FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE

Announcing the New York 2019 ISPA Awards Recipients

Gustavo Dudamel, Alistair Spalding CBE, Jacqueline Z. Davis, and Michael M. Koerner

Award Presentation to be held during the New York 2019 ISPA Congress on Thursday, January 10, 2019

New York, NY, USA (December 20, 2018) – On behalf of the Board of Directors, the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) announced the recipients of the New York 2019 ISPA Awards. The first ISPA Award was presented in 1975 to Beverly Sills. Since then ISPA has recognized hundreds of individuals for their contribution to the arts and their communities. The 2019 award recipients are as follows (biographies attached):

Distinguished Artist Award
Presented to artists who have made an outstanding contribution of talent, artistry, dedication, and service to the world of the performing arts.

Gustavo Dudamel (Music & Artistic Director, Los Angeles Philharmonic)
Nominating Statement: "Maestro Dudamel is now one of the most interesting, innovative and curious conductors in the world."

International Citation of Merit
Presented for unique lifetime achievement which has enriched the international performing arts.

Alistair Spalding CBE (Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Sadler’s Wells)
Nominating Statement: “He is the international leader in presenting all forms of dance from small to large scale.”

Patrick Hayes Award
Inspired by the legacy of the founding President of the International Society of the Performing Arts Foundation, Patrick Hayes, this Award recognizes an ISPA member in any stage of their career who has demonstrated transformative leadership in the performing arts.

Jacqueline Z. Davis (Executive Director of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center)
Nominating Statement: “As a long standing member of ISPA she has been a visionary in the performing arts field and has inspired new ideas and initiatives across the globe.”
Angel Award Recipient

Presented to an individual or organization which has demonstrated a significant and lasting contribution to the support of the performing arts which transcends the boundaries of one country or institution, and merits international recognition.

Michael M. Koerner (President of Canada Overseas Investments Limited)

Nominating Statement: “Michael Koerner is a visionary philanthropist whose generosity has had and will continue to have a profound impact on the performing arts in Canada and around the world for generations to come.”

"While we received many worthy nominations, the Board was unanimous in their endorsement on the 2019 awardees. Each individual has contributed so very much to the global performing arts,” said Chief Executive Officer David Baile.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony to be held during the New York 2019 ISPA Congress, Transitions: Today’s Future for the Arts, on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at the Times Center. The ceremony will be hosted by Gaurav Kripalani, Festival Director of Singapore International Festival.

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[BIOGRAPHY OF THE AWARD RECIPIENTS]

Gustavo Dudamel

2019 Distinguished Artist Award Recipient

Driven by an unwavering belief in the power of music to heal, unite, and inspire, Gustavo Dudamel is one of the most distinguished conductors of our day. From the great concert halls to classrooms, video screens and movie theaters, Dudamel’s remarkable career of musical achievements and championing of access to the arts for young people around the world demonstrates music’s extraordinary capacity to transform lives.

Dudamel’s 2018/19 season will center around the centennial celebration of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and his tenth year as their Music & Artistic Director. Other highlights of the season include his debut at the Metropolitan Opera conducting Verdi’s Otello; tours with the Berlin Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, and Mahler Chamber Orchestra; and his first extended academic residency at Princeton University.

A lifelong advocate for music education and social development through art, Dudamel himself was shaped by his childhood experience with El Sistema, the immersive musical training program initiated in 1975 by José Antonio Abreu. Entering his 19th year as Music Director of the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra, Dudamel also carries on the work of his late mentor with his ongoing commitment to El Sistema in Venezuela, and by supporting numerous Sistemainspired projects around the world. He also continues to expand the reach of his Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA) initiative, including the 2019 opening of a new Frank Gehry-designed facility in Inglewood, California.
Gustavo Dudamel was born in 1981 in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. The Gustavo Dudamel Foundation, a registered charity, was created in 2012 with the goal of promoting access to music as a human right and a catalyst for learning, integration, and social change.

**Alistair Spalding CBE**  
*2019 International Citation of Merit Recipient*

Alistair Spalding has been Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Sadler’s Wells since 2004. Under his direction, the theatre has become a world-leading dance house, producing and presenting new work and bringing the best UK and international dance to its audiences. Sadler’s Wells welcomes more than 500,000 people in London each year, while its touring productions attract over 130,000 in the UK and overseas.

