

# Chamber America

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## **Presenters, Festivals and Ensembles Win CMA/ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music**

(New York, New York)— Five presenters and six ensembles from the East and West Coasts will be recognized with CMA/ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming at the Chamber Music America National Conference on January 5, 2007. The awards are given jointly by Chamber Music America and ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers).

Given annually, the awards recognize ensembles, presenters, and festivals that have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century music, especially works written in the past 25 years. In addition to considering the applicants' originality in programming choices, the independent panel of judges looked for innovative presentation and audience-development strategies.

Among the awardees are the **Seattle Chamber Players** (first prize, Ensemble-New Music), a well-established ensemble that has pushed itself in new stylistic directions through collaborations and commissions, and the **Del Sol Quartet** (first prize, Ensemble-Mixed Repertory), whose programs put traditional and new music on equal footing, with performances in both traditional and alternative venues. Other first prize awardees were **Concert Artists Guild** (Presenters/Festivals - 10 or More Concerts Per Season) and the **Los Angeles County Museum of Art** (Presenters/Festivals - 9 or Fewer Concerts Per Season). The full list is below.

Two Special Recognition Awards were made this year. The **Skaneateles Festival** was recognized for its shift from presenting primarily traditional classical works to increasing its audience's exposure to contemporary compositions. The **Afro-Asian Ensemble**, led by composer/baritone saxophonist Fred Ho, was cited for Special Recognition for its 25 years of innovation in a multimedia landscape, as well as its trademark martial arts operas and ballets.

"Since its earliest years, Chamber Music America has supported the commissioning and performance of music by composers of our time," commented Margaret M. Lioi, Chief Executive Officer of Chamber Music America. "CMA and ASCAP have collaborated on these awards for over 20 years, and we hope that bringing attention to contemporary music in this way has stimulated its creation and performance. Chamber Music America is grateful to ASCAP for its support of this awards program, and we are happy to join them in applauding the achievements of this year's winners."

Frances Richard, ASCAP's vice president and director of concert music, will present the awards on January 5th at 1:30 PM in the Gershwin Ballroom of the Westin New York at Times Square (207 W. 43rd Street, New York City). After the presentation, Frank J. Oteri, composer and editor of the webzine NewMusicBox.org, will moderate a special session in which the award recipients will be invited to share their success stories about performing and presenting new music.

The 2008 recipients are listed below by category:

**Presenter/Festivals: Ten or More Concerts**

- 1st Concert Artists Guild (New York, NY)
- 2nd Monadnock Music (Peterborough, NH)

**Presenters/Festivals: Nine or Fewer Concerts**

- 1st Los Angeles County Museum of Art (Los Angeles, CA)
- 2nd Greenwich Music Festival (Greenwich, CT)

**Chamber Ensembles: Mixed Repertory**

- 1st Del Sol Quartet (San Francisco, CA)
- 2nd Western Wind Vocal Ensemble (New York, NY)

**Chamber Ensembles: New Music**

- 1st Seattle Chamber Players (Seattle, WA)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> (tie) sfSound (San Francisco, CA)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> (tie) Earplay (San Francisco, CA)

**Special Recognition**

- Skaneateles Festival (Skaneateles, NY)
- Afro-Asian Music Ensemble (Brooklyn, NY)

**Chamber Music America**, the national service organization for the ensemble music profession, was founded in 1977 to promote artistic excellence and the economic stability of the field, and to ensure that chamber music, in its broadest sense, is a vital part of American life. With a membership of over 8,000, including musicians, ensembles, presenters, artists' managers, educators, music businesses, and advocates of ensemble music, CMA welcomes members representing a wide range of musical styles and traditions. In addition to its funding programs, CMA provides its members with consulting services, access to health and instrument insurance, conferences, seminars and several publications, including Chamber Music magazine and a website, [www.chamber-music.org](http://www.chamber-music.org).

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**ASCAP** is a membership association of more than 300,000 composers, songwriters, and publishers of every music genre. Founded in 1914, ASCAP is the only U.S. performing rights organization created and governed by its composer, songwriter, and publisher members. ASCAP protects the rights of its members by licensing and distributing royalties for the non-dramatic public performances of their copyrighted works. ASCAP's licensees encompass all who want to perform copyrighted music publicly. ASCAP makes giving and obtaining permission to perform music simple and economical for both creators and users of music.

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