

# LIFETIME HONORS

While the NEA recognizes the importance of its primary function, that of awarding grants to promote the availability of art to all Americans, the Arts Endowment also recognizes the importance of giving something to artists that is often more valuable than financial support: recognition. For an artist, recognition of his or her work is a kind of currency that can be priceless.

The National Endowment for the Arts celebrates artists and organizations in the United States who have achieved a level of mastery and greatness in their art forms through three lifetime honors programs. The awards presented each year for master artists who have distinguished themselves in their disciplines are the National Medal of Arts, NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship, and NEA National Heritage Fellowship.



2003 National Medal of Arts recipient Ron Howard with NEA Chairman Dana Gioia.  
*Photo by Felicia Knight*

## 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 nominations for the award from the public, 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.

### NATIONAL MEDALISTS FOR 2003

#### Austin City Limits

PBS Television Program  
Austin, Texas

#### Beverly Cleary

Children's Book Author  
Carmel, California

#### Rafe Esquith

Arts Educator  
Los Angeles, California

#### Suzanne Farrell

Dancer/Company Director/Educator  
Morristown, New Jersey

**Buddy Guy**  
Blues Musician  
Chicago, Illinois

**Ron Howard**  
Actor/Director/Writer/Producer  
Greenwich, Connecticut

**Mormon Tabernacle Choir**  
Choral Group  
Salt Lake City, Utah

**Leonard Slatkin**  
Symphony Orchestra Conductor  
Washington, DC

**George Strait**  
Country Singer  
San Antonio, Texas

**Tommy Tune**  
Dancer/Actor/Choreographer/Director  
New York, New York

### **NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship**

This year was pivotal for the NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship program. To reflect the esteem with which the nation holds these great American artists, the fellowships were increased to \$25,000 and the number of NEA Jazz Masters awards was increased from three to five in the following categories: rhythm instrumentalist, solo instrumentalist, pianist, vocalist, arranger/composer, and for the first time a non-musician category—jazz advocate, 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.

The selection criteria for the awards remain the same: musical excellence and significance of the nominee's contributions to the jazz art form. Named each year since 1982, the NEA Jazz Masters form a veritable jazz hall of fame, including such luminous past members as Dave Brubeck, Ornette Coleman, Marian McPartland, and Ella Fitzgerald. More information about submitting a nomination and the NEA Jazz Masters award is available on the NEA Web site: [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).

In addition, a series of activities—as part of the National Initiatives part of the program—were added in 2004, including a two-CD set of recordings by NEA Jazz Masters through a partnership with the Verve Music Group, a nationally televised broadcast of the awards ceremony through a partnership with Black Entertainment Television and BET Jazz, and a touring program of NEA Jazz Masters in concert to reach all 50 states over the next two years.

This year's NEA Jazz Masters, presented at the annual International Association for Jazz Education conference, were the following:



Photo by Tom Pich

## JIM HALL

### *Solo Instrumentalist*

Jim Hall began his illustrious career at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and joined fellow NEA Jazz Master Chico Hamilton's quintet in 1955 shortly after his graduation. He continued to hone his guitar skills throughout the early 1960s by performing with contemporary giants such as Ella Fitzgerald, Sonny Rollins, and Art Farmer. This ensemble experience allowed Hall to develop a rich and free sound while still being grounded in scholarly technique. Hall still performs and records with the trio he founded in 1965, and has received numerous awards and Grammy nominations. He is the first modern jazz guitarist to receive an NEA Jazz Masters award.



Photo by Tom Pich

## FORESTSTORN "CHICO" HAMILTON

### *Rhythm Instrumentalist*

As a teenager in Los Angeles, Chico Hamilton's first band experience included as his classmates such jazz luminaries as Charles Mingus, Dexter Gordon, and Illinois Jacquet. During his 1942-46 military service, Hamilton studied drumming with NEA Jazz Master Jo Jones. In 1948, Hamilton began a seven-year relationship with Lena Horne's band until the formation of his Chico Hamilton Quintet in 1955. During the 1960s, he formed a company to score feature films and commercials for television and radio. Hamilton served on the originating faculty at Parsons New School of Jazz in New York, and currently teaches at the Mannes College of Music at the New School University.



Photo by Joselyn Augustino

## HERBIE HANCOCK

### *Pianist*

Herbie Hancock's path toward fame was evident after performing Mozart's *D Major Piano Concerto* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at age 11. Hancock's fascination with electric "gadgets" led him to study both electrical engineering and music composition at Grinnell College in Iowa. He was extended an invitation to join Miles Davis's band in 1963, and his five-year residence in the band allowed him to explore and re-define many of the traditional rules of jazz composition. He formed his own quartet in 1973, and their debut album *Head Hunters* launched Hancock into his present day stardom. His score for the movie *Round Midnight* won an Academy Award in 1987.



