf (*guest principal*)

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Head Sound Engineer

Thomas Stubinski
Assistant Sound Engineer
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Tom Rolfe
Assistant Carpenter, Scenic Workshop



*Stagehands, Projectionists, Wardrobe,
Hair and Make-Up Mistresses,
Masters and Attendants are members
of I.A.T.S.E. Local 471.*

Inspired Portraits from the National Film Board of Canada

Featured at the GGPAA Show and online at NFB.ca, these film portraits capture the talent and spirit of this year's GGPAA laureates. They're also creative works of short cinema in their own right, born out of a unique collaboration between laureates and filmmakers.

The NFB has been telling this country's stories for more than 85 years, and we're proud to work alongside the GGPAA to celebrate these great Canadians.



MONIQUE LEBLANC

APRIL HUBBARD, SANDRA LARONDE

Director, actress, screenwriter, writer and producer Monique LeBlanc is a prominent figure in Eastern Canada's film industry. Her films explore the worlds of painters, musicians and writers, as well as ordinary people confronted with poverty, racism or exile. Acclaimed recent directing credits include her adaptation of Louise Dupré's book of poetry, *Higher Than Flames Will Go* (2020), and *The Geographies of DAR* (2023), her fourth feature documentary and fifth collaboration with the NFB.

TARA JOHNS

JEREMY DUTCHER, BOB EZRIN, DENIS GOUGEON, GRAHAM GREENE, PATRICK HUARD

Tara Johns is an Alberta-born writer-director who's built her filmmaking career in Montreal. Her debut film, *Killing Time* (2001), was named one of the top 10 Québécois shorts of the decade at the Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois. She followed her award-winning first feature, *The Year Dolly Parton Was My Mom* (2011), with two NFB short films on GGPAA laureates (Jean Beaudin in 2017, and Peter A. Herrndorf in 2018). Tara is currently in development on her new original feature project, *Good Bones*, with Palomar Films.

The Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation

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Program design and layout*

Diana Tyndale
*Piranha Communications
Program management and editorial*

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We are grateful for the efforts of the following volunteers from across Canada, who have worked to secure financial support for these important awards and who are champions of the performing arts in their communities.

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92
25

LAUREATES 1992 – 2025

View the complete list of GGPAA laureates, including biographies, NFB short films, legacy interviews, and acceptance speeches.



LAURÉAT·E·S 1992 – 2025

Consultez la liste complète des lauréats et lauréates des PGGAS, y compris les biographies, les courts métrages de l'ONF, les entrevues-héritage et les discours d'acceptation.



**Congratulations to the 2025
Governor General's Performing
Arts Award Laureates.**

**Félicitations aux lauréats et
lauréates des Prix du Gouverneur
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2025.**



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The Azrieli Foundation
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La Fondation Azrieli célèbre
fièrement les lauréats et lauréates
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Learn more about the Azrieli Foundation:
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autrement. Ce soir, nous célébrons
l'extraordinaire, en rendant hommage à
ceux et celles qui nous touchent et
nous inspirent.



The Globe and Mail is proud to be the **national media partner** of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards.

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recipients of the 2025
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Congratulations!

To all of this year's laureates and to 33 years of celebrating excellence in the Canadian performing arts.

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 **THE HILL TIMES**

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