



ISPA

International
Society for the
Performing Arts

LEADING WITH
CREATIVITY

NEW YORK CITY | JANUARY 14-16, 2025

WELCOME!

Join us as leadership takes center stage. The international performing arts community faces new realities including global conflicts, changing workplace culture, divisions around social issues, AI, and the climate emergency. At ISPA's 2025 New York Congress, we'll explore innovative approaches and leadership models that leverage creativity to inspire and lead with impact. Whether you're an artist, presenter, manager, administrator, or cultural advocate, join us as we navigate the unique challenges and opportunities of arts leadership in today's rapidly shifting, often polarized world.



Alicia Adams

Chair ISPA Board of Directors
Vice-President,
International
Programming and Dance,
The Kennedy Center
[View Bio](#)



Shoshana Polanco

Co-Chair, NY25 Planning
Committee [View Bio](#)



Josephine Ridge

Co-Chair, NY25 Planning
Committee
Executive Director, Arts
Banff Centre for Arts and
Creativity [View Bio](#)



David Baile

CEO, ISPA, United States
[View Bio](#)

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SCHEDULE

OUR AWARD WINNERS

DIRECTIONS / MAP

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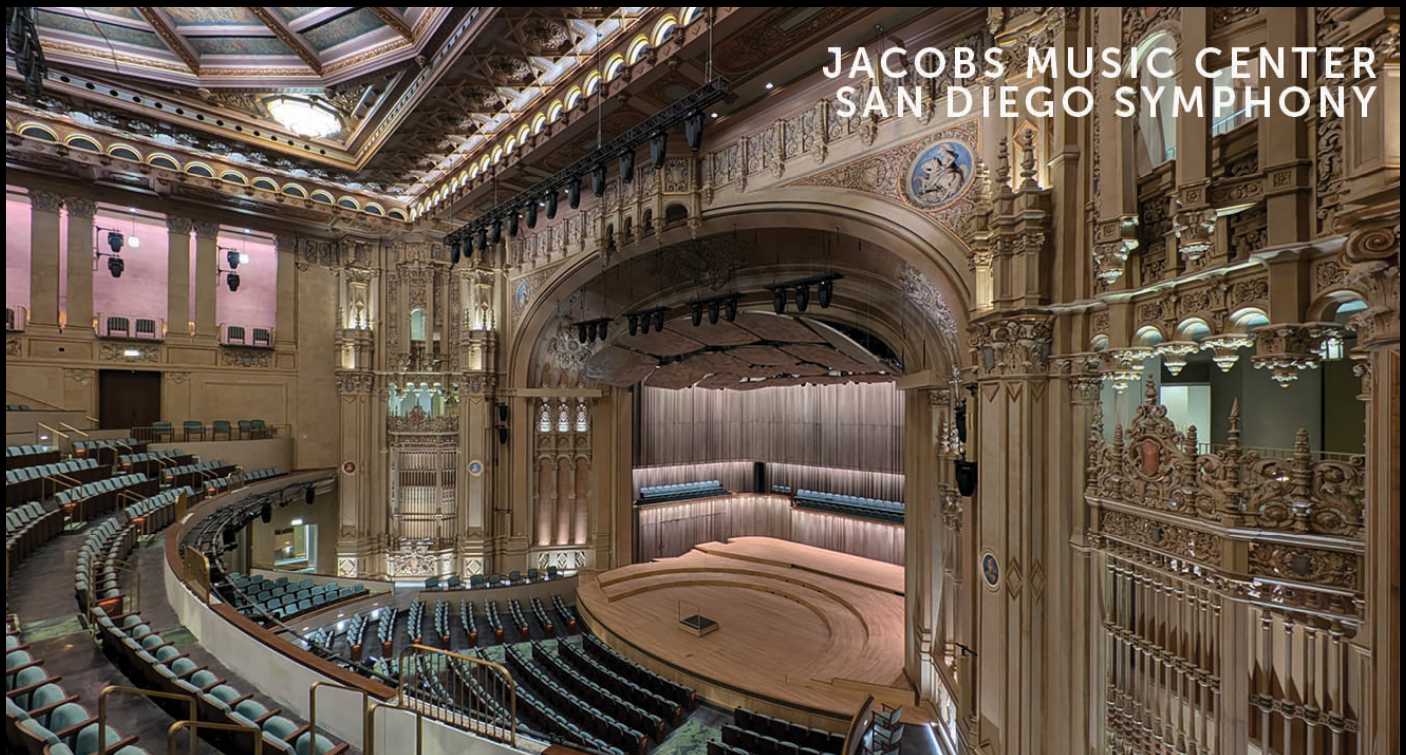
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NEW YORK 2025 CONGRESS

