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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 9, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH BOARD

FROM: CHARLES BACARISSE

SUBJECT: National Medal of Arts Interviews

Following the Medal of Arts luncheon and awards ceremony, several of the award winners were interviewed by members of the local press.

Helen Hayes was interviewed by the New York Times and the Washington Post.

Gordon Parks was interviewed by Bonneville News for their radio and television bureaus.

I.M. Pei was interviewed by Voice of America and USIA radio.

Sidney Freedberg was interviewed by VOA and USIA radio as well as the New York Times.

O.C. Tanner was interviewed by Bonneville News and Conus Communications.

The media availability, which took place in the Map Room of the Residence, worked extremely well. I would recommend using the room for future media interviews after events in the East Room or the State Dining Room, if the group is not too big.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 28, 1988

The President and Mrs. Reagan will present the National Medal of Arts to twelve Americans who have made a major contribution to the cultural life of the Nation. The awards ceremony will take place during a White House luncheon honoring the recipients on August 9th.

The 1988 National Medal of Arts will be awarded to: writer Saul Bellow; actress Helen Hayes; photographer/film director Gordon Parks; architect I.M. Pei; dancer/choreographer Jerome Robbins; pianist Rudolf Serkin; composer/conductor Virgil Thomson; art historian/curator Sydney J. Freedberg; arts administrator Roger L. Stevens; arts patron (Mrs. Vincent) Brooke Astor; music patron Francis Goelet; and arts patron Obert C. Tanner.

This will be the fourth annual presentation of the National Medal of Arts, which unlike other arts awards is not limited to a single field or area of endeavor. The Medal is designed to honor those who have encouraged the arts in this country and offered inspiration to others either through distinguished achievement, support, or patronage.

Proposed by President Reagan, the National Medal of Arts was approved by Congress and enacted into law in 1984. It specifically authorizes the President to award no more than 12 medals each year "to individuals or groups who in the President's judgment are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support, and availability of the arts in the United States."

Sculptor Robert Graham designed the National Medal of Arts. The four-inch sterling silver medal depicts six dancing figures and the words "National Medal of Arts" in bas-relief on the obverse. The reverse of the medal bears the cast words "United States of America" and the engraved name of the individual recipient.

Nominations for the National Medal of Arts are sought annually by the National Endowment for the Arts. Recommendations for recipients of the Medal are made by the National Council on the Arts, the Endowment's presidentially-appointed advisory body, of the most highly qualified candidates; these recommendations are then forwarded to the White House for final selection by the President.

For further information contact:
Joseph M. Slye/Katherine Christie
National Endowment for the Arts (202) 682-5440 tel.

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SAUL BELLOW

SAUL BELLOW was born in Lachine, Quebec, in 1915, and was raised in Chicago. He attended the University of Chicago, received his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University, with honors in Sociology and Anthropology, did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin, and served in the Merchant Marine during World War II.

Mr. Bellow's first novel, DANGLING MAN, was published in 1944 and his second, THE VICTIM, in 1947. In 1948 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and spent two years in Paris and traveling in Europe, where he began THE ADVENTURES OF AUGIE MARCH. That book, as well as two later novels, HERZOG (1964) and MR. SAMMLER'S PLANET (1970), won the National Book Award for fiction; he is the only holder of three NBA's. His novel HUMBOLDT'S GIFT (1975) was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. In October 1976 Saul Bellow was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Bellow has contributed fiction, criticism, and essays to such leading general and literary magazines as Partisan Review, Playboy, The New Yorker, The Atlantic, Esquire, American Scholar, and The New Republic. During the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict, he served as a war correspondent for Newsday. He has taught at Bard College, Princeton University, the University of Minnesota, among others; and is a member of the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago.

His ninth novel, THE DEAN'S DECEMBER, was first published in 1982. A second collection of short stories, HIM WITH HIS FOOT IN HIS MOUTH AND OTHER STORIES, was published in 1984, followed by MORE DIE OF HEARTBREAK, his tenth novel, published in June 1987.