Since 2005, Spalding has driven the commissioning, producing and co-producing of over 160 shows, including acclaimed cross-art form collaborations *Sutra*, *mjlonga* and *Gravity Fatigue*. Many of these productions involve Sadler’s Wells’ 16 Associate Artists, three Resident Companies and four Associate Companies – the most exciting talents working in dance today.

Spalding has initiated a number of ground-breaking annual festivals, including the critically acclaimed international festival of hip hop dance theatre Breakin’ Convention, as well as new initiatives such as the Composer Series and Sadler’s Wells Sampled.


Spalding holds honorary doctorates from Middlesex University (2012), the University of Hertfordshire (2014) and the University of Roehampton (2015). He was awarded the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres in 2005, and was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen’s Birthday Honours in 2012, for services to dance.

**Jacqueline Z. Davis**  
*2019 Patrick Hayes Award Recipient*

Jacqueline Z. Davis is the Executive Director of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center.

Formerly, Ms. Davis was Director of the Lied Center of Kansas at the University of Kansas, serving a dual role of Artistic Producer and Executive Director. During her tenure, she served as President of the Association of Performing Arts Professionals from 1990 – 1992. Prior to her activities in the artistic sector, she served as a staff assistant in the Office of Senator Edward Kennedy.
Ms. Davis has served as a Tony Awards nominator and Voter. She assisted in the creation of the Imagine '04 Festival of Arts, Issues and Ideas, for which she received an Obie Award. She was named a Chevalier of Arts and Letters by the Minister of Culture of France. She is the recipient of the New York Women’s Agenda’s Galaxy Award and received the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Kansas. In 2011, Ms. Davis received the Global Interdependence Prize in New York for her work in engendering communication across cultures through the performing arts. She continues to serve as the Executive Producer of the Global Interdependence Movement. In 2012, she received the HT Chen Dance Company Award for her commitment to the field of Dance. In May 2012, she became a graduate of Harvard Kennedy School’s Executive Leadership Program.

Ms. Davis is an active member of ISPA, serving two terms on the Board as Co-Chair of the Program Committee. She Co-Chaired ISPA’s New York Congresses in 2009 and 2015.

Michael M. Koerner
2019 Angel Award Recipient

Michael M. Koerner is President of Canada Overseas Investments Limited which he founded in 1958 and which was an early Canadian venture capital participant focussing on low technology opportunities which included developing cable TV franchises, integrated mini steel mills, monopolar electric cells to convert chemicals and even cheque printing. He was also an early participant in the oil sands industry starting with Great Canadian Oil Sands, Sun Oil Co. of Canada, Suncor Energy, where he was active as a director and two terms as Chairman. He also served as a director of several companies including CAE Industries, Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Finning International and JP Morgan Canada. He is currently serving on the boards of funds in the Strathbridge organization.

Mr. Koerner was educated in England and Canada and did his higher education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he majored in chemical engineering, after which he received an MBA from the Harvard Business School. Mr. Koerner is a life trustee of his alma mater, MIT, and has at various times been on the Executive Committee and Chairman of its Investment Committee.

Mr. Koerner has been active in Toronto cultural organizations. He is currently Chancellor of the Royal Conservatory of Music and a Trustee of the Art Gallery of Ontario, of which he is a past president. He serves as a director and treasurer of the Ontario Arts Foundation and as director and secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund. In prior years he served on the boards of the Toronto Symphony, the National Ballet of Canada and the National Ballet School, and the Bata Shoe Museum. Mr. Koerner is a member of the Order of Canada and also a recipient of Honourary Doctor of Laws degrees from Queen’s University, Kingston and the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Mr. Koerner is married to Sonja Novak, who was born in Lima, Peru, and attended Wellesley College outside of Boston. They had three daughters and have twelve grandchildren, one of whom graduated from MIT with much better grades than his grandfather.

About ISPA: The International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) is a global association of more than 500 arts management leaders from 56 regions, who come together with the shared goal of strengthening and developing the arts internationally. We achieve this by building leadership ability, by recognizing and discussing field-wide trends and new developments, and by deepening global exchange through the arts. ISPA members include presenters, performing arts organizations, artist managers, competitions, funders, consultants and other professionals working in the performing arts. Founded in 1948 by Patrick Hayes, 2018 marked ISPA’s 70th Anniversary.

About ISPA Awards: As a leadership network, ISPA is committed to recognizing excellence in the performing arts globally. There is an annual call for award nominations. All nominations are reviewed by the Nominating Committee Members and then a slate of nominees is recommended to the Board of Directors for approval.

For more information on the ISPA Awards, visit www.ispa.org/page/awards_landing

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