

## D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Joia Jefferson Nuri

240-603-7905/[inthepubliceye@starpower.net](mailto:inthepubliceye@starpower.net)

D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities presents the  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mayor's Arts Award**  
Monday, March 17, 2008, 6:00pm  
Concert Hall, Kennedy Center  
Free and open to the public

*Featuring legendary actor Robert Prosky, 200 members of  
Washington's most outstanding choirs and the  
great divas of Doo Wop The Jewels*

NBC4 Jim Vance is the evening's Master of Ceremonies

Mayor Adrian M. Fenty will preside over his second Mayor's Arts Awards, the highest honor conferred by the District of Columbia in recognition of artistic excellence and service among artists, organizations, and patrons in the District. The 23rd Annual Mayor's Arts Awards will be held on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> in the Concert Hall at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

An unprecedented number of nominations were received this year! The evening will feature awards presentations in the following areas: Excellence in an Artistic Discipline, Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education, Outstanding Emerging Artist, Excellence in Service to the Arts, and Innovation in the Arts. The Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Arts Teacher will be presented as well. The program also brings awareness to the presence and vitality of the arts community in the city through on-stage performances by some of the finest talent in D.C. Each year more than 1,200 dignitaries, arts enthusiasts, and the general public pack the theatre.

Since 1968, the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities has supported community development through the arts by promoting artistic excellence in the Nation's Capitol. Since its inception in 1981, the Mayor's Arts Awards has honored some of the most outstanding artists and art patrons in our area. Past recipients of the Mayor's Art Award include Leonard Slatkin, Roberta Flack, Shirley Horn, and Peggy Cooper Cafritz.

Tony Gittens, Executive Director of the D.C. Commission on the Arts says, "*Washington's artistic talent rivals that of any major world-class city. The Mayor's Arts Award is our way of acknowledging the amazing contributions made to Washington's cultural vitality.*"

Artists from throughout the city apply for the honor. Finalists were chosen by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Mayor's Arts Awards Advisory Jury. In the tradition of the Academy Awards, the winners will be announced for the first time during the ceremony.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mayor's Arts Awards is a Millennium Stage presentation. The Millennium Stage was created and underwritten by James A. Johnson and Maxine Isaacs to make the performing arts accessible to everyone in the fulfillment of the Kennedy Center's mission to its community and the nation. The evening is free and open to the public. No tickets are necessary for the award ceremony. The audience should RSVP to [artsawards@dc.gov](mailto:artsawards@dc.gov) or 202.724.5613. For media requests, please contact Joia Jefferson Nuri 240-603-7905 or [inthepubliceve@starpower.net](mailto:inthepubliceve@starpower.net)

**Finalist for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mayor's Arts Awards March 17, 2008**

**Excellence in an Artistic Discipline**

Dr. Ysaye Barnwell  
Cathedral Choral Society  
CityDance Ensemble  
The Studio Theatre  
Theatre J Washington DC Jewish Community Center  
Septime Webre

**Outstanding Emerging Artist**

Catalyst Theatre Company  
Farafina Kan  
Jonathan French  
Step Afrika!  
Straight, No Chaser Productions

**Excellence in Service to the Arts**

Cultural Development Corporation  
DC Public Library  
Judith Korey  
Doris Thomas  
Thad Wilson

**Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education**

Charles Augins  
The Choral Arts Society of Washington  
Community Help in Music Education  
Dr. Ashfaq Ishaq  
Washington National Opera

**Innovation in the Arts**

Catalyst Theatre Company  
DC Shorts Film Festival  
Paul Gordon Emerson  
Washington National Opera  
Washington Project for the Arts  
C. Brian Williams

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