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AMERICAN MUSIC TRENDSETTERS TO BE CELEBRATED AT THE AMERICAN MUSIC CENTER AWARDS CEREMONY IN NEW YORK CITY

The American Music Center is honored to announce the recipients of its 2011 Awards.

Founders Award:

John Harbison

Letter of Distinction:

William Bolcom
Copland House

Trailblazer Award:

So Percussion

New Music Educator Award:

The Walden School

(Biographies of the 2011 honorees follow.)

"The American Music Center has the happy duty of recognizing those who make the biggest contribution to new American music and each year it is our great pleasure to do so," AMC President and CEO Joanne Hubbard Cossa comments. "Once more we are astounded with the talent, dedication, and zeal exhibited by this group of honorees. They have dedicated their lives to energizing and advancing the field, and their myriad contributions speak to their excellence, innovation, and commitment to service.

"The American Music Center is thrilled to confer its *Founders Award* on **John Harbison**. A beacon in the field and recipient of many previous awards, he not only composes and conducts, but shares his wisdom and talents with others through teaching."

She continues, "This year's *Letter of Distinction* will be awarded to **William Bolcom** and **Copland House**. William Bolcom's enduring legacy is a source of inspiration for all who have come in contact with his talent in both composition and the classroom. Both an historic landmark and a haven for those wanting to hone their craft, the Copland House preserves the spirit and history of the field. It is our great honor to recognize these two Awardees.

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"Our previous *Trailblazer Award* winners have all shown dedication to their field and craft, abundant energy, as well as the emergence of a new and powerful voice, and **So Percussion** is no exception. The field of new American music is benefitting greatly from their innovative talent and we are pleased to honor their previous accomplishments and look forward to hearing more from this passionate ensemble."

Ms. Cossa concludes, "**The Walden School** is the recipient of our *New Music Educator Award*, honoring their creative philosophy and curriculum, as well as their contribution toward motivating and mentoring decades of successful students."

AMC Awards: History and Descriptions

The **Founders Award**, established in 1999, is named in honor of the six founders of the American Music Center: Aaron Copland, Howard Hansen, Marion Bauer, Otto Luening, Quincy Porter, and Harrison Kerr. It celebrates lifetime achievement in the field of new American music. Previous winners include: Elliott Carter, Lou Harrison, Milton Babbitt, Gunther Schuller, and Steve Reich. Last year's honoree was Francis Thorne.

Since 1964, the American Music Center has annually awarded the **Letter of Distinction** to recognize those who have made a significant contribution to the field of contemporary American music. This year's Letter of Distinction recipients join a celebrated group of individuals and organizations who have received this honor, including George Balanchine, Leonard Bernstein, Joan Tower, John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Morton Feldman, Laurie Anderson, Dizzy Gillespie, Michael Tilson Thomas, Virgil Thomson, Joan La Barbara, Randy Weston, the Kronos Quartet, Bang on a Can, Dawn Upshaw, Jack Beeson, Esa-Pekka Salonen, La Monte Young, and Meredith Monk.

The **Trailblazer Award**, instituted in 2003, honors those deserving of commendation and support for their early and mid-career efforts in championing new music. Previous winners have included Matt Haimovitz, eighth blackbird, Derek Bermel, and the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE).

The **New Music Educator Award** was established by the Board of Directors in the 2006 fiscal year. This award is open to conductors, professors, lecturers, academics, and others who have made important contributions in the realm of education, but might not always be well known to the rest of the new music community. Previous winners include musicologist Charles Hamm and the New World Symphony.

Awards will be presented on Monday, May 2, 2011, at the Chelsea Art Museum in New York City from 5-7pm to an audience of American Music Center members and guests.

