

Announcing the New York 2022 ISPA Awards Recipients

Jack Charles, Carmen Romero Quero, Anthony Sargent CBE

*Award Presentation to be held during the
New York 2022 Congress, Opportunity of Now
on Thursday, January 13, 2022*

New York, NY, USA (December 14, 2021)– On behalf of the Board of Directors, the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) announces the recipients of the New York 2022 ISPA Awards. The first ISPA Award was presented in 1975 to Beverly Sills. Since then, ISPA has continued to recognize outstanding individuals for their contribution to the arts and their communities. The 2022 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.

Jack Charles - Artist

Nominating Statement: "Acknowledged as the grandfather of Aboriginal theatre in Australia, Jack Charles co-founded the first Aboriginal theatre company has an acting career that spans over six decades. Uncle Jack embodies the spirit of the Distinguished Artist Award."

International Citation of Merit

Presented for unique lifetime achievement which has enriched the international performing arts. This award is not for performance but rather for distinguished service working within the profession.

Carmen Romero Quero - General Director of Fundación Teatro a Mil (Teatro a Mil Foundation) and Festival Internacional Santiago a Mil (Santiago a Mil International Festival)

Nominating Statement: "From the beginning, Ms. Romero has been a fierce advocate for internationalizing the performing arts. She is a leader in Latin America's contemporary arts scene, adding to Santiago, Chile's transformation into a global cultural capital."

Patrick Hayes Award

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

Anthony Sargent CBE (International Cultural Advisor)

Nominating Statement: “(Anthony Sargent’s) visionary work as founding CEO of the Sage Gateshead is but one example of his brand of transformative leadership, which is humble, inspirational, and collaborative.”

“While we received many worthy nominations, the Board was unanimous in their endorsement on the 2022 awardees. The recipients reflect the richness of diversity that the ISPA membership represents” said ISPA Chief Executive Officer David Baile.

The awards will be presented at a virtual ceremony to be held during [New York 2022 Congress, Opportunity of Now](#), on Thursday, January 13, 2022. The ceremony will be hosted by Govin Ruben, TerryandTheCuz.

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[BIOGRAPHY OF THE AWARD RECIPIENTS]**Jack Charles**

2022 Distinguished Artist Award Recipient

Jack Charles has worn many hats throughout his life: actor, cat burglar, musician, heroin addict, activist, even Senior Victorian Australian of the Year. But the title he’s most proud to claim is that of Aboriginal Elder. Stolen from his mother and placed into institutional care when he was only a few months old, Uncle Jack was raised under the government’s White Australia Policy. The loneliness and isolation he experienced during those years had a devastating impact on him that endured long after he reconnected with his Aboriginal roots and discovered his stolen identity. Even today he feels like an outsider; a loner; a fringe dweller.

Carmen Romero Quero

2022 International Citation of Merit Recipient

Carmen Romero Quero is the General Director of Fundación Teatro a Mil (Teatro a Mil Foundation) and Festival Internacional Santiago a Mil (Santiago a Mil International Festival). Her work has focused on complex projects that aim to transform Chile’s cities and narrow the access gap to cultural assets. She has been a promoter of international cultural networks, manager of outstanding public-private collaborations, and advocate of theater education in Chile’s educational system. In 2004 she was named Chevalier de l’ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication; in 2014 she was named Cavaliere dell’Ordine della Stella d’ Italia; and in 2018, she

was awarded the National Order of Merit, in the Chevallier degree, awarded by the Government of France.

The most emblematic initiative that she has directed is the Santiago a Mil International Festival. For almost 30 years, for three weeks in January, the Festival presents contemporary theater, dance, and music from Chile, Latin America, and the world. To consolidate this work and extend its scope throughout the year, in 2004, she created Fundación Teatro a Mil, an institution whose mission is to make contemporary performing arts in Chile and the world fundamental to people's lives. At present, it promotes the Network of Festivals, which brings together more than 26 Chilean initiatives; is part of the dialogue space Proposed Social Agreement (PAS), generated by the rector of the University of Chile, Ennio Vivaldi, in the context of the social crisis in his country. She is also part of the advisory council of We have to talk about Chile, a conversation platform about the future as a country after the health crisis, convened by the UC Center for Public Policies and the University of Chile.

Anthony Sargent CBE

2022 Patrick Hayes Award Recipient

After studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford University, Anthony worked for 13 years in BBC radio and television in presentation, production and management, including as Artistic Planning Manager for the BBC Proms and BBC Symphony Orchestra.

As Artistic Projects Director at London's Southbank he led many of the centre's own major festivals and programming, then in 1990 as Birmingham City Council's Head of Arts, responsible for all the council's cultural investments and facilities, he created the city's first Arts Strategy and led all the Council's major arts projects and festivals, co-leading with Sir Simon Rattle Birmingham's pioneering 10-year festival of the 20th Century, Towards the Millennium.

After rejoining the BBC in the leadership of their nationwide multi-platform Millennium Music Live festival, for 15 years he led Sage Gateshead as founding General Director, positioning the new centre for music and musical discovery internationally and winning what was then Britain's highest ever arts sponsorship outside London.

In 2015 he moved to Canada to lead Luminato Festival Toronto as CEO, evolving the acclaimed festival for its second decade. He now works internationally as an advisor, consultant and communicator. An awardee of the CBE, RSA Fellow and Honorary Doctor of Music, Anthony is also a Freeman of the Borough of Gateshead, the highest honour UK municipal authorities can bestow, and received the Hotspur Award (jointly with UK football legend Sir Bobby Robson), given for outstanding contribution ("with bold endeavor") to the development of North East England.

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, 2022 marks ISPA's 73rd 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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