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18 EVENTS
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Miguel Gutierrez: Super Nothing, 2024. Photo by Amelia Golden

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

GERALD W. LYNCH THEATER

11:30 - 15:45 REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN (coffee service)

13:00 - 13:30 OPENING CEREMONY AND WELCOME

Muriel Miguel, Artistic Director, Spiderwoman Theater, United States, [View Bio](#)

Alicia Adams, Board Chair, Vice President, International Programming & Dance, John F. Kennedy Center, United States, [View Bio](#)

David Baile, CEO, ISPA, United States, [View Bio](#)

Shoshana Polanco, Head of Culture and Science outreach FES Iztacala UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), Mexico, [View Bio](#)

Josephine Ridge, Executive Director, Arts, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Canada, [View Bio](#)

13:30 - 13:50 PROVOCATION

Mariko Silver, President & CEO, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, United States, [View Bio](#)

13:50 - 15:05 SESSION 1 | LEADERSHIP MODELS: A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Speakers & Moderator*

Anthony Roth Costanzo, Countertenor / General Director and President, Independent/Opera Philadelphia, United States, [View Bio](#)

Emil Kang*, Program Director, Arts & Culture, Mellon Foundation, United States, [View Bio](#)

Dolina Wehipeihana, Festival Co-Director, Tāwhiri, Aotearoa NZ Festival of the Arts, New Zealand, [View Bio](#)

15:05 - 15:35 BREAK (coffee service)

15:35 - 15:45 REGIONAL UPDATE | EUNIC

Liviu Jicman, President, EUNIC Global Network, Romania [View Bio](#)

15:45 - 17:00 SESSION 2 | POSSIBILITIES: EXPLORING AI

Speakers & Moderator*

Mark Ball*, Artistic Director, Southbank Centre, UK, [View Bio](#)

Peter Jin Hong, Advisor, EQ+AI, Crosscourt.VC, Canada, [View Bio](#)

Natalie Klym, VP of Strategic Initiatives, Radium, Canada, [View Bio](#)

Octavio Kulesz, Digital Publisher, Teseo, Italy, [View Bio](#)

TUESDAY CONTINUES >

#ISPA25NY

VENUE 42, CONVENE

17:30 - 20:00 **OPENING RECEPTION/NEW MEMBER WELCOME**

SUGGESTED VENUE: MISS NELLIE'S NYC

20:30 **COCKTAIL KLATCH**



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

GERALD W. LYNCH THEATER

9:00 - 16:30 **REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN (coffee service)**10:30 - 12:30 **PITCH NEW WORKS**Host **Anthony Sargent CBE**, International Artistic Advisor, United Kingdom, [View Bio](#)12:30 - 14:15 **PROEX (PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE) / LUNCH**14:15 - 14:35 **PROGRAM UPDATE****Tzu-Yin Hsu**, International Booking Agent, Aurora Nova, Taiwan, [View Bio](#)**Brandall C. Jones**, Connectivity Director, Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company, United States, [View Bio](#)14:35 - 15:45 **SESSION 3 | THE CHOICE IS YOURS**

