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**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
announces the**

2019 Recipients of Gold Medal in the Arts

**Ádám Fischer, Ivan Fischer, György Kurtág, Eva Marton,
Iván Eröd, Helga Rabl-Stadler, Christoph Waltz and
Franz Welser-Möst**

**Medals awarded at ceremonies in Budapest and Vienna for the
Kennedy Center International Committee on the Arts**

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today announced the recipients of the Kennedy Center International Committee on the Arts (KCICA) Gold Medal in the Arts. The award, given to performers and arts leaders in their respective international communities, will be presented to conductors **Ádám Fischer** and **Ivan Fischer**; composer and pianist **György Kurtág**; and soprano **Eva Marton** from Hungary, as well as composer **Iván Eröd**; Salzburg Festival President **Helga Rabl-Stadler**; award-winning actor **Christoph Waltz**; and Cleveland Orchestra music director **Franz Welser-Möst** from Austria.

Since 2005, the Kennedy Center International Committee on the Arts proudly bestows the Gold Medal in the Arts in recognition of extraordinary achievement in the arts each year at its international summit. The Committee awards inspiring individuals, whose lifetime achievements have created, nurtured, supported, and championed the world's greatest arts and artists. This year, recipients are honored at two Kennedy Center Gold Medal in the Arts ceremonies, the first of which took place on June 18 in Budapest at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence, and the second to be held on June 21 in Vienna at The Albertina Museum.

“Each year, we present the Kennedy Center Gold Medal in the Arts to creative leaders who have made indelible marks on the international arts world and have inspired generations of artists around the

globe,” states Kennedy Center President **Deborah F. Rutter**. “It is an honor to recognize this year’s exceptional group of Hungarian and Austrian artists and arts leaders.”

“Austria and Hungary are synonymous with culture and tradition, and each country has made tremendous contributions to the arts world over centuries. Recipients of this year’s Gold Medal in the Arts have only enhanced those contributions, and it is a great honor to present them with this award,” explains Karel Komárek, owner of SAZKA Group, the major shareholder of Casinos Austria and co-chair of the Kennedy Center International Committee on the Arts.

2019 Gold Medal in the Arts Recipients

Hungary

Ádám Fischer studied composition and conducting in his home town of Budapest and in Vienna with the legendary Hans Swarowsky. He was General Music Director in Freiburg, Kassel, and Mannheim and Artistic Director of the Budapest Opera. He is the founder of two important international festivals, the Wagner Days in Budapest, where he is also Artistic Director, and the Haydn Festival in Eisenstadt, for which he founded the Österreichisch-Ungarische Haydn Philharmonie. As Principal Conductor he set new standards for the interpretation of Haydn’s music. As the Chief Conductor of the Danish Chamber Orchestra he has published an award-winning recording of Mozart’s complete symphonic works. For more than 30 years, Fischer has worked regularly at major opera houses and festivals worldwide such as the Vienna State Opera, the Metropolitan Opera in New York, Teatro alla Scala in Milan, the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, and the Salzburg Festival. In concert, he works closely with the Vienna Philharmonic, and is a guest with leading orchestras worldwide such as the Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, Filarmonica della Scala, and the Chicago Symphony. Fischer is an Honorary Member of the Vienna State Opera and the Musikverein für Steiermark in Graz. He is a recipient of the Order of Dannebrog, given to him by the Queen of Denmark, and in 2018, was awarded Israel’s prestigious Wolf Prize honoring him as an outstanding artist and strong supporter of human rights.

