



"GRAMMY SALUTE TO MUSIC LEGENDS™" HONORING SHIRLEY CAESAR, AHMAD JAMAL, CHARLEY PRIDE, JIMMIE RODGERS, NINA SIMONE, SLY STONE, AND THE VELVET UNDERGROUND TO AIR ON PBS' "GREAT PERFORMANCES" FRIDAY, OCT. 13, AT 9:00 P.M.

BROADCAST EVENT FEATURES PERFORMANCES BY HONOREES CAESAR, PRIDE AND THE VELVET UNDERGROUND'S JOHN CALE AND MAUREEN "MOE" TUCKER, AS WELL AS STANLEY COWELL, ANDRA DAY, KIRK FRANKLIN, LE'ANDRIA JOHNSON, NEAL MCCOY, RANDY NEWMAN, VERNON REID, CATHERINE RUSSELL, VALERIE SIMPSON, RUSSELL THOMPkins JR., DIONNE WARWICK, CHARLIE WILSON, AND DWIGHT YOAKAM

SANTA MONICA, CALIF. (AUG. 31, 2017) — In collaboration with the Recording Academy™, "Great Performances" presents "GRAMMY Salute To Music Legends™", the second annual all-star concert offering a primetime spotlight for the Academy's 2017 Special Merit Awards recipients. The celebration and tribute concert feature rare performances by honorees and renditions by those they've inspired.

The celebration, led by GRAMMY®-winning industry icon Paul Shaffer as musical director, was recorded in July at New York's Beacon Theatre, and will air Friday, Oct. 13 from 9–11 p.m. on PBS. (Check local listings.) Historically held during GRAMMY® Week, this is the second time the Recording Academy has celebrated the Special Merit Awards with a stand-alone event and musical tribute.

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award honorees are Shirley Caesar, Ahmad Jamal, Charley Pride, Jimmie Rodgers, Nina Simone, Sly Stone, and the Velvet Underground.

Additional Special Merit Awards honorees celebrated include Trustees Awards recipients producer, arranger, and songwriter Thom Bell; record executive Mo Ostin; and recording executive, A&R man, and music publisher Ralph S. Peer; and audio inventor Alan Dower Blumlein, who is the Technical GRAMMY Award recipient. Also honored is Keith Hancock, this year's recipient of the Recording Academy and GRAMMY Museum®'s Music Educator Award™.

Along with never-before-seen video packages celebrating each of the honorees' contributions to the music industry and our cultural heritage and heartfelt testimonials from the presenters, the star-studded event features performances by Lifetime Achievement Award honorees John Cale and Maureen "Moe" Tucker of the Velvet Underground, Lifetime Achievement Award honoree Shirley Caesar, jazz pianist Stanley Cowell, past GRAMMY nominee Andra Day, 12-time GRAMMY winner Kirk Franklin, GRAMMY Winner Le'Andria Johnson, past GRAMMY nominee Neal McCoy, six-time GRAMMY winner Randy Newman, GRAMMY-winning Living Colour founder and songwriter Vernon Reid, past GRAMMY nominee Catherine Russell, Lifetime Achievement



Award honoree Charley Pride, past GRAMMY nominee Valerie Simpson, past GRAMMY nominee Russell Thompkins Jr. of the Stylistics, five-time GRAMMY winner Dionne Warwick, past GRAMMY nominee Charlie Wilson, and two-time GRAMMY winner Dwight Yoakam. There is also a special appearance by GRAMMY winner Whoopi Goldberg, who accepts for the late Nina Simone.

The full musical program follows (the honorees in bold type; performers in parentheses):

Thom Bell

- "You Make Me Feel Brand New" (Russell Thompkins Jr.)
- "Then Came You" (Dionne Warwick)

Ahmad Jamal

- "But Not For Me" / "Ahmad's Blues" / "Poinciana" (Stanley Cowell)

Nina Simone

- "Mississippi Goddam" (Andra Day)

Jimmie Rodgers

- "Hobo Bill's Last Ride" / "Mule Skinner Blues" / "T For Texas" (Dwight Yoakam)

Ralph S. Peer

- "Crazy Blues" (Catherine Russell)
- "The Great Pretender" (Russell Thompkins Jr.)
- "Georgia on My Mind" (Andra Day)

The Velvet Underground

- "I'm Waiting For The Man" / "Sunday Morning" (John Cale Band with Maureen "Moe" Tucker)

Shirley Caesar

- Medley: "You Name It" / "It's Alright, It's OK" / "You're Next In Line For A Miracle" / "Satan, We're Going To Tear Your Kingdom Down" (Kirk Franklin with Le'Andria Johnson)
- "Caught Up" / "Jesus, I Love Calling Your Name" (Shirley Caesar)

Mo Ostin

- "A Few Words In Defense Of Our Country" / "I Think It's Going To Rain Today" (Randy Newman)

Charley Pride

- "Is Anybody Goin' To San Antone" (Neal McCoy)
- "Kiss An Angel Good Morning" (Charley Pride)