Photo by Sara Krulwich/The New York Times

## LUTHER HENDERSON

*Arranger/Composer*

Luther Henderson was a childhood neighbor of Duke Ellington's while living in Harlem, and would go on to adapt and orchestrate some of Ellington's larger works in the 1940s and early 1950s. Henderson worked on more than 50 Broadway productions in various capacities, including the Tony Award-winning *Raisin*, *Play On!*, and *Jelly's Last Jam*. Henderson also contributed to various albums by the Duke Ellington Orchestra, the Andre Kostelanetz Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic, and others. Sadly, Henderson died of cancer before he was able to accept the NEA Jazz Master award at the ceremony.



Photo by Tom Pich

## NAT HENTOFF

*Jazz Advocate*

It is fitting that Nat Hentoff was awarded the first NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship for Jazz Advocate: he has been a major voice in jazz literature for more than half a century. Hentoff studied as an undergraduate at Northeastern University, then went on to pursue graduate studies at Harvard University. In 1953, he spent four years as an associate editor at *Down Beat* magazine, where he laid the foundation for a truly remarkable career as a jazz journalist. In 1980, Hentoff was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in education as well as a Silver Gavel Award from the American Bar Association.



Photo by Tom Pich

## NANCY WILSON

*Vocalist*

Nancy Wilson first found her voice singing in church choirs, although she was heavily influenced by artists such as Nat King Cole and Dinah Washington. In 1959, Wilson signed with Capitol Records and went on to record 37 albums for the label. During her years with Capitol, she was second in sales only to the Beatles. Wilson won an Emmy Award in 1968 for her series *The Nancy Wilson Show*, and went on to perform and guest star in numerous other programs. She was awarded honorary degrees from Berklee School of Music and Central State University of Ohio, and currently hosts *Jazz Profiles*, a weekly documentary series on National Public Radio.

### NEA National Heritage Fellowship

Since its inception in 1982, the NEA National Heritage Fellowships have been awarded to nearly 300 artists who have dedicated their lives to celebrating the nation's diverse cultural heritage. Previous honorees have included bluesman John Lee Hooker, Dakotah-Hidatsa storyteller Mary Louise Defender Wilson, duck decoy carver Lem Ward, and bluegrass musician Bill Monroe.

Eleven NEA National Heritage Fellowships, the country's most prestigious honor in the folk and traditional arts, were awarded in 2003. The fellowships include a one-time award of \$20,000. Artists who received the award included performers, such as Persian santur player Manoochehr Sadeghi, and craftspeople, such as Salish beadworker and regalia maker Agnes "Oshanee" Kenmille.

Carmencristina Moreno received the Bess Lomax Hawes Award for her lifelong contribution to Mexican American musical heritage through songwriting, performing, and teaching. This award recognizes 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.

2003 NEA National Heritage Fellow Lorenzo Martínez performing at the annual celebratory concert in Washington, DC.

*Photo by Jim Saah*



Interviews with the 2003 awardees, as well as presentations of their work, can be found on the NEA Web site ([www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov)). In addition, a publication celebrating the 20th anniversary of the program is available in the publications section of the Web site.

## 2003 NEA NATIONAL HERITAGE FELLOWS

### Rosa Elena Egipciano

Puerto Rican *Mundillo* (bobbin lace) maker  
New York, New York

### Agnes “Oshanee” Kenmille

Salish beadworker and regalia maker  
Ronan, Montana

### Norman Kennedy

Weaver, singer, storyteller  
Marshfield, Vermont

### Roberto and Lorenzo Martínez

Hispanic musicians  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

### Norma Miller

African American dancer, choreographer  
Las Vegas, Nevada

### Carmencristina Moreno

Mexican American singer, composer, teacher  
Fresno, California

### Ron Poast

Hardanger fiddle maker  
Black Earth, Wisconsin

### Felipe and Joseph Ruak

Carolinian stick dance leaders  
Commonwealth of the Northern  
Mariana Islands

### Manoochehr Sadeghi

Persian santur player  
Sherman Oaks, California

### Nicholas Toth

Diving helmet designer/builder  
Tarpon Springs, Florida

### Basque (Bertsolari) Poets

Jesus Arriada, San Francisco, California  
Johnny Curutchet, South San Francisco,  
California

Martin Goicoechea, Rock Springs,  
Wyoming

Jesus Goni, Reno, Nevada

Rosario (Emily Pulley) and Paquiro (Grant Youngblood) turn out the light in the final scene of Central City Opera House Association's production of Enrique Granados's opera *Goyescas*, with libretto by Fernando Periquet.

*Photo by Mark Kiryluk*