In 1965 Bellow was awarded the International Literary Prize for HERZOG, becoming the first American to receive the prize. He received the Pulitzer Prize in 1976. In July 1983, the President of the Republic of France appointed Bellow a Commander of the Legion of Honor. He had already been awarded the Croix de Chevalier des Arts & Letters, the highest literary distinction given by that nation to non-citizens, in 1968. In Italy in September, 1984, Bellow received the Malaparte Prize for his contributions to literature. In November 1984, Saul Bellow was given the "National Treasure" award by Family Weekly magazine, a nationwide Sunday newspaper supplement. In June 1985, the town of Lachine, Quebec, his birthplace, dedicated and renamed the library: Saul Bellow Public Library.

HELEN HAYES

HELEN HAYES, born in Washington, D.C. on October 10, 1900, often referred to as the "First Lady of the American Theater," has been one of our most lasting and versatile actresses.

Miss Hayes first appeared on stage in Washington, D.C. at the age of five as Prince Charles in the Columbia Players' production of A Royal Family. She made her New York City debut as Little M. M. in Old Dutch (Herald Square Theatre, November 22, 1909). Some of the stage roles for which she is most famous include: Pollyanna Whittier (Pollyanna), Margaret (Dear Brutus), Cora Wheeler (Clarence), Maggie Wylie (What Every Woman Knows), Norma Besant (Coquette), Mary Stuart (Mary of Scotland), Queen Victoria (Victoria Regina), Harriet Beecher Stowe (Harriet), Amanda Wingfield (The Glass Menagerie), Mrs. Malaprop (The Rivals), and Viola in Twelfth Night.

Equally at ease in all media, Miss Hayes made her motion picture debut in 1910 in Vitagraph's Jean and the Calico Doll. She has appeared in numerous films since then including The Sin of Madelon Claudet; Arrowsmith; A Farewell to Arms; What Every Woman Knows; Stage Door Canteen; My Son John; Anastasia; and Airport. Miss Hayes also had a radio career, beginning in 1930 in a series of fifteen minute talks; her radio work helped the World War II recruiting program for army and navy nurses. Her many appearances on television include roles in the Omnibus program; Dear Brutus; as Essie Miller in Ah Wilderness (Hallmark Hall of Fame); and as a guest on the Ed Sullivan Show, the Today Show, Education Exchange and Here's Lucy among others.

In 1964, she formed the Helen Hayes Repertory Company to sponsor tours of Shakespeare readings in universities. She has also toured the Far East (1965 - 1966) for the State Department. She has been President of the American National Theatre and Academy, Honorary President of the American Theatre Wing, and Second Vice President of the Actors' Fund; she served two terms as a member of the National Council on the Arts (1966-69 and 1971-72).

Among her many honors and awards are an Oscar as best actress in the film The Sin of Madelon Claudet (1932); the Best Radio Actress Award for the Helen Hayes Theater (1940); two Antoinette Perry (Tony) awards (in 1947 for her performance as Addie in Happy Birthday and in 1958 for best actress in Time Remembered); an Emmy award in 1954; the Academy Award for best supporting actress for her performance in Airport (1970) and the Kennedy Center Honors in 1981. She is also the recipient of several medals including the Medal of the City of New York, and the author of a Star on her Forehead (1949); A Gift of Joy (a 1965 autobiography); On Reflection (1968); Twice Over Lightly (1971); and a mystery novel Where the Truth Lies (1988).

Miss Hayes has received many honorary degrees including those from Princeton University, Hamilton College, Smith College, Columbia University, Brown University and Carnegie Institute of Technology.

GORDON PARKS

GORDON PARKS, American photographer, author, filmmaker, composer, was born in Fort Scott, Kansas, in 1912, the youngest of 15 children. Homeless at 15, when his mother died, he moved to Minneapolis where he had to drop out of high school during the Depression. He supported himself as a busboy, piano player and professional basketball player. He also worked on the railroads and educated himself by reading and going to art museums on layovers. A newsreel of the bombing of the USS Panay led him to buy his first camera. Within months he had his first exhibit, sponsored by Eastman Kodak. He moved to Chicago and won the first Julius Rosenwald Fellowship in Photography, which he used to work with Roy Stryker at the Farm Security Administration, and later with the Office of War Information. In the mid 1940's, he worked again with Roy Stryker at Standard Oil (New Jersey). Although he used his camera to document the human condition, he supported his family by doing fashions for Vogue and Glamour.