BIOGRAPHIES OF AMERICAN MUSIC CENTER HONOREES – 2011

WILLIAM BOLCOM

National Medal of Arts, Pulitzer Prize, and Grammy Award-winner William Bolcom is an American composer of chamber, operatic, vocal, choral, cabaret, ragtime, and symphonic music. Born in Seattle Washington, he began composition studies at the age of 11 with George Frederick McKay and John Verall at the University of Washington while continuing piano lessons with Madame Berthe Poncy Jacobson. He later studied with Darius Milhaud at Mills College while working on his Master of Arts degree, with Leland Smith at Stanford University while working on his D.M.A., and with Olivier Messiaen and Milhaud at the Paris Conservatoire, where he received the *2^{ème} Prix de Composition*. As a composer, Bolcom has written four violin sonatas; eight symphonies; three operas (*McTeague*, *A View from the Bridge* and *A Wedding*), plus several musical theater operas; eleven string quartets; two film scores (*Hester Street* and *Illuminata*); incidental music for stage plays, including Arthur Miller's *Broken Glass*; fanfares and occasional pieces; and an extensive catalogue of chamber and vocal works. He joined the faculty of the University of Michigan's School of Music in 1973, was named the Ross Lee Finney Distinguished University Professor of Composition in 1994, and retired in 2008 after 35 years. Bolcom won the Pulitzer Prize for music in 1988 for *12 New Etudes for Piano*, and his setting of William Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience* on the Naxos label won four Grammy Awards in 2005.

COPLAND HOUSE

Copland House was inaugurated in 1998 as a creative center for American music based at Aaron Copland's restored, longtime home in New York's lower Hudson River Valley, one hour north of Manhattan. The hilltop, prairie-style house surrounded by three acres of woods had been preserved by a genuine grassroots coalition of local townspeople who envisioned Copland's home becoming the living, enduring embodiment of his seminal artistic and personal legacies and lifelong advocacy of American composers. A National Historic Landmark and an Official Project of the White House Save America's Treasures program, Copland House is the only composer's home in the U.S. dedicated to nurturing and renewing America's vibrant musical heritage through a broad range of public, educational, informational, and electronic-media activities. Its support for composers includes all-expenses-paid residencies; post-residency honors, awards, and performances that further advance their work; and composer commissions. Its public programs include concerts, recordings, broadcasts, and Webcasts by its touring resident Music from Copland House ensemble; film screenings and visual exhibitions; and an annual performance series at its vast new satellite venue at an historic country estate nearby. Its educational programs include in-school and on-site student activities; guided House tours for school, senior, and community groups; free reference services; and seminars, master classes, lectures, and workshops exploring the creative process.

JOHN HARBISON

John Harbison is among America's most prominent artistic figures. He completed his undergraduate work at Harvard University and earned an MFA from Princeton University. Following completion of a junior fellowship at Harvard, Harbison joined the faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where, in 1984, he was named Class of 1949 Professor of Music; in 1994, Killian Award Lecturer in recognition of "extraordinary professional accomplishments;" and in 1995 he was named Institute Professor, the highest academic distinction MIT offers to resident faculty. Furthering the work of younger composers is one of Harbison's prime interests, and he serves as president of the Aaron Copland Fund for Music. Harbison has been composer-in-residence with the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Tanglewood, Marlboro, and Santa Fe Chamber Music Festivals, Songfest, and the American Academy in

Rome. As a conductor, Harbison has led a number of leading orchestras and chamber groups. From 1990 to 1992 he was Creative Chair with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, conducting music from Monteverdi to the present, and in 1991, at the Ojai Festival, he led the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Harbison has also conducted many other ensembles, among them the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Boston Symphony. In 1998, Harbison was named winner of the Heinz Award for the Arts and Humanities. He is the recipient of numerous other awards, among them the Distinguished Composer award from the American Composer's Orchestra (2002), the Harvard Arts Medal (2000), the American Music Center's Letter of Distinction (2000), the Kennedy Center Friedheim First Prize, a MacArthur Fellowship (1989), and the Pulitzer Prize (1987).

