

Lifetime Honors

There is no such thing as a Hall of Fame for artists—their achievements often are decided by the number of exhibitions, how many works they sell, or the frequency and quantity of performances. In the 1980s, the NEA looked to recognize artists for their lifetime achievements, not just their current projects. And so three awards were created to honor lifetime achievements in the arts: National Medals of Arts, NEA Jazz Masters, and NEA National Heritage Fellows.

NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS

Created by Congress in 1984, the National Medal of Arts is conferred annually by the President to honor persons and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to the excellence, support, growth, and availability of the arts in the United States. Unlike other arts awards, the National Medal of Arts is not limited to a single field or area of artistic endeavor.

The National Endowment for the Arts solicits the public



Chairman Gioia (back center) with 2005 Medal of Arts recipients: (clockwise from left back) Wynton Marsalis, Paquito D’Rivera, Robert Duvall, Louis Auchincloss, Derek Gillman for the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, James DePreist, Len Garment, Tina Ramirez, and Ollie Johnston.

Photo by Christie Bow

for nominations for the award, which are reviewed by the National Council on the Arts and then forwarded to the President for final selection. The awards, which are non-monetary, are presented each year at a special White House ceremony. The National Medal of Arts was designed by internationally renowned sculptor Robert Graham.

Information on submitting a nomination can be found on the NEA Web site at www.arts.gov.

National Medal of Arts Recipients

Louis Auchincloss

Author
New York, New York

James DePreist

Symphony Orchestra
Conductor
New York, New York

Paquito D’Rivera

Jazz Musician
North Bergen, New Jersey

Robert Duvall

Actor
Plains, Virginia

Leonard Garment

Arts Patron, Advocate
New York, New York

Ollie Johnston

Film Animator, Artist
Burbank, California

Wynton Marsalis

Trumpeter, Composer, Jazz
Director
at Lincoln Center Artistic
New York, New York

Dolly Parton

Singer, Songwriter
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts

Museum, School of Fine
Arts
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Tina Ramirez

Choreographer, Ballet
Hispanico Artistic Director
New York, New York

NEA JAZZ MASTERS FELLOWSHIP

Jazz, born and bred in the United States, is one of our country’s great art forms. The NEA has supported jazz for nearly its entire 40-year history, awarding its first grant in the field in 1969 to future NEA Jazz Master George Russell. In 1982, the NEA created the NEA Jazz Masters Award, the highest honor that our nation bestows upon jazz musicians, to recognize those artists who have made significant contributions to the development and performance of jazz. Each year, a one-time award \$25,000 is presented from among the following categories: rhythm instrumentalist, solo instrumentalist, keyboardist, vocalist, and arranger/composer.

Additionally, an award is given in a non-musician category — the A. B. Spellman NEA Jazz Masters Award for Jazz Advocacy, which is awarded to individuals who have made major contributions to the appreciation, knowledge, and advancement of the American jazz art form as a writer, patron, or presenter.

Many jazz greats have received the award in the past, such as Dizzy Gillespie, Marian McPartland, and Artie Shaw, and this year’s list is equally impressive, virtually spanning the history of jazz. More information about submitting a nomination and the NEA Jazz Masters award is available on the NEA Web site: www.arts.gov.

A description of new NEA Jazz Masters activities related to National Initiatives can be found under the National Initiatives section of this report.

NEA Jazz Masters

Ray Barretto, Rhythm Instrumentalist

The most widely recorded *conguero* in jazz, Ray Barretto grew up listening to the music of Puerto Rico

and the swing bands of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Benny Goodman. After four years with Tito Puente's band, he was one of the most sought-after percussionists in New York. He was inducted into the International Latin Music Hall of Fame in 1999.

Tony Bennett, Vocalist

Called "the best singer in the business" by Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett's great recording career began in 1950 when he signed with the Columbia label. While putting out singles and albums that were consistently among the most popular in the country, he continued to infuse his singing with the spontaneity of jazz and to record and tour with bands composed almost exclusively of jazz musicians.

Bob Brookmeyer, Arranger/Composer

An innovative composer and gifted arranger for both small and large ensembles, as well as an outstanding performer on valve trombone and piano, Bob Brookmeyer started out with the Gerry Mulligan Quartet

in the mid-1950s before working with the Jimmy Giuffre Three and most notably the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra as an arranger/composer. His compositions are widely published, studied, and performed.