(Please select one session to attend)

CHANGING WORKPLACE CULTURE

DINING LOUNGE @ JOHN JAY COLLEGE

Speakers & Moderator*

Elroy Fillis-Bell, Chief Executive Officer, Joburg Ballet, South Africa, [View Bio](#)**Maria Claudia Parias Durán**, Director, Idartes, Colombia, [View Bio](#)**Josephine Ridge***, Executive Director, Arts, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Canada, [View Bio](#)**Deyvani Saltzman**, Director for Arts & Participation, Barbican Centre, United Kingdom, [View Bio](#)**Paul Tam**, Executive Director, Performing Arts, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, Hong Kong, [View Bio](#)**Matthew VanBesien**, President, UMS at the University of Michigan, United States, [View Bio](#)**CURATORIAL MODELS: NEW APPROACHES**

GERALD W. LYNCH THEATER

Speakers & Moderators*

Roy Luxford, Creative Director, Edinburgh International Festival, United Kingdom, [View Bio](#)**Magnus Nordberg***, Founder/CEO, Nordberg Movement, Sweden, [View Bio](#)**Freddie Opoku-Addaie**, Artistic Director and Co-Chief Executive, Dance Umbrella, United Kingdom, [View Bio](#)**Shoshana Polanco***, Head of Culture and Science outreach, FES Iztacala UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), Mexico, [View Bio](#)**Andrea Caruso Saturnino**, General Director, Theatro Municipal de São Paulo, Brazil, [View Bio](#)

WEDNESDAY CONTINUES >

BUILDING THE FUTURE: PERFORMANCE SPACES

CONFERENCE ROOM 61 @ JOHN JAY COLLEGE

Speakers & Moderator*

Liv Aira, Founder & Artistic Director, Jillat Sami Dance Center, Sweden, [View Bio](#)

Joschua Dachs, Principal, Fisher Dachs Associates, United States, [View Bio](#)

Todd Hensley*, Partner, Schuler Shook, United States, [View Bio](#)

Sybil Wa, Principal, Diamond Schmitt, United States/ Canada, [View Bio](#)

15:45 - 16:10 **BREAK (coffee service)**

16:10 - 16:20 **REGIONAL UPDATE | UNITED STATES (SOUTHERN)**

Thamara Bejarano, Executive Director, Open Scene, Southern United States, [View Bio](#)

GERALD W. LYNCH THEATER

16:20 - 16:45 **PROVOCATION**

Romina Muñoz Procel, Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ecuador, [View Bio](#)

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

19:00 - 23:30 **ISPA OUT ON THE TOWN**

SUGGESTED VENUE: MISS NELLIE'S NYC

20:30 **COCKTAIL KLATCH**



We hope you will support our core mission and help us continue to lead with creativity by giving to the

2025 Global Fellowship + Diversity Fund. Thank you!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

THE TIMES CENTER

8:00 - 15:00 **REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN**8:30 - 9:30 **SESSION 4 | COFFEE KLATCH**10:00 - 10:15 **REGIONAL UPDATE | MENA REGION****Ahmed El Attar**, Artistic and General Director, Arab Arts Focus, Egypt, [View Bio](#)10:15 - 10:40 **PROVOCATION****Alex Sarian**, President and CEO, Arts Commons, Canada, [View Bio](#)13:40 - 12:00 **SESSION 5 | NAVIGATING CONFLICT**

Speakers & Moderator*

Sulayman Al Bassam, Artistic Director, SABAB Theatre, Kuwait, [View Bio](#)**Kristy Edmunds***, Director, MASS MoCA, United States, [View Bio](#)**Miranda Lakerveld**, Founder/Artistic Director, World Opera Lab, Netherlands, [View Bio](#)**Iris Nemani**, McMurtry Family Director, Stanford Live, United States, [View Bio](#)12:00 - 13:15 **LUNCH**13:15 - 13:45 **PERFORMANCE****The D.R.E.A.M. Ring**, United States, [View Bio](#)13:45 - 15:15 **SESSION 6 | FESTIVALS AT THE FOREFRONT**