In 1949 he was hired by LIFE magazine; over the next 19 years he did more than 300 assignments on a broad range of subjects: Hemingway's Paris, Flavio, Diary of a Harlem Family, the black militants in the 1960's. He has written 12 books, including four of poetry, a novel and three autobiographies. The Learning Tree and A Choice of Weapons are still in print more than 20 years later. He is currently working on a novel, a book of poetry and a fourth autobiography.

In 1968 Gordon Parks became the first black man to direct a major Hollywood film, his Learning Tree, for which he also wrote the score and the screenplay, and which he also produced. His other films are Shaft, Shaft's Big Score, Super Cops, Leadbelly, The Odyssey of Solomon Northrup, and his autobiographical Moments Without Proper Names. A composer, he has written popular music, film scores and classical works, including a piano concerto, five sonatas and a symphony. He is presently planning to film his ballet, Martin, honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., for which he wrote the music and libretto.

Gordon Parks' Time-Life exhibit toured the world. The Photographic Collection he gave to Kansas State University has been travelling since the 1970's. His immense retrospective has been on tour since 1983 and will go abroad this year. His recent color photography, Eye Music and Expansions are represented in other exhibits and museum collections. He lectures at schools across America, and has received 19 honorary degrees from universities such as Syracuse, Rutgers and Boston. Learning Tree schools have been established and John F. Kennedy High School in New York named its media center for him.

He is an NAACP Spingarn Medalist and was inducted into the NAACP Hall of Fame in 1984. Named Kansan of the Year in 1985, he received the Governor's Medal of Merit in 1986. His many awards include two Brotherhood Awards from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, a Christopher Award for best biography, a Notable Book Award from the American Library Association, a Frederick Douglass Award from the Urban League, Photographer of the Year from the American Society of Magazine Photographers, an EMMY and, in 1988, a World Press Award and the Commonwealth Award for Mass Communications. He serves on the boards of the American Institute of Public Service, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture/New York Public Library and the Kansas Center for the Book, an affiliate of The Library of Congress.

I. M. PEI

IEOH MING PEI is one of our nation's greatest architects. A founding partner of I.M. Pei & Partners, Ieoh Ming Pei was born in China in 1917, the son of a prominent banker and economist. His early years were spent in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Suzhou, his family's ancestral home. After attending St. John's Middle School in Shanghai, Pei came to the United States to study architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from which he received a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1940. He was awarded the Alpha Rho Chi Medal, the MIT Travelling Fellowship, and the AIA Gold Medal upon graduation. In 1942 Pei enrolled in the Harvard Graduate School of Design where he studied under Walter Gropius; six months later, he volunteered his services to the National Defense Research Committee at Princeton, New Jersey. Pei returned to Harvard in 1944 and completed his M.Arch. two years later, simultaneously teaching on the faculty as assistant professor (1945-48). Awarded the Wheelwright Travelling Fellowship by Harvard in 1951, he travelled extensively in England, France, Italy and Greece. I. M. Pei became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1954.

In 1948, William Zeckendorf, the head of Webb & Knapp, Inc., a major American real estate development firm, invited Mr. Pei to accept the newly created post of Director of Architecture. This association resulted in many large-scale architectural and planning projects in Boston, Chicago, Denver, Montreal, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington. In 1955 he formed the partnership of I.M. Pei & Associates, which became I.M. Pei & Partners in 1966. The partnership received the 1968 Architectural Firm Award of the American Institute of Architects.

Mr. Pei's personal architectural style blossomed with his design for the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado (1961-67). He subsequently gained broad national attention with the East Building of the National Gallery of Art in Washington (1968-78) and the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston (1965-79) -- two of some twenty-seven institutional projects executed by Mr. Pei, including religious, hospital and municipal buildings, as well as schools, libraries, and nearly a dozen museums. His most recent work, and the one Mr. Pei considers the most important of his 40-year career, is the expansion and renovation of the Louvre in Paris, for which he was awarded the Medal of the Legion of Honor by French President Francois Mitterand on March 4, 1988. In addition to his institutional projects, Mr. Pei has designed a wide range of corporate buildings both here and abroad, including the Bank of China in Hong Kong which, at 72 stories, will be the tallest building in Asia. Much smaller, but equally significant, is Fragrant Hill Hotel in Beijing: a lowrise building which draws on the roots of vernacular tradition, and which ardently withstood initial client impulses for a modernist tower in order to preserve the sacred precinct of China's ancient capital.

