

## **2016 KENNEDY CENTER HONOREE STATEMENTS**

“Thank you! I am deeply humbled and amazed to be one of the Kennedy Center Honorees. When I was 11 years old in Argentina, my mother Juanita dreamed for me to study in the United States; instead we went to Europe where I started my career and where I have been living ever since. My late mother would be very proud today and I would like to share this wonderful tribute with her. I have had the great honor to work with the most sensational orchestras and artists in the United States for the past 50 years and I am very touched and humbled to be included in such creative company.”

~ **Martha Argerich**

"We are deeply grateful to have been named a Kennedy Center Honoree, and we accept this honor in memory of our comrade and fellow traveler, Eagles founder, Glenn Frey. The members of the band hailed from different regions of this great nation and we always felt very fortunate that our music was embraced by people from all walks of life, all over the world. Popular music is one of America's greatest exports—creating a legacy that bridges geographical and cultural boundaries. We are truly humbled to be a part of this global connection. Many thanks to our fans, our fellow artists, and the Kennedy Center for this recognition.”

~ **Eagles**

“I am grateful and deeply humbled by this unexpected and extraordinary honor.”

~ **Al Pacino**

"I've performed at a couple of the Kennedy Center Honors—for Al Green and my dear friend Paul McCartney—but I never thought I would be the one actually being honored. My father Pops Staples started the Staple Singers back in 1950 by sitting me and my siblings down on the floor and teaching us songs. And I've been singing ever since. To go from such a humble beginning, to singing for and meeting President Kennedy, to now receiving a Kennedy Center Honor is unbelievable. I've been so blessed to be able to do what I love and to touch so many people with my voice. The Honors is always such a huge thrill and a highlight of the year and to get the call from the Kennedy Center about receiving the honor blew me away. I'm beyond thrilled."

~ **Mavis Staples**

“Having grown up in the confines of Chapel Hill, NC in the 1950s, I found myself, at the age of 18, on my own in Greenwich Village in the mid-60s. It was a time of great change, many dangers, and near complete freedom, purchased at the cost of any sense of a secure future. I had no concept of where I might be next week, never mind 16 years into the next century. So the prospect of attending the Kennedy Center Honors again, but this time as an honoree, is astonishing. I am deeply moved to be included in such august company and hugely grateful to the Kennedy Center Honors for the gift of this great honor.”

~ **James Taylor**