

Chamber Music America

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

(New York, New York)— Four presenters and five ensembles from around the country will be recognized with CMA/ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming at the Chamber Music America National Conference on January 17, 2009. 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 20th- and 21st-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 presenter awardees are the San Francisco-based **Other Minds Festival** (first place, Presenters/Festivals with Nine or Fewer Concerts per Season), which serves new music composers and performers through its festival, radio broadcasts, CD label and digitized archive of live performances, and the **Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution** (first place, Presenters/Festivals with Ten or More Concerts per Season), whose series of free concerts is closely related to its Asian art collections, presenting folk and classical repertoires, new works for Asian traditional instruments, as well as performances by jazz and fusion artists. First place awardees in the Ensemble categories are: **newEar** (New Music) from Kansas City, MO; the Los Angeles-based **Calder Quartet** (Mixed Repertory) and the **James Carney Group** (Jazz Ensemble), based in Brooklyn, NY. The full list appears below.

"Chamber Music America has enthusiastically supported the commissioning and performance of new music for over 30 years," commented Margaret M. Lioi, Chief Executive Officer of Chamber Music America. "The CMA/ASCAP Awards underscore our commitment to contemporary music performed by small ensembles, and our desire to recognize those groups and presenters who work so hard to bring new music to audiences across the country. We are grateful to ASCAP for its partnership in this program, and we are happy to join them in celebrating the accomplishments of this year's winners."

Frances Richard, ASCAP's vice president and director of concert music, will present the awards on January 17th at 4:30 P.M. at 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 First Place award recipients will be invited to share their success stories about performing and presenting new music.

The 2009 recipients are listed below by category:

Presenters/Festivals - 10 or More Concerts per Season

1st: Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution
(Washington, DC)

2nd: Da Camera of Houston (Houston, TX)

Presenters/Festivals - 9 or Fewer Concerts per Season

1st: Other Minds (San Francisco, CA)

2nd: Grand Canyon Music Festival (Grand Canyon, AZ)

Chamber Music Ensembles - Mixed Repertory

1st: Calder Quartet (Los Angeles, CA)

2nd: Chameleon Arts Ensemble of Boston (Boston, MA)

Chamber Music Ensembles - New Music

1st: newEar (Kansas City, MO)

2nd: JACK Quartet (New York, NY)

Jazz Ensembles

1st: James Carney Group (Brooklyn, NY)

Chamber Music America, the national service organization for the ensemble music profession, was founded in 1977 to promote artistic excellence and economic stability in 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, artist 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.

ASCAP is a membership association of more than 330,000 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.