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Shortly after Fragrant Hill was commissioned, the Chinese government established strict regulations governing the height of new buildings within critical distances and sight lines of the Forbidden City. In summary, Mr. Pei has designed nearly fifty projects in the United States and abroad; twenty-four have won awards.

Mr. Pei's deep interest in the arts and in education is evidenced by his numerous memberships on Visiting Committees at Harvard, MIT, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as on multiple governmental panels, having also served on the AIA Task Force on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol. A member of the AIA National Urban Policy Task Force and of the Urban Design Council of the City of New York, he was appointed to the National Council on the Humanities by President Lyndon Johnson in 1966, and to the National Council on the Arts by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. Three years later, in 1983, Mr. Pei was chosen the Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize; he used the \$100,000 award to establish a scholarship fund for Chinese students to study architecture in the United States (with the strict proviso that they return to China to practice their profession). Among the many academic awards bestowed on Mr. Pei are honorary degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, New York University, Brown University, the University of Colorado, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Mr. Pei was chairman of President Reagan's "Presidential Design Awards" (1984) which recognize good design in projects funded by the Federal Government.

A Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a Corporate Member of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Mr. Pei has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, to the National Academy of Design, and to the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. In 1975 he was elected to the Academy itself, which is restricted to a lifetime membership of fifty. In 1978 I.M. Pei became Chancellor of the Academy, the first architect to hold that position, and served until 1980. He was inducted a "Membre de l'Institut de France" in 1984, and decorated by the French Government as a Commandeur in the "Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" in 1985. On July 4, 1986 Mr. Pei was one of twelve naturalized American citizens to receive the Medal of Liberty from President Ronald Reagan at the rededication of the Statue of Liberty.

Among the many professional honors awarded to Mr. Pei are The Arnold Brunner Award of the National Institute of Arts and Letters (1963); The Medal of Honor of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (1963); The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Medal "for distinguished contribution to the field of architecture" (1976); The Gold Medal for Architecture of the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1979); The Mayor's Award of Honor for Art and Culture (New York City, 1981); and The Gold Medal of Alpha Rho Chi, the national professional fraternity of architects (1981). In 1979 I.M. Pei received The AIA Gold Medal -- the highest architectural honor in the United States, and three years later, the Grande Medaille d'Or from the French Academie d'Architecture.

JEROME ROBBINS

JEROME ROBBINS, a legendary and innovative ballet dancer, choreographer and director was born in New York City on October 11, 1918. He studied modern dance at classes sponsored by the New Dance League and later learned ballet technique from Ella Dagnova (a former Pavlova dancer), Helene Platova, Eugene Loring, Antony Tudor and Anton Dolin.

Robbins made his debut at the age of 19 as a modern dancer with the Gluck Sandor-Felicia Sorel Dance Center. After joining Ballet Theatre in 1940, he created roles in David Lichine's HELEN OF TROY (1942) and Antony Tudor's ROMEO AND JULIET (1943) and danced the title role in PETROUCHKA. His talent as an American ballet choreographer was recognized in 1944 when he choreographed FANCY FREE and created more ballets for American Ballet Theater -- INTERPLAY (1945), FACSIMILE (1946), SUMMER DAY (1947) and LES NOCES (1965).

Among the many Broadway shows he choreographed, perhaps the most memorable are ON THE TOWN (1945); HIGH BUTTON SHOES (1947); CALL ME MADAM (1950); THE KING AND I (1951) and PAJAMA GAME (1952). In addition, he has demonstrated his remarkable versatility by both directing and choreographing such greats as PETER PAN (1954); BELLS ARE RINGING (1956); WEST SIDE STORY, which many consider his masterpiece (1957); GYPSY (1959); FUNNY GIRL (1964); and FIDDLER ON THE ROOF (1964).

Robbins joined The New York City Ballet in 1949 as Associate Artistic Director and is currently the Co-Ballet Master in Chief. He has choreographed over 50 ballets for The New York City Ballet including THE GUESTS (1949); THE CAGE (1951); AFTERNOON OF A FAUN (1953); THE CONCERT (1956); MOVES (1959); DANCES AT A GATHERING (1969); THE GOLDBERG VARIATIONS (1971); THE FOUR SEASONS (1979); GLASS PIECES (1983); QUIET CITY (1986) and IVES, SONGS (1988).