Chick Corea, Keyboardist

A groundbreaking artist both as a keyboardist (piano, electric piano, synthesizer) and as a composer-arranger, Chick Corea has moved fluidly among jazz, fusion, and classical music throughout a four-decade career, winning national and international honors including 12 Grammy Awards. He ranks with Herbie Hancock and Keith Jarrett as one of the leading piano stylists to emerge after Bill Evans and McCoy Tyner.

Buddy DeFranco, Solo Instrumentalist

A brilliant improviser and prodigious technician who has bridged the swing and bebop eras, Buddy DeFranco has recorded more than 160 albums, has won the *Down Beat* All Stars award 20 times, and the *Metronome* poll



From top to bottom and left to right: Chairman Gioia with NEA Jazz Masters Buddy DeFranco, Chick Corea, Bob Brookmeyer, John Levy, Tony Bennett, Ray Barretto (who passed away on February 17, 2006), and Freddie Hubbard.

Photo by Tom Pich



Chairman Gioia, 2005 NEA National Heritage Fellow Albertina Walker, and U.S. Representative Bobby L. Rush (Illinois) at the Capitol Hill ceremony.

Photo by Robert Burgess



2005 NEA National Heritage Fellow Jerry Grcevich and U.S. Representative Tim Murphy (Pennsylvania) at the Capitol Hill ceremony.

Photo by Michael Stewart

12 times. DeFranco was the first jazz clarinetist to make his mark in the new idiom of bebop.

Freddie Hubbard, Solo Instrumentalist

One of the greatest trumpet virtuosos ever to play in the jazz idiom, and arguably one of the most influential, Freddie Hubbard quickly astonished fans and critics alike with his depth and maturity. Having played with most of the jazz legends of the 1960s, Hubbard achieved his greatest popular success with a series of crossover albums on Atlantic and CTI Records in the 1970s.

John Levy, A.B. Spellman NEA Jazz Master Award for Jazz Advocacy

Renowned as a leading representative of jazz musicians, and as the first African American to work in the music industry as a personal manager, John Levy began as a jazz bassist, eventually joining George Shearing's band. He gradually took on the role of road manager and then put aside performing to become the group's full-time manager, making music-industry history and establishing the career he would follow for the next half-century.

NEA NATIONAL HERITAGE FELLOWSHIP

To fully appreciate a community, one should look at the culture that thrives there, the distinctive styles and subject matters that drive its art. This is folk art, artistic expression that is rooted in our collective American experience but tied to traditions of the many ethnicities of the community.

Since 1982, the NEA has recognized the artists who dedicate their lives to cultural traditions and arts with NEA National Heritage Fellowships. Twelve NEA National

Heritage Fellowships, the country's most prestigious honor in the folk and traditional arts, were awarded in 2005. The fellowships include a one-time award of \$20,000.

Additionally, an award is given out to recognize individuals who have made major contributions to the excellence, vitality, and public appreciation of the folk and traditional arts through teaching, collecting, advocacy, and preservation work, the Bess Lomax Hawes Award.

Interviews with the 2005 awardees, as well as presentations of their work, can be found on the NEA Web site (www.arts.gov). The NEA National Heritage Fellowships were supported in 2005 by Cracker Barrel Old Country Store of Lebanon, Tennessee.

NEA National Heritage Fellows

Eldrid Skjold Arntzen

Norwegian American
Rosemaler
Watertown, Connecticut

Grace Henderson Nez

Navajo Weaver
Ganado, Arizona

Wanda Jackson

Rockabilly, and Gospel
Singer
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Earl Barthé

Creole Building Artisan
New Orleans, Louisiana

Herminia Albarrán

Romero
Paper-cutting Artist
San Francisco, California

Chuck Brown

African American Musical
Innovator
Brandywine, Maryland

Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman

Yiddish Singer, Poet,
Songwriter
Bronx, New York

Janette Carter (Bess Hawes Award)

Appalachian Musician,
Advocate
Hiltons, Virginia

Albertina Walker

Gospel Singer
Chicago, Illinois

Michael Doucet

Cajun Fiddler, Composer,
and Bandleader
Lafayette, Louisiana

James Ka'upena Wong

Hawaiian Chanter
Waianae, Hawaii

Jerry Grcevich

Tamburitza Musician, Prim
Player
North Huntingdon,
Pennsylvania



2005 NEA National Heritage Fellow
Chuck Brown performing at the
annual awards ceremony and concert.

Photo by Michael Stewart

Sioux Warrior by Robert Meyer, whose work was featured as a pictorial background in North Dakota's Northern Plains Ballet's production of *The Encounter*; a dance piece based on the Lewis & Clark expedition's encounters with Native Americans.

Image courtesy of Robert Meyer