Ivan Fischer is the founder and Music Director of the Budapest Festival Orchestra. He is an honorary conductor of Berlin’s Konzerthaus and Konzerthausorchester. He has directed a number of successful opera productions, and, in 2018, founded the Vicenza Opera Festival. The Berlin Philharmonic has played more than 10 times under Fischer’s baton, and he also spends two weeks every year with Amsterdam’s Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. As Music Director, he has led the Kent Opera and the Opéra National de Lyon, and was Principal Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. Many of his recordings have been awarded prestigious international prizes. Fischer is a founder of the Hungarian Mahler Society and Patron of the British Kodály Academy, and is an honorary citizen of Budapest. He has received the Golden Medal Award from the President of the Republic of Hungary, and the Crystal Award from the World Economic Forum for his services in promoting international cultural relations. The government of the French Republic made him Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres, proclaiming him a Knight of the Order of Art and Literature. In 2006, he was honored with the Kossuth Prize, Hungary’s most prestigious arts award. In 2013, he was granted Honorary Membership to the Royal Academy of Music in London. In 2015, he was presented with the Abu Dhabi Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement, and in 2016, he won the Association of Music Critics of Argentina’s award for Best Foreign Conductor.

György Kurtág was born in Lugoj in the Banat region of Romania. In 1946, he began his studies at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, where he met his wife, Márta, and also György Ligeti, who became a close friend. Between 1960 and 1968, he worked as répétiteur at the National Philharmonia in Budapest. In 1967, he was appointed professor of piano and later of chamber music at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music, where he taught until 1993. Kurtág's international reputation began to take hold with *Messages of the Late Miss R. V. Troussova* for soprano and chamber ensemble, which had its premiere in Paris in 1981. He was composer in residence at the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and the Vienna Konzerthausgesellschaft. Kurtág is the recipient of numerous awards, including the French title Officier des Arts et des Lettres in 1985, the Kossuth Award of the Hungarian government for his life's achievement in 1996, the Austrian "Ehrenzeichen," the Ernst von Siemens Music Prize in 1998, and the Ordre pour le mérite für Wissenschaft und Künste (Order of Merit for Science and Art) in 1999. He is a member of the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts, Munich, and of the Academy of Arts, Berlin, as well as a member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. In 2006, Kurtág received the Grawemeyer Award for his composition *...concertante... Op. 42* for violin, viola, and orchestra; in 2012, he received the Wihuri-Sibelius Prize in Helsinki; in 2013, he was presented with the Gold Medal of the Royal Philharmonic Society; and in 2015, he received the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in the Contemporary Music category.

Eva Marton was born in Budapest in 1943, where she attended the Franz Liszt Academy of Music from 1962 to 1968, graduating not only as opera singer but also as singing pedagogue. Thanks to her vast repertoire, she has produced more than 30 opera, aria, and concert recordings. Marton has received numerous accolades and awards, among them honorary membership at the Vienna State Opera and the title of "Kammersängerin"; Bartók-Pásztory and Kossuth awards; as well as her Hungarian award, "der Ruf Ungarns." In 1982, *The New York Times* recognized her as artist of the year. In recognition of her artistic career, in 2003, the President of the Hungarian Republic awarded her the "Order of the Hungarian Republic," one of the country's most prestigious honors. She received the title of honorary professor at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music, and beginning in September 2005, she served as the director of the university's song faculty. In 2010, she received Austria's Award ISO d'ORO for her outstanding career and her activity of educating new generations of international and Hungarian opera singers. In 2012, Marton was honored with the greatest Hungarian prize, the Corvin Chain. That same year, she became a full member of the Hungarian Academy of Arts (MMA) as well as the head of its Department of Dramatic Arts. In 2014, Marton received the Artist of the Nation Award, and she was later awarded honorary citizenship of Budapest in April 2015. In 2016, she was presented with the "Magyar Szent István Rend," the highest state prize awarded by the Republic of Hungary.