Speakers & Moderator*

Emily Ansenk, Director, Holland Festival, Netherlands, [View Bio](#)**Harold David**, Co-Chairman, Festival Off Avignon, France, [View Bio](#)**Martha Hincapié Charry**, Curator / Choreographer, Plataforma Berlin, Germany, [View Bio](#)**Tisa Ho***, Former Executive Director, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Hong Kong (China), [View Bio](#)**Dorcy Rugamba**, Artistic Director, Kigali Triennial, Rwanda/Belgium, [View Bio](#)15:15 - 15:45 **BREAK (coffee service)**15:45 - 16:00 **INVITATION TO LUGANO****Host: Michel Gagnon**, General Manager, Lugano Arte e Cultura, [View Bio](#)

THURSDAY CONTINUES >

16:00 - 17:00 **ISPA AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Hosts

Cindy Hwang, President, InPulse Creatives, LLC, Saudi Arabia, [View Bio](#)

Shaifulbahri Mohamad, Artistic Director, Bahri & Co, Singapore, [View Bio](#)

Awardees

David Baile, Chief Executive Officer, ISPA, United States, [View Bio](#)

Janet Cowperthwaite, Former Executive Director, Kronos Quartet, United States, [View Bio](#)

Cathy Graham OBE, Executive Director, NMC Recordings, Sweden, [View Bio](#)

Tisa Ho, Former Executive Director, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Hong Kong (China), [View Bio](#)

Yaron Lifschitz, Artistic Director and CEO, Circa, Australia, [View Bio](#)

Starmus Festival, Spain, [View Bio](#)

17:00 - 18:30 **CLOSING RECEPTION**


SUGGESTED VENUE: MISS NELLIE'S NYC

20:30 **COCKTAIL KLATCH**

SEE/HEAR

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could hear this?




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AWARDS



YARON LIFSCHITZ

2025 Distinguished Artist Award Recipient

Nominating Statement: *"Yaron Lifschitz is, a visionary and arguably one of the leading artistic entrepreneurs of the day. His commitment to circus arts and the development of future generations of circus artists is manifested through his work with CIRCA and the many regions within which he works."*

Yaron Lifschitz is a graduate of the University of New South Wales, University of Queensland, and National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA), where he was the youngest director ever accepted into its prestigious graduate director's course. Since graduating, Yaron has directed over 80 productions including large-scale events, opera, theatre, physical theatre, and circus.

His work has been seen in over forty-five countries and across six continents by nearly two million people and has won numerous awards including six Helpmann

awards and the Australia Council Theatre Award. His productions have been presented at major festivals and venues around the world including Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Barbican, Les Nuits de Fourvière, Chamaleon and all the major Australian festivals. His film work was selected for the Berlin and Melbourne Film Festivals. He was founding Artistic Director of the Australian Museum's Theatre Unit, Head Tutor in Directing at Australian Theatre for Young People and has been a regular guest tutor in directing at NIDA.

He is currently Artistic Director and CEO of Circa and was Creative Director of Festival 2018: the arts and cultural program of the 21st Commonwealth Games.



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Through unforgettable artistic experiences, Québec connects the world.

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JANET COWPERTHWAITE

2025 Angel Award Recipient

Nominating Statement: *“Janet has been integral to the success of the Kronos Quartet. The quintessential “fifth member” of the Quartet, Janet’s commitment to artistic and administrative excellence throughout her 43-year tenure cannot be overstated.”*

Janet Cowperthwaite was the longtime manager of the Kronos Quartet and the founding Executive Director of the Kronos Performing Arts Association (KPAA), a San Francisco-based nonprofit, for 43 years. Frequently described as “the fifth Beatle,” Cowperthwaite played a pivotal role in the development and success of the Grammy-winning quartet and its organization. For more than four decades, she oversaw the commissioning of 1,100 works, the production of 75+ acclaimed recordings, and the planning and execution of thousands of performances around the world.