SO PERCUSSION

Since 1999, So Percussion has been creating music that explores all the extremes of emotion and musical possibility. It has not been an easy music to define. Called an "experimental powerhouse" by the Village Voice, "astonishing and entrancing" by Billboard Magazine, and "brilliant" by the New York Times, the Brooklyn based quartet's innovative work with today's most exciting composers and their own original music has quickly helped them forge a unique and diverse career. Their music runs the gamut from percussion classics (Steve Reich's *Drumming*), to new commissions (David Lang's *the so-called laws of nature*), to original music (group member Jason Treuting's *Amid the Noise*). So Percussion has performed this music all over the United States, with concerts at the Lincoln Center Festival, Carnegie Hall, Stanford Lively Arts, the Cleveland Museum of Art, and many others. In addition, recent tours to Russia, Australia, Italy, Spain, Germany, and the Ukraine have brought them international acclaim. The members of So Percussion are co-directors of a new percussion program at the Bard College Conservatory of music, which will admit its first class in fall of 2011. They are also co-directors of the So Percussion Summer Institute, held each year on the campus of Princeton University. So would like to thank Pearl/Adams Instruments, Zildjian cymbals, Vic Firth drumsticks, Remo drumheads, and Estey organs for their sponsorship.

THE WALDEN SCHOOL

The Walden School is a summer music festival offering programs that emphasize creative application through a comprehensive musicianship curriculum, improvisation and composition. In residence on the campus of the Dublin School, the School provides an inspiring retreat-like environment ideal for creative music making. Since 1973, Walden's Young Musicians Program has provided fun and rigorous training for young musicians ages 9 to 18. The school is deliberately small, and a student to faculty ratio of 4 to 1 ensures that coursework is geared to the individual student, beginner through advanced, and that a supportive musical community is formed and nurtured. During the five-week program, students attend classes in music history, analysis, computer musicianship, jazz and other topics to complement Walden's core curriculum of musicianship and composition. The School's Concert Series features performances by renowned artists and ensembles that interact closely with students, including during Composers Forums where students' creative work is presented and discussed. All students and faculty participate in chorus, which meets daily and performs a concert at the end of the session. The Walden School offers a Teacher Training Institute that presents a weeklong summer intensive to help music educators sharpen their musicianship skills, enrich their teaching with imaginative activities, and more effectively guide the creative voices of their students. Interactive sessions with master teachers include classes in musicianship, computer music, solfege, choral singing, jazz, rhythms, and improvisation. At Walden's Creative Musicians Retreat, adult musicians take classes, sing in chorus, compose music, and improvise. Participants are exposed to a variety of Walden musicianship materials and take classes in contemporary music topics, music history, computer music and applied skills (conducting, improvisation and more). Composition lessons and tutorials are also offered. For more information, please visit www.waldenschool.org.

The **American Music Center** is dedicated to building a national community of artists, organizations, and audiences, creating, performing, and enjoying new American music. Since its founding in 1939, AMC has been a leader in providing field-wide advocacy, support, and connection. AMC **advocates** for the community through its media programming; **supports** the community by making grants to composers and ensembles each year, and by offering professional development services to artists; and **connects** the community with an array of information services designed to facilitate performances, including a vast, searchable online database of 50,000 American works by over 6,000 composers, publications compiling opportunities in new music and other information useful to industry professionals, and benefits and services for nearly 2,400 members in all 50 states and around the world.

Historical List of American Music Center Award Recipients

Founders Award

2011 John Harbison
2010 Francis Thorne
2009 Gunther Schuller
2008 Steve Reich
2007 Philip Glass
2006 Milton Babbitt
2005 William "Count" Basie (posthumous); Charles Ives (posthumous)
2004 Ornette Coleman
2003 Betty Freeman; Lou Harrison (in memoriam)
2001 John Duffy
1999 Elliott Carter