Austria

Iván Eröd was born in 1936, in Budapest, to a Hungarian-Jewish family of musicians. In 1944, his grandparents and brother were victims of the Holocaust. From 1951 to 1956, Eröd studied at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. In 1956, Eröd emigrated to Austria, and from 1956 to 1961, he studied at the Vienna Music Academy. From 1962 to 1968, Eröd held the roles of solo accompanist and director of studies at the Vienna State Opera and the Vienna Festival. Additionally, Eröd has been a prolific concert pianist—solo, chamber music and accompanist—having made some 500 appearances all over the world, including with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and Karl Böhm. From 1975 to 1989, he was a full professor for composition and music theory at the Graz Music Academy. From 1989 to 2004, he was a full professor at the Vienna Music University, from which he received the title professor emeritus in 2004. From 2004 to 2005, Eröd was a guest professor at the Budapest Musik University. His

many works include three operas, symphonic music, concertos, chamber music, and vocal music. He has performed in locations all over the world, such as Vienna, Berlin, London, New York, Minneapolis, and Tokyo, alongside such performers as the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Sir Roger Norrington, Leonard Slatkin, Andris Nelsons, and Sir András Schiff. Eröd's awards include the Austrian State Award, City of Vienna Gold Order of Merit, Republic of Austria Great Silver Order of Merit, Béla Bartók/Ditta Pásztory Award, and Budapest Member of the Széchenyi Academy of Literature and Arts, Hungary.

Helga Rabl-Stadler studied law, journalism, and political science. From 1971 to 1978, she worked as a journalist, specializing in economy and politics. She was the first female journalist to write an editorial column for the Austrian daily newspaper *Kurier*. In 1983, she became a co-owner and partner of the family business Modehaus Resmann in Salzburg and Linz. From 1983 to 1990, she was member of the Austrian Parliament. In 1988, she became first female President of the Salzburg Chamber of Commerce. In 1995, she was appointed President of the Salzburg Festival and resigned from all her political offices. Amongst her general responsibilities as a member of the Festival's directorate, she has managed to develop an outstanding network of sponsors. The high point of her successful fundraising efforts was the financing of the reconstruction of the Haus für Mozart, which reopened in 2006. She also developed the idea of presentations of the Salzburg Festival program all over the world, which also is a reason the Festival today welcomes visitors from 85 nations, 47 of them non-European.

Christoph Waltz is a multi-Academy Award®-winning actor. In 2009, Waltz received the Academy®, SAG, BAFTA, Golden Globe®, and Cannes Film Festival awards for his portrayal of Nazi Colonel Hans Landa in Quentin Tarantino's *Inglourious Basterds*. Waltz won his second Academy Award® for his performance in Tarantino's *Django Unchained*. The role of Dr. King Schultz also garnered him Best Supporting Actor honors at the 2013 Golden Globe® and BAFTA awards. On December 1, 2014, Waltz was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Other notable work include his performances in *Alita: Battle Angel*, *Downsizing*, *The Legend of Tarzan*, *Spectre*, *Big Eyes*, *The Zero Theorem*, *Carnage*, and *Water for Elephants*, among others. In 2013, Waltz directed the Richard Strauss opera, *Der Rosenkavalier*. His production premiered in December 2013 at the Vlaamse Opera in Antwerp with musical direction by Dmitri Jurowski and Philipp Pointner. In 2017, Waltz directed Giuseppe Verdi's *Falstaff*, also with the Vlaamse Opera. Waltz's work in European television, film and theatrical productions spans three decades. His motion picture credits include *Gun-Shy*, the Berlin Film Festival entry *Lapislazuli*, *Dorian*, *She*, *Falling Rocks*, *Our God's Brother*, *The Beast*, *Berlin Blues*, and *Angst*. On television, Waltz appeared in the Adolf Grimme Award-winning films *Der Tanz mit dem Teufel – Die Entführung des Richard Oetker and Dienstreise – Was für eine Nacht Dienstreise*. For his work in *Du Bist Nicht Allein – Die Roy Black Story*, Waltz garnered Bavarian and German TV awards and the RTL Golden Lion.