Cowperthwaite was instrumental in creating innovative programs such as the Kronos Under 30 Project to support young composers and Kronos Fifty for the

Future, a free library of 50 contemporary quartet works, for which she raised over \$1M USD from more than 50 international partners. Pieces in the collection are widely performed and to date have been downloaded 40,000 times in 108 countries and territories.

Cowperthwaite also had an important creative role producing many new works, including Terry Riley’s “Sun Rings”, “At War With Ourselves” by Michael Abels and Nikky Finney, “A Thousand Thoughts” by Sam Green, and Tan Dun’s “Ghost Opera.” In 2024, as a capstone to the group’s 50th anniversary, she led the effort to place the Archive at the Library of Congress, securing the Kronos/KPAA legacy.

Throughout her career Cowperthwaite has enjoyed mentoring artists and arts organizations. She has served on dozens of panels, and on several boards, including International Society for the Performing Arts, American Music Center, and Association of Performing Arts Professionals.



CATHY GRAHAM

2025 International Citation of Merit Recipient

Nominating Statement: *“Cathy’s [Graham] contribution to the arts goes far beyond her work at any one institution. It is embodied in her belief in the importance of music as a tool for cultural under-standing and an appreciation of the arts as a vital part of society...”*

Cathy spent the first 14 years of her career in Stockholm working as a teacher and répétiteur with opera and theatre companies. Returning to the UK, she established herself on the London music scene, working for ENO Contemporary Music Studio, Almeida Opera, and as an Artists’ Manager.

In 1994 she became Executive Director of the Society for the Promotion of New Music (SPNM), guiding organisational change, her tenure culminating in the SPNM receiving the Prudential Award for the Arts. From 1997 – 2006 she was Managing Director of the London Sinfonietta, during which time the ensemble toured extensively nationally and internationally, and saw its repertoire, profile and audience increase. She initiated and oversaw the ensemble’s record label and led the

move to Kings Place, the multi-purpose venue at Kings Cross, which acted as a base alongside the ensemble’s South Bank Centre artistic residency.

Between 2006 and 2022 she was Director Music at the British Council where she worked internationally on arts and music projects which foster trust and cultural understanding between countries. She is currently Executive Director of NMC Recordings, the award-winning arts charity and record label representing British and Irish composers.

She has served on many Boards, including the Association of British Orchestras and the International Society for the Performing Arts, and for ten years was Chair of Streetwise Opera, an organisation which harnesses the power of music to help homeless people move forward with their lives. Awards include Hon RNCM and the Association of British Orchestras Award. In 2020 she received the honour of OBE for services to music and cultural relations.



TISA HO

2025 Patrick Hayes Award Recipient

Nominating Statement: *"If you looked up the word 'resilience' in the dictionary there will be no text, simply a picture of Tisa Ho. Tisa has led many organizations on to new levels of excellence and played an even more significant role in the broader international community which she so embraces."*

Tisa has led the Singapore International Arts Festival and the Hong Kong Arts Festival and helped launch the annual International Piano Festival in Singapore when she was managing the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and Victoria Concert Hall. As Chair of the International Committee, she also contributed to TIMF, the

contemporary music festival in S Korea in Tong Yeong, where she was accorded honorary citizenship.

An advocate for regional and international networks of colleagues in the sector, she has also played an active role in ISPA and in the Association of Asian Orchestras, the Association of Asia Pacific Festivals, and the inaugural Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo which welcomed close to 2000 participants in multiple venues across the city in October this year. She is also responsible for establishing the annual Cultural Leadership Summit at the Hong Kong Arts Administrator's Association.



