

NEA National Heritage
Fellow Yuqin Wang,
who received the award
with husband Zhengli
Xu, demonstrates the
art of Chinese rod
puppetry.

Photo by Jim Saah



Lifetime Honors

At the risk of stating the obvious, there could be no art without artists. Throughout its history, the United States has produced a wealth of creative and interpretive artists who have given the world a trove of works to be studied, performed, admired, and treasured.

The Arts Endowment is proud to have recognized many of them over its nearly 40 years through three awards honoring 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 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

**Andrew W. Mellon
Foundation**

Philanthropic Foundation
New York, New York

Ray Bradbury

Author
Los Angeles, California

Carlisle Floyd

Opera Composer
Houston, Texas

Frederick Hart

Sculptor
deceased

Anthony Hecht

Poet
deceased

John Ruthven

Wildlife Artist
Georgetown, Ohio

Vincent Scully

Architectural Historian
and Educator
New Haven, Connecticut

Twyla Tharp

Choreographer, Artistic
Director, Dancer
New York, New York



Author Ray Bradbury received the National Medal of Arts from President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush in the Oval Office in 2004.

White House photo by Susan Sterner

NEA JAZZ MASTERS FELLOWSHIP

The NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships are the highest honors that our nation bestows upon jazz musicians. Since 1982, 80 of America's greatest jazz artists have received the award. Each year, a one-time award of \$25,000 is presented in the following categories: rhythm instrumentalist, solo instrumentalist, keyboardist, vocalist, or arranger/composer.

Additionally, an award is given in 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. This year, Chairman Gioia announced that the award would now be known as the A. B. Spellman NEA Jazz Masters Award for Jazz Advocacy, named after the NEA's own noted jazz writer, accomplished poet, and innovative arts administrator, who has dedicated much of his life to bringing the joy and artistry of jazz to as many Americans as possible.

The selection criteria for all the awards are the same: artistic excellence and significance of the nominee's contributions to the jazz art form. The NEA Jazz Masters form a veritable jazz hall of fame, including such luminaries 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.

In addition, a series of activities—as part of the National Initiatives component of the program—were added in 2004. A description of these activities can be found in the National Initiatives section of this report.

This year, a special award was given to Artie Shaw for his innovative musicianship and for popularizing the art form in the 1930s and 1940s. Sadly, Mr. Shaw passed away the week before the awards ceremony held at the annual International Association for Jazz Education conference.

NEA Jazz Masters

Kenny Burrell, Rhythm Instrumentalist

Kenny Burrell pioneered the guitar-led trio with bass and drums in the late 1950s. Known for his harmonic creativity, lush tones, and lyricism on the guitar, he is also a prolific and highly regarded composer.

Paquito D’Rivera, Solo Instrumentalist

The winner of four Grammy Awards, Cuban-born Paquito D’Rivera is celebrated both for his artistry in Latin jazz and his achievements as a classical composer. His mastery on the saxophone and clarinet is unquestioned, having been tutored from an early age by his father Tito, a classical saxophonist and conductor.

Slide Hampton, Arranger/Composer

Slide Hampton’s distinguished career spans decades in the evolution of jazz. A charismatic figure, master arranger, and formidable trombonist, Hampton has served as music director for various orchestras and artists since the 1950s, including Maynard Ferguson, Woody Herman, and NEA Jazz Masters Dizzy Gillespie and Max Roach.

Shirley Horn, Vocalist

Shirley Horn began leading her own group in the mid-1950s, and in 1960 recorded her first album *Embers and Ashes*, establishing her reputation as an exceptional and sensitive jazz vocalist. After taking a 10-year hiatus to raise her family, she has re-emerged in recent years as a world-class jazz artist.

NEA Jazz Masters George Wein, Slide Hampton, Jimmy Smith (who passed away on February 8, 2005), Kenny Burrell, Paquito D’Rivera, and NEA Chairman Dana Gioia in Long Beach, California.

Photo by Vance Jacobs



Artie Shaw, Big Band Leader

Immensely popular and startlingly innovative, Artie Shaw rose to prominence in the 1930s as a swing bandleader, master clarinetist, and boundary-crossing artist, who infused jazz with the influences of modern European composers. He retired from music in 1954 to pursue a literary career, but his music still is performed today through a big band bearing Shaw's name, fronted by Dick Johnson.

Jimmy Smith, Keyboardist

Jimmy Smith personifies the jazz organ revolution. He raised the organ—specifically the legendary Hammond B3—from a novelty instrument in jazz to primary status in the 1950s and 1960s. Inspired by the great horn players of the day, he cut the tremolo off and began playing horn lines with his right hand, establishing the standard for jazz organists who would follow.

George Wein, Jazz Advocate

Jazz impresario George Wein is renowned for his work in organizing and booking music festivals, and in particular for creating the Newport Jazz Festival, an event that, in the words of the late jazz critic Leonard Feather, started the “festival era.”

NEA NATIONAL HERITAGE FELLOWSHIP

The United States, with all its many ethnicities and native peoples, has a rich and diverse history of appreciation for and perpetuation of folk and traditional arts. Since 1982, the NEA has recognized the artists who dedicate their lives to cultural traditions and arts and who maintain the folk arts' vibrancy and relevance for future generations. The NEA has honored some 300 artists with NEA National Heritage Fellowships.

Ten NEA National Heritage Fellowships, the country's most prestigious honor in the folk and traditional arts, were awarded in 2004. The fellowships include a one-time award of \$20,000. Artists who received the award included performers, such as sacred steel guitar player Chuck T. Campbell, and craftspeople, such as straw appliqué artists Eliseo and Paula Rodriguez.

Chum Ngek received the Bess Lomax Hawes Award for his long history of teaching Cambodian music and culture. 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.

Interviews with the 2004 awardees, as well as presentations of their work, can be found on the NEA Web site, www.arts.gov. In addition, a publication celebrating the 20th anniversary of the program is available in the publications section of the Web site.

NEA National Heritage Fellows

Anjani Ambegaokar

North Indian Kathak Dancer
Diamond Bar, California

Charles “Chuck” T. Campbell

Sacred Steel Guitar Player
Rochester, New York

Joe Derrane

Irish-American Button Accordionist
Randolph, Massachusetts

Jerry Douglas

Dobro Player
Nashville, Tennessee

Gerald “Subiyay” Miller

Skokomish Oral Tradition Bearer, Carver, Basket Maker
Shelton, Washington

Milan Opacich

Tamburitza Instrument Maker
Shererville, Indiana

Eliseo and Paula Rodriguez

Straw Appliqué Artists
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Koko Taylor

Blues Musician
Country Club Hills, Illinois

Yuqin Wang and Zhengli Xu

Chinese Rod Puppeteers
Aloha, Oregon

Chum Ngek (Bess Lomax Hawes Award)

Cambodian Musician and Teacher
Gaithersburg, Maryland



Representative Norman Dicks (Washington) presents Gerald “Subiyay” Miller (who passed away on February 5, 2005) with his NEA National Heritage Fellowship at a ceremony on Capitol Hill.

Photo by Robert Burgess