For 18 years, **Franz Welser-Möst** has shaped an unmistakable sound culture as Music Director of The Cleveland Orchestra. Under his leadership, the orchestra has been repeatedly praised by international critics for its musical excellence. In addition to orchestral residencies in the United States, Europe, and China, he and The Cleveland Orchestra are regular guests at all the major international festivals. As a guest conductor, Welser-Möst enjoys a particularly close and productive artistic partnership with the Vienna Philharmonic. He has twice appeared on the podium for their celebrated New Year's Concert, and regularly conducts the orchestra in subscription concerts at Vienna's Musikverein. Welser-Möst is also a regular guest at the Salzburg Festival where he has set new standards in interpretation as an opera conductor with recent performances including *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Fidelio*, Aribert Reimann's opera *Lear*, and Richard Strauss's *Salome*, with which he made festival history in 2018 and will be revived for performance at the 2019 festival. Welser-Möst has been the recipient of a number of major honours and awards. He is an Honorary Member of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde (Society of Friends of Music)

in Vienna, winner of the Vienna Philharmonic's Honorary Ring, and has been awarded the Kilenyi Medal of the Bruckner Society of America. In 2017, Welser-Möst was awarded the Pro Arte Europreis for his advocacy and achievements as a musical ambassador. His discography is extensive, with numerous CDs and DVDs having been awarded major international prizes. Recent recordings with the Cleveland Orchestra have included the symphonies of Johannes Brahms and Anton Bruckner. His Salzburg opera productions, including *Rosenkavalier*, which was awarded a number of international prizes, were all broadcast on Austrian Television and recorded by Unitel for release internationally on DVD.

About Kennedy Center International Committee on the Arts (KCICA)

The Kennedy Center International Committee on the Arts (KCICA) was founded in 2001 as a platform for improving the Center's international program and for promoting global exchange in art. The KCICA proudly bestows the Gold Medal in the Arts in recognition of extraordinary achievement in the arts each year at its international summit. The Committee awards inspiring individuals, whose lifetime achievements have created, nurtured, supported, and championed the world's greatest arts and artists. The Committee's members are lovers of the performing arts, and are among the Kennedy Center's most important financial contributors. The Kennedy Center produces numerous prestigious international festivals, supports the intercultural dialogue, and presents various cultures from around the world to Washington's audiences. The KCICA provides support to the organizers of such events.



Kennedy Center Gold Medal in the Arts

Past Recipients

2005 | St. Petersburg

Olivia de Havilland, Valery Gergiev, Martha Ingram, Irwin Jacobs, Mærsk McKinney Møller, Trevor Nunn

2006 | London

Darcey Bussell, Michael Caine, Judi Dench, Jeremy Irons, Jacob Rothschild, Lily Safra

2007 | Beijing

Song Zuying and Minister Sun Jiazheng

2008 | Buenos Aires

Norma Aleandro, Julio Bocca, Paloma Herrera, Mercedes Sosa

2009 | Istanbul

Cihat Aşkın, Cana Gürmen, Ahmet Kocabiyik

2010 | Tokyo

Tadao Ando, Midori, Kanzaburo Nakamura, Yukio Ninagawa

2012 | Madrid

Pedro Almodóvar, Sara Baras, Plácido Domingo, Paco Peña, Tamara Rojo

2013 | Prague

Jiří Bělohlávek, Soňa Červená, Karel Komárek, Jr., Magdalena Kožená

2014 | Dubai

Hoor Al-Qasimi, Badr Jafar, Quincy Jones, Arif and Fayeeza Naqvi, Naki Al Nusseibeh

2015 | Paris

Pierre Boulez, Leslie Caron, Alexandre Desplat, Yasmina Reza

2016 | Dublin

Sir James Galway, Sir Van Morrison, Fiona Shaw, Jim Sheridan, Enda Walsh

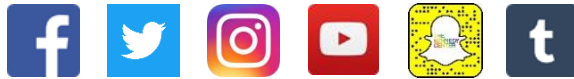
2017 | Milan and Turin

Salvatore Accardo, Renato Bruson, Carlos Bulgheroni, Gianandrea Noseda

2018 | Cape Town

Basil Jones, John Kani, Sibongile Khumalo, Adrian Kohler, Geina Mhlophe, McCoy Mrubata

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