



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Arts Presenters Announces 2012 Award Winners**

**White Bird Dance, Ben Cameron and George Wein honored as leaders in the performing arts field.**

**Washington, DC (November 8, 2011)** – The Association of Performing Arts Presenters announces the 2012 Annual APAP Awards recipients, whose service to the performing arts has had a significant impact on the industry and on communities worldwide. The winners will be honored at a luncheon, noon, Sunday, Jan. 9, 2012 at the Hilton New York in New York City. The event is part of [APAP|NYC](#), the association's annual conference and the world's largest gathering of performing arts professionals.

Each year, APAP bestows four awards on behalf of the performing arts field. This year's awardees are:

- The William Dawson Award for Programmatic Excellence and Sustained Achievement in Programming: **White Bird Dance**, under the leadership of Paul King and Walter Jaffe;
- The Sidney R. Yates Award for Outstanding Advocacy on Behalf of the Performing Arts: **Ben Cameron**, of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation;
- The Award of Merit for Achievement in Performing Arts: **George Wein**, legendary festival producer and jazz musician.

The Fan Taylor Distinguished Service Award for Exemplary Service to the Field of Professional Presenting remains undisclosed until Jan. 9.

"The annual Arts Presenters awards allow us to acknowledge the creativity and commitment of distinguished colleagues who tirelessly pursue a passion for the performing arts on behalf of

the greater good,” says Mario Garcia Durham, APAP president and CEO. “We honor their work and their success at building and enhancing community life through the arts.”

A panel of national arts leaders decides on the winners each year based on nominations from the field. This year’s awards committee included: Neil Benson of Opus 3 Artists (NY), Gaylen Phillips of the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs (FL), Beth Morrison of Beth Morrison Projects (NY), Suzanne Carbonneau of George Mason University (VA), Steve Hoffman of Norton Center for the Arts (KY), MK Wegmann of National Performance Network (LA), Ed Noonan of the Myrna Loy Center/Helena Presents (MT), and Alberta Arthurs, an independent contractor in the arts and humanities (NY).

Read more about the [awards and previous recipients](#).

### **PAUL KING AND WALTER JAFFE, WHITE BIRD DANCE**

#### **William Dawson Award for Programmatic Excellence and Sustained Achievement in Programming**

*The William Dawson Award for Programmatic Excellence is presented to an individual or organization for the quality, innovation and vision of program design, audience building and community involvement efforts. The award is named to honor William M. Dawson for the service he provided to the field of arts administration during his 14 years as Director of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, then the Association of College, University and Community Arts Administrators (ACUCA).*



Paul King and Walter Jaffe of White Bird Dance to receive the Dawson Award.

**Paul King and Walter Jaffe** founded White Bird Dance in 1997 to highlight excellence in dance in Portland, Oregon. The organization has since become one of the leading dance presenters on the West Coast bringing regional, national and international dance groups to the communities of Portland. White Bird supports emerging dance companies and choreographers, commissions new works, conducts outreach programs in local schools and collaborates extensively with other Portland-area organizations to broaden dance audiences. White Bird has presented 158 dance companies to an audience of more than 300,000, and has commissioned 29 new works.

### **BEN CAMERON**

#### **Sidney R. Yates Award for Outstanding Advocacy on Behalf of the Performing Arts**

*The Sidney R. Yates Advocacy Award honors an individual, or an organization, for a particular advocacy effort or for a sustained advocacy campaign at the national, state or local level that has had a significant impact on the performing arts. The award honors the late Congressman*

*Sidney R. Yates, whose commitment to the arts was legendary and who continues to serve as an inspiration to all of us.*

In 2006, **Ben Cameron** assumed his current position as program director of arts at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation in New York, NY. He supervises a \$17 million grants program focusing on organizations and artists in the theatre, contemporary dance, jazz and presenting fields. Previously, Cameron served for more than eight years as the executive director of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), significantly expanding its programs, membership base and grantmaking activities. He worked as senior program officer at the Dayton Hudson Foundation, manager of community relations for Target and spent four years at the National Endowment for the Arts, including two as director of the theater program.



## **GEORGE WEIN**

### **Award of Merit for Achievement in Performing Arts**

*Awarded to an individual whose genius, energy and excellence have defined or redefined an art form for today's audiences. In previous years, organizations, which had a profound and lasting effect on the performing arts, also were eligible for this award.*



Jazz impresario **George Wein** is considered to be as much a legend as his festivals. Through his company, Festival Productions, Inc., he has spearheaded hundreds of music events annually since 1954 when he produced the first Newport Jazz Festival – an event that started the festival era. Five years later, Wein and folk icon Pete Seeger founded the Newport Folk Festival where the two music giants celebrated 50 years of folk with 15,000 fans in August 2009. In 2011, Newport Festivals Foundation, Inc., was created to help maintain these festivals into the future. At 86, Wein has as much creative fuel as he did when he started the Newport festivals and advanced the concept of live music. He pioneered the idea of sponsor association with music events, beginning with the Schlitz Salute to Jazz and the Kool Jazz Festival.

**UNDISCLOSED RECIPIENT** (Announcement to take place: noon, Sunday, Jan. 9, 2012 at APAP|NYC 2012)

### **Fan Taylor Distinguished Service Award for Exemplary Service to the Field of Professional Presenting**

*The Fan Taylor Distinguished Service Award is presented to an individual whose outstanding service, creative thinking and leadership have had a significant impact on the profession of*

*presenting and/or on the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. This award honors Fan Taylor for her many contributions to the field of presenting. Taylor was instrumental in the development of what was then called the Association of College and University Concert Managers. She served as Arts Presenters' first secretary-treasurer and eventually as the first executive director.*

### **About APAP**

The Association of Performing Arts Presenters, based in Washington, D.C., is the national service and advocacy organization dedicated to developing and supporting a robust performing arts presenting field and the professionals who work within it. Our 1,400 national and international members represent leading performing arts centers, municipal and university performance facilities, nonprofit performing arts centers, culturally specific organizations, foreign governments, as well as artist agencies, managers, touring companies, and national consulting practices that serve the field, and a growing roster of self-presenting artists. As a leader in the field, APAP works to effect change through advocacy, professional development, resource sharing and civic engagement. APAP is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and led by President & CEO Mario Garcia Durham. In addition to presenting the annual APAP|NYC conference - the world's leading forum and marketplace for the performing arts (January 6-10, 2012) - APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting.

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