Robbins choreography for motion pictures includes THE KING AND I, 1956, and WEST SIDE STORY, 1960. Among the television programs which he choreographed were: FORD 50TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW, 1953, PETER PAN, 1955, ED SULLIVAN SHOW, 1960, LIVE FROM STUDIO 8H: AN EVENING WITH JEROME ROBBINS, 1980 and two PBS programs in the "Dance in America" series (TWO DUETS, 1980, and BALLETS BY JEROME ROBBINS, 1986). During his career he has also directed two plays: OH DAD, POOR DAD, MAMA'S HUNG YOU IN THE CLOSET AND I'M FEELIN' SO SAD (1962), and MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN (1963).

Robbins has been the recipient of many honorary degrees and served on the New York State Council on the Arts (1973-77) and the National Council on the Arts (1974-79). He has been honored throughout his career: five Donaldson awards; four Antoinette Perry awards (1947, 1958, and two in 1965); two Dance Magazine awards (1950, 1957); an Emmy; two Academy Awards (1961); decorated by France with the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (1964); Drama Critics Award (1965); City of Paris Award (1971); Handel Medallion of the City of New York (1976); Capezio Dance Award (1976); American-Israel Arts, Sciences and Humanities Award (1979); Theatre Hall of Fame (1979); the Kennedy Center Honors (1981) and honorary member of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters (1985).

RUDOLF SERKIN

RUDOLF SERKIN, a world class pianist without peer, was born of Russian parentage in Eger, Bohemia (now part of Czechoslovakia) in 1903 and lives today in Guilford, Vermont. He became an American citizen in 1939. He studied piano in Vienna with Richard Robert and composition with Joseph Marx and Schoenberg. Considered a child prodigy when he was four, he made his debut at the age of 12 in Vienna with a symphony under the direction of Oskar Nedbal.

In 1920 he worked with the Busch Chamber Orchestra in Berlin and met the daughter of Adolf Busch whom he married in 1935. In this early period of his career he became noted for his chamber music performances and specialty in performing Bach; in 1926 he settled near Basle and pursued his teaching and concert performances.

Serkin's U.S. debut with Adolf Busch occurred in Washington, DC, at the Coolidge Festival in 1933; later in 1936 he made his solo debut with Toscanini and the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, touring the country as a soloist. He played a series of Mozart and Beethoven concerts with the National Orchestral Association in 1937 and performed a complete series of Beethoven piano and violin sonatas in New York City in 1938. From that time on he has made annual concert tours in the United States appearing with major American orchestras and also touring abroad.

Serkin was appointed head of the piano department at Curtis Institute in Philadelphia in 1939 and later served as its director from 1968 through 1976. He was instrumental in establishing the Marlboro Music School and Festival in Vermont in 1951 and has continued to serve as President and Artistic Director since the beginning of this institution. He has participated frequently in the Casals Festival in Puerto Rico. In his eighties he is still performing and recording.

Mr. Serkin has received many honors here and abroad including Grande Ufficiale dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica (Italy); The Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany; Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art First Class; The Order of the Icelandic Falcon Level of Commander with a Cross; the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963 and the Kennedy Center Honors in 1981. He continues to be a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; was a member of the National Council on the Arts from 1968 to 1974; and is an honorary member of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia (Rome), the Verein Beethoven-Haus (Bonn), and the American Philosophical Society; and in 1984 was awarded Chevalier Ordre National de la Legion d'honneur (France).

Rudolf Serkin's performances of the Viennese classics are legendary; he is considered a paragon among pianists of the mid-20th century.

VIRGIL THOMSON

VIRGIL THOMSON, world renowned composer and conductor, was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 25, 1896, educated first in the Kansas City public schools and later at Harvard where he received his A.B. in 1922. After serving for three years as assistant and accompanist to the conductor of the Harvard Glee Club which toured Europe in 1921, he stayed on for a year in Paris on a fellowship. He continued studying conducting with Chalmers Clifton and counterpoint with Rosario Scalero under a grant from the Julliard Graduate School. He returned to Paris in 1925 where he lived until 1940. While in France he began to collaborate with Gertrude Stein and composed two operas to her texts: FOUR SAINTS IN THREE ACTS (1934) and THE MOTHER OF US ALL (1947).