DAVID BAILE

2025 Patrick Hayes Award Recipient

Nominating Statement: *"A second Patrick Hayes Award was presented at the 2025 Congress NYC as a special award. For almost two decades of dedicated service to ISPA; for innovativeness in leadership throughout the years and especially during and post Covid pandemic; and for stewarding a highly successful 75th Anniversary Year Celebration, the board of trustees unanimously agreed to award David Baile, ISPA CEO, the Patrick Hayes Award."*

David Baile is the Chief Executive Officer of the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) based in New York. ISPA is an international network of more than 550 leaders in the performing arts from 56 countries. Since joining ISPA, he has significantly expanded both the diversity of the membership as well as the programs and in particular the leadership development initiatives. Prior to joining ISPA in 2007,

David enjoyed a 20 year career in the arts in Toronto in both executive and consulting roles and in a variety of disciplines including contemporary dance, theatre, literary arts and music. For the 7 years prior to ISPA, David was the General Manager of Opera Atelier, an internationally renowned company noted for its period productions of baroque opera. In addition to his professional involvement in the arts, David is also very active with volunteer positions including past membership on the Mayor's Round Table on Arts and Culture (Toronto) and Board positions at the Toronto Arts Council, and OPERA America. He is a Chief Executive Global Fellow of National Arts Strategies and currently serves on the Advisory Board for the Master of Arts Management Program at Carnegie Mellon University. He holds an Honours B.A. in Urban Development from the University of Western Ontario.



STARMUS FESTIVAL

2025 Celebrating Our Planet Award Recipient

Nominating Statement: *“Starmus is a global festival of science and art that brings together some of the most respected minds on the planet. Their commitment to future development trends and global impact issues promises to influence the environment in which we all live.”*

The Starmus Festival is a unique global celebration that blends science, art, and music, creating an extraordinary platform for the exchange of ideas and inspiration. Founded by astrophysicist Garik Israelian and Brian May from Queen (musician and astrophysicist), the festival brings together some of the most brilliant minds from diverse disciplines, including Nobel laureate scientists, astronauts, legendary musicians, and influential thinkers. Its mission is to bridge the gap between science and the general public by presenting complex concepts in engaging, creative, and accessible ways.

Since its inception, Starmus has hosted luminaries such as Stephen Hawking, Neil Armstrong, Hans Zimmer, Jane Goodall and many others, fostering a

dialogue that celebrates humanity’s curiosity and ingenuity. The festival features captivating lectures, thought-provoking panels, breathtaking live music performances, and artistic exhibitions that explore humanity’s place in the cosmos. Notable highlights include the prestigious Stephen Hawking Medal for Science Communication, awarded to individuals and organizations that excel in bringing science to the public.

The festival has taken place in awe-inspiring locations like the Canary Islands and Switzerland, emphasizing the connection between the natural world and the vastness of space. La Palma, with its world-class observatories and pristine night skies, has been a fitting stage for Starmus, allowing attendees to marvel at the wonders of the universe.

Starmus is more than just a festival—it’s a movement that inspires people to dream big, explore new frontiers, and appreciate the beauty of science and the arts coming together. It’s a celebration of human achievement and our endless quest to understand the universe.

GETTING AROUND

#ISPA25NY

MIDTOWN MANHATTAN



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Gerald W. Lynch Theater


524 W 59th St, New York, NY 10019

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The Times Center


242 W 41st Street, New York, NY 10036

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Venue 42, Convene

592 7th Ave 5th Floor, New York, NY 10036

-  Accessible by **A, C, E** (blue line) (42nd St-Port Authority Station) **B, D, F, M** (orange line) (42nd St-Bryant Park) **1, 2, 3** (red line) (Times Square 42nd St)
From Gerald W. Lynch Theater, take **1, 2 or 3** (red line) downtown to Times Square-42nd St (20 minutes), or take **B** or **D** (orange line) downtown to 42nd St-Bryant Park



ispa.org

ISPA 2025 Lugano Congress

June 9—13.2025
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