Letter of Distinction

2011 William Bolcom; Copland House
2010 Jack Beeson; Fred Ho; Peter Martins; Meredith Monk; Esa-Pekka Salonen; Society for New Music
2009 La Monte Young; Albany Records
2008 Robert Ashley; Joan La Barbara; Edgar Meyer; Ned Rorem; Joan Tower
2007 Marin Alsop; T.J. Anderson; John Corigliano; Ralph Jackson; Terry Riley
2006 Chanticleer; Bill Frisell; Alex Ross; Billy Taylor
2005 Laurie Anderson; Lukas Foss; Ahmad Jamal; Richard Kessler; Gian Carlo Menotti; The Other Minds Festival; Frances Richard
2004 John Adams; Art Ensemble of Chicago; Dave Brubeck; Ben Johnston; George Perle; Stephen Sondheim; Dawn Upshaw; Yale Oral History of American Music/Vivian Perlis
2003 George Crumb; Ronald Freed (in memoriam); Kyle Gann; Steve Reich; Wayne Shorter
2002 Henry Cowell (in memoriam); Phyllis Curtin; Sylvia Goldstein; Ursula Oppens; John Schaefer
2001 Donald Erb; Hale Smith; Mark Swed; Lyn Austin (in memoriam); Teresa Sterne (in memoriam)
2000 Composers Recordings, Inc.; John Harbison; Robert Hurwitz; K. Robert Schwarz (in memoriam); Michael Tilson Thomas
1999 Ellis Freedman; Philip Glass; California EAR Unit; Harvey Lichtenstein; Mel Powell (in memoriam)
1998 Arnold Broido; Yo-Yo Ma; George Walker; Bette Snapp (in memoriam)
1997 Merce Cunningham; Tania Leon; Paul Sperry; Jacob Druckman (in memoriam)
1996 Earle Brown; Thomas Buckner; Randy Weston; Ulysses Kay (in memoriam)
1995 Ed London and the Cleveland Chamber Symphony; Max Roach; Gregg Smith
1994 David Baker; Arthur Cohn; Francis Goelet
1993 Morton Gould; Modern Jazz Quartet; Dizzy Gillespie (in memoriam); Stephen Albert (in memoriam)
1992 (none awarded due to schedule change)
1991 Bang on a Can; New World Records; Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust

1990 Muhal Richard Abrams; Pauline Oliveros; Lawrence Leighton Smith and the Louisville Orchestra
1989 Leo Ornstein; Minna Lederman Daniels; and Jan DeGaetani (in memoriam)
1988 Cecil Taylor; Sylvia Smith and Smith Publications; Peter Garland and Soundings Press
1987 Ornette Coleman; Kronos Quartet; Morton Feldman (in memoriam); Vincent Persichetti (in memoriam)
1986 Lou Harrison; Betty Freeman
1985 Gunther Schuller; Margaret Jory (in memoriam); Leonard Fleischer of Exxon, Howard Klein of the Rockefeller Foundation, and Frank Hodsoll of the National Endowment for the Arts for the Meet the Composer Orchestra Residencies Program
1984 Milton Babbitt; KPFA/Charles Amirkhanian; St. Louis Symphony/Leonard Slatkin
1983 Robert Erickson; C.F. Peters Corporation/Evelyn Hinrichsen; Paul Jacobs (in memoriam)
1982 Henry Brant; Institute for Studies in American Music/H. Wiley Hitchcock, founding director; Robert Miller (in memoriam)
1981 Conlon Nancarrow; American Composers Orchestra/Francis Thorne, Dennis Russell Davies
1980 Meet the Composer/John Duffy; Samuel Barber
1979 John Cage; Lawrence Morton
1978 Leonard Bernstein; Nicolas Slonimsky
1977 Hugo Weisgall; Martin Bookspan
1976 Virgil Thomson; Paul Fromm
1975 Aaron Copland; Otto Luening
1974 Koussevitsky Foundation; Olga Koussevitsky
1973 Elliott Carter; Roy Harris
1972 Hugo Weisgall; Max Pollikoff
1971 Howard Hanson; Roger Sessions
1970 Aaron Copland; Leopold Stokowski; Benjamin Steinberg
1969 Stefan Wolpe; George Balanchine; Samuel Rosenbaum
1968 Roger Sessions; Alberto Ginestera
1967 William Schuman
1965 Adele Addison; Milton Feist; Henry Allen Moe; Thomas Scherman
1964 Claire Reis; Donald Engle; Richard Franko Goldman; Virgil Thomson

Trailblazer Award

2011 So Percussion
2010 International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE)
2008 Derek Bermel
2007 eighth blackbird
2005 The Minnesota Commissioning Club
2004 Matt Haimovitz
2003 George Steel/Miller Theatre

New Music Educator Award

2011 Walden School
2009 New World Symphony
2007 Charles Hamm

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