After returning to the United States in 1940, he was appointed music critic of the NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE, a post which he held for 14 years, during which time he established himself as one of the major critical writers of the era. He is the author of eight books, including an autobiography (1966), four anthologies, numerous essays, and reviews.

His musical compositions include: the operas FOUR SAINTS IN THREE ACTS (1927-8), THE MOTHER OF US ALL (1947), and LORD BYRON (1968); film scores for, among others, THE PLOUGH THAT BROKE THE PLAINS (1936), THE RIVER (1937), THE SPANISH EARTH (1937), LOUISIANA STORY (1948); THE GODDESS (1957); JOURNEY TO AMERICA (for the U.S. Pavilion at the New York World's Fair - 1964) and THE DAY AFTER (1983). He has written many works for orchestra including three symphonies and three concertos; dance scores for choreographers such as Lew Christensen, George Balanchine, Agnes de Mille and Erick Hawkins; theater music for Orson Welles, John Houseman, Peter Brook, and Joseph Losey; choral works including four masses and chamber music. He has made nearly 150 musical portraits, most of them drawn from life, with the sitter posing for him as he would for an artist's portrait, and has appeared as guest conductor with all the major orchestras of the United States as well as many in South America and Europe.

Thomson is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including 20 honorary doctorates; in 1947 Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur and in 1951 Officier de la Legion d'honneur; a Pulitzer Prize in 1949 for the music which he composed for the film LOUISIANA STORY -- the only time this award has been made for a film score; a Guggenheim Fellow in 1960; a Gold Medal for Music from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters in 1966; a Carnegie Hall 90th Anniversary Award in 1981; the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1982; Kennedy Center Honors in 1983; and National Music Council Award in 1984. He was the founder and first chairman of the New York Music Critics Circle; became a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1959; served on the board of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in 1975-83; and became Foreign Corresponding Member in the Music Division of the French Academie des Beaux Arts in 1986.

SYDNEY J. FREEDBERG

SYDNEY J. FREEDBERG, a distinguished art historian and teacher, was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1914, attended Boston Latin School, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree, a master's degree and a Ph.D. from Harvard. He has devoted his entire professional career to the advancement of art in America.

Most noted for his scholarship in the field of the Italian Renaissance, his teaching career began at Harvard in 1938 and continued through 1983 with the exception of eight years as a professor at Wellesley College. He was Chairman of the Fine Arts Department at Harvard from 1959 to 1963 and again from 1972 to 1973. He was Acting Director of the Fogg Art Museum from 1978 to 1979 and Professor in Residence at Bernard Berenson's Villa I Tatti from 1973 to 1974 and again from 1980 to 1981. From 1977 to 1980 he served as Chairman of the University Museums Council. In 1980 he was appointed the Arthur Kingsley Porter Professor of Fine Arts at Harvard which he held until 1983 when he accepted appointment as Chief Curator with the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

During his Harvard career, he served as National Vice Chairman of the Committee to Rescue Italian Art (1966-74) and joined the Board of Directors of Save Venice, Inc. in 1970 on which he still serves.

His writings include five major works: Parmigianino: His Works in Painting (1950); Painting of the High Renaissance in Rome and Florence (2 volumes, 1961); Andrea del Sarto (2 volumes, 1963); Painting in Italy, 1500-1600 (Pelican Series in the History of Art, 1971); and Circa 1600: A Revolution of Style in Italian Painting (1983). Since the 1930's Dr. Freedberg has contributed scores of articles to major professional art journals; and his lectures and seminars have influenced generations of artists, art historians, museum professionals and patrons.

As Chief Curator for the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, he has, as Director J. Carter Brown states, "reaffirmed the role of the museum, not only as a repository of great works of art, but as an active instrument of public education."

A recipient of many honors, he was twice decorated by the Italian Government -- in 1968 with the Order of the Star of Solidarity and in 1982 with the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic. He has received the Order of the British Empire (1946), the Morey Prize of the College Art Association (1965) and the Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Art Dealers' Association of America (1985). He has been a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences since 1965.

ROGER L. STEVENS

ROGER L. STEVENS, a major force in the American theater, was born on March 12, 1910, in Detroit, Michigan, grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and attended Choate School in Connecticut. His multifaceted career spans the arts, real estate and politics, and he has been one of the Nation's most successful fundraisers in the arts for more than 30 years.

Formerly a powerful real estate dealer, he negotiated numerous deals including the famous