Sly Stone

- "I Want To Take You Higher" / "Everybody Is A Star" / "Sex Machine" / "Dance To The Music" (Charlie Wilson, Valerie Simpson, Vernon Reid)



The Lifetime Achievement Award honors performers who have made contributions of outstanding artistic significance to the field of recording, while the Trustees Award recognizes such contributions in areas other than performance. Both awards are determined by a vote of the Recording Academy's National Board of Trustees. Technical GRAMMY Award recipients are determined by vote of the Academy's Producers & Engineers Wing[®] Advisory Council and Chapter Committees and ratified by the National Board of Trustees, and presented to individuals and companies who have made contributions of outstanding technical significance to the recording field. Visit www.grammy.org/recording-academy/awards for complete lists of previous recipients.

"Great Performances" is produced by THIRTEEN PRODUCTIONS LLC for WNET, one of America's most prolific and respected public media providers. Throughout its more than 40-year history on public television, "Great Performances" has provided viewers across the country with an unparalleled showcase of the best in all genres of the performing arts, serving as America's most prestigious and enduring broadcaster of cultural programming.

A production of THIRTEEN Productions LLC for WNET, "GRAMMY Salute To Music Legends" is written by David Wild and directed for television by David Horn, with Mitch Owing as producer, and Horn and Neil Portnow as executive producers. For "Great Performances," Bill O'Donnell is series producer; David Horn is executive producer.

The "Great Performances" presentation is funded by the Joseph & Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Arts Fund, the Irene Diamond Fund, the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, the Agnes Varis Trust, the Starr Foundation, the Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, Ellen and James S. Marcus, the Philip and Janice Levin Foundation, the Thea Petschek Iervolino Foundation, the Abra Prentice Foundation, and PBS.

Visit "Great Performances" online at www.pbs.org/gperf for additional information and other programs.

About The Lifetime Achievement Award Honorees

A deeply spiritual and affecting gospel singer, Shirley Caesar's emotive vocal talents were discovered in a church choir when she was 10 years old. She is arguably best known for her eight-year tenure with the Chicago-based gospel group the Caravans, whom she joined after appealing to Albertina Walker to sing a solo with the group. Electing to pursue a solo career in 1966 alongside her own choir, the Caesar Singers, she subsequently carved out a profile that earned her the title of First Lady of Gospel Music. Caesar's roll call of achievements includes 11 GRAMMY Awards[®], 14 Stellar awards, 15 Dove awards, an NAACP Image Award, a Soul Train Music Award, and two recent 59th GRAMMY nominations.

A prodigy who began playing piano at age 3, Ahmad Jamal started performing professionally at 14 and was signed to Okeh Records by age 21. Trained in both traditional jazz and European classical piano styles, Jamal has been labeled as a jazz innovator who helped pioneer "cool jazz," which had a significant influence on Miles Davis, among others. With a catalog spanning seven decades, he is known for wonderful renditions of pieces such as "Poinciana" and "Dolphin Dance," original compositions such as "Ahmad's Blues," the fantastic compilation *Complete Live At The Spotlight Club 1958*, and his most well-known album, 1958's *At The Pershing: But Not For Me*.



Three-time GRAMMY winner Charley Pride taught himself to play guitar in his early teens, but he dreamed of becoming a professional baseball player. After playing in the Negro American League, he was signed by RCA Victor and in 1967 he became the first black singer to perform at the Grand Ole Opry. “Just Between You And Me” launched Pride to stardom, earning him his first GRAMMY nomination for 1966. In 1969 Pride scored his first No. 1 country hit with “All I Have To Offer You (Is Me).” Pride is considered the first black superstar in country music.

Jimmie Rodgers* is widely regarded as the Father of Country Music. In 1961 he became one of the first three people inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. In 1970 he was a part of the inaugural class of songwriters voted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. In 1986, the first year of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductions, he was inducted under the early influencers category. Rodgers has three recordings in the GRAMMY Hall Of Fame® — “Blue Yodel (T For Texas)” and “In The Jailhouse Now” (both from 1928) and “Blue Yodel #9 (Standing On The Corner)” (1930).

Dr. Nina Simone*, known as the High Priestess of Soul, was a child prodigy whose dreams of becoming a classical musician were deferred by the color of her skin. Her fearlessness and deep commitment to the civil rights movement gave birth to such classics as “Mississippi Goddam,” “Four Women” and “To Be Young, Gifted And Black.” Her approach to music was so versatile she labeled her style black classical. From R&B and rock to jazz, gospel, blues, folk, and Broadway, Simone brought her unique style to each genre. Her interpretations of “Feeling Good” and “Sinnerman” are classics that fans around the world still enjoy. Her version of “I Loves You, Porgy,” which became a Top 20 hit in 1959, was inducted into the GRAMMY Hall Of Fame in 2000.

Sylvester “Sly Stone” Stewart is an iconic American musician, songwriter and producer most famous for his role as frontman of Sly & The Family Stone. Classic hits penned by Stone, including “Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin),” “Everyday People,” “Dance To The Music,” and “There’s A Riot Going On,” played a critical role in the development of soul, funk, rock, and psychedelia in the 1960s and 1970s. Sly & The Family Stone were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1993. The group has four recordings in the GRAMMY Hall Of Fame.

Despite a relatively brief lifespan and limited commercial success, the Velvet Underground are now recognized as one of the most influential rock bands of all time. Comprising Lou Reed*, John Cale, Sterling Morrison*, and Maureen “Moe” Tucker, the band was, perhaps, ahead of their time, both visually and sonically. Often dubbed the quintessential proto-punk band, they have been continually cited as the benchmark for countless modern-rock movements over the past 50 years. The Velvet Underground’s seminal 1967 debut album, *The Velvet Underground & Nico*, was inducted into the GRAMMY Hall Of Fame in 2008.

About The Trustees Award Honorees

Producer/arranger/songwriter Thom Bell was one of the cornerstones of the Philadelphia Soul legacy. He was a prime architect in the development of a ‘70s soul sound that moved beyond the grit of Southern soul and the effervescence of Motown by building complex and sophisticated arrangements around smooth strings, elegant horns and a driving rhythm that anticipated the rise of disco. With the Delfonics, the Stylistics, the Spinners and others, Bell established his trademark sound with sweet strings and muted brass led by the French horn. Hits such as “I’ll Be Around” and “Betcha By Golly, Wow” cemented his stature as one of the all-time great



songwriter/producers, and his partnership with Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff helped create the quintessential Sound of Philadelphia.

Mo Ostin is one of the greatest record executives in music history. While he started out at Verve, it was helping Frank Sinatra's Reprise Records where Ostin came into his own. With Reprise Records and ultimately Warner Bros., where he served as Chairman for 25 years, Ostin worked with the seminal artists of the generation such as Eric Clapton, Randy Newman, Paul Simon, Prince, and Neil Young, while also developing a staff that was legendary in their own right. With an artist-friendly disposition, Ostin led with the idea that great art made great business — most of the bands signed under his watch made both critically acclaimed and profitable records. Ostin was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2003 and was honored with The Recording Academy's President's Merit Award at the 2006 GRAMMY Salute To Industry Icons®.

Ralph S. Peer* was a successful recording executive, archetypal A&R man and music publisher whose career spanned from 1919 to 1960. Through his work as a music executive, he continually broadened the palate of genres that music makers and audiences embraced. He was the executive producer of Mamie Smith's "Crazy Blues," the first vocal blues recording, James P. Johnson's "Carolina Shout," considered by historians to be among the first jazz piano solo recordings, and Fiddlin' John Carson's "The Little Old Log Cabin In The Lane," the first country record released. He was the producer of the 1927 Bristol Sessions, considered the "Big Bang" of country music, where he discovered Jimmie Rodgers and the original Carter Family. He broadened his focus by publishing Latin music in the United States and around the globe. Fifty-nine recordings produced or published by Ralph S. Peer have been inducted into the GRAMMY Hall Of Fame.

About The Technical GRAMMY Award Recipient

Alan Dower Blumlein* received 128 patents on his way to becoming one of the most significant audio inventors of his time. His most noteworthy patent was for the stereo in 1931, a development that was spurred by a visit to the cinema and being frustrated that the sound from a single speaker didn't match with the actors and action on screen. He also invented the Blumlein Pair microphones, a stereo disc-cutting head and a shuffling circuit, among other audio inventions.

*Denotes posthumous award

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. 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](#), [Tumblr](#), and [YouTube](#).



ABOUT WNET

WNET is America's flagship PBS station and parent company of THIRTEEN and WLIW21. WNET also operates NJTV, the statewide public media network in New Jersey. Through 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 week. WNET produces and presents such acclaimed PBS series as Nature, Great Performances, American Masters, PBS NewsHour Weekend, Charlie Rose and a range of documentaries, children's programs, and local news and cultural offerings. WNET's groundbreaking series for children and young adults include Get the Math, Oh Noah! and Cyberchase as well as Mission US, the award-winning interactive history game. WNET highlights the tri-state's unique culture and diverse communities through NYC-ARTS, Theater Close-Up, NJTV News with Mary Alice Williams and MetroFocus, the daily multi-platform news magazine focusing on the New York region. In addition, WNET produces online-only programming including the award-winning series about gender identity, First Person, and an intergenerational look at tech and pop culture, The Chatterbox with Kevin and Grandma Lill. In 2015, THIRTEEN launched Passport, an online streaming service which allows members to see new and archival THIRTEEN and PBS programming anytime, anywhere: www.thirteen.org/passport.

#

CONTACTS

Andie Cox

Recording Academy

T. 310.581.8654

andie.cox@grammy.com

Harry Forbes

WNET

T. 212-560-8027

ForbesH@wnet.org