



## RECORDING ACADEMY® TO HONOR 2020 SPECIAL MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS WITH AN ECLECTIC LINEUP OF PERFORMERS AND PRESENTERS IN "GREAT PERFORMANCES: GRAMMY SALUTE TO MUSIC LEGENDS®" SPECIAL OCT. 16 ON PBS

### ANNUAL AWARDS AND TRIBUTE CONCERT TAKES ON NEW VIRTUAL FORMAT

**SANTA MONICA, CALIF. (SEPT. 15, 2020)** — The Recording Academy® will honor its 2020 Special Merit Awards recipients with "Great Performances: GRAMMY Salute To Music Legends®," an awards ceremony and tribute concert hosted by **Jimmy Jam** on Friday, Oct. 16, 2020, at 9 p.m. ET on PBS (check local listings), [pbs.org/gperf](https://pbs.org/gperf) and the PBS Video app. Announced earlier this year, the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award honorees are **Chicago**, **Roberta Flack**, **Isaac Hayes**, **Iggy Pop**, **John Prine**, **Public Enemy**, and **Sister Rosetta Tharpe**. **Ken Ehrlich**, **Philip Glass** and **Frank Walker** received Trustees Award honors, and **George Augspurger** was recognized with the Technical GRAMMY® Award. **Mickey Smith Jr.** will also accept the Music Educator Award™ as this year's recipient.

Performers include **Laurie Anderson**, **Philip Bailey**, **Brandi Carlile**, **Cynthia Erivo**, **Chris Isaak**, **Jason Isbell & Amanda Shires**, **Cyndi Lauper**, **Sam Moore**, **Leslie Odom, Jr.**, and **Yola**. Presenters include **Rhiannon Giddens**, **Joe Mantegna**, **John Legend**, **LL COOL J**, **Greg Phillinganes**, **Henry Rollins**, and **Don Was**.

Original performances by (honorees in bold type):

#### **Roberta Flack**

"The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" — Performed by Cynthia Erivo

"Where Is The Love" — Performed by Cynthia Erivo and Leslie Odom, Jr.

#### **Chicago**

"If You Leave Me Now" — Performed by Philip Bailey

#### **Sister Rosetta Tharpe**

"Up Above My Head, I Hear Music In The Air" — Performed by Yola

#### **Isaac Hayes**

"Soul Man" / "I Thank You" / "You Don't Know Like I Know" / "Hold On, I'm Comin'" / "You Got Me Hummin'" /

"When Something Is Wrong With My Baby" — Performed by Sam Moore

#### **Philip Glass**

"Gee Whiz" — Performed by Laurie Anderson



**Frank Walker**

“Your Cheatin’ Heart” — Performed by Chris Isaak

**Ken Ehrlich**

“Time After Time” — Performed by Cyndi Lauper

**John Prine**

“Storm Windows” — Performed by Jason Isbell & Amanda Shires

“I Remember Everything” — Performed by Brandi Carlile

This is the fifth year the Recording Academy has celebrated the Special Merit Awards with a stand-alone TV event and musical tribute, but the first year that it has been produced without an audience and in different locations due to COVID-19’s impact on live events. In addition to the tribute concert, the special will feature archival video packages celebrating each of the honorees’ contributions to the music industry and its cultural heritage.

A production of THIRTEEN PRODUCTIONS for WNET, "Great Performances: GRAMMY Salute To Music Legends" was written by David Wild and directed for television by David Horn, with Mitch Owing as producer and David Horn and Branden Chapman as executive producers. Terry Lickona and Chantel Sausedo are co-producers.

The Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates performers who have made outstanding contributions of artistic significance to the field of recording, while the Trustees Award honors such contributions in areas other than performance. The Recording Academy’s National Board of Trustees determines the honorees of both awards. Technical GRAMMY Award recipients are voted on by the Academy’s Producers & Engineers Wing® Advisory Council and Chapter Committees, and are ratified by the Academy’s Trustees. The award is presented to individuals who have made contributions of outstanding technical significance to the recording industry. Presented by the Recording Academy and GRAMMY Museum®, the Music Educator Award recognizes current educators who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education. The recipient is approved by the Board of Trustees.

**ABOUT THE RECORDING ACADEMY**

The Recording Academy represents the voices of performers, songwriters, producers, engineers, and all music professionals. Dedicated to ensuring the recording arts remain a thriving part of our shared cultural heritage, the Academy honors music’s history while investing in its future through the GRAMMY Museum, advocates on behalf of music creators, supports music people in times of need through MusiCares®, and celebrates artistic excellence through the GRAMMY Awards® — music’s only peer-recognized accolade and highest achievement. As the world’s leading society of music professionals, we work year-round to foster a more inspiring world for creators.



For more information about the Academy, please visit [www.grammy.com](http://www.grammy.com). For breaking news and exclusive content, follow @RecordingAcad on [Twitter](#), "like" Recording Academy on [Facebook](#), and join the Recording Academy's social communities on [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

#### **ABOUT WNET**

WNET is America's flagship PBS station: parent company of New York's [THIRTEEN](#) and [WLIW21](#) and operator of [NJTV](#), the statewide public media network in New Jersey. Through its new [ALL ARTS](#) multi-platform initiative, its broadcast channels, three cable services (THIRTEEN PBSKids, Create and World) and online streaming sites, WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to more than five million viewers each month. WNET produces and presents a wide range of acclaimed PBS series, including *Nature*, *Great Performances*, *American Masters*, *PBS NewsHour Weekend*, and the nightly interview program *Amanpour and Company*. In addition, WNET produces numerous documentaries, children's programs, and local news and cultural offerings, as well as multi-platform initiatives addressing poverty and climate. Through THIRTEEN Passport and WLIW Passport, station members can stream new and archival THIRTEEN, WLIW and PBS programming anytime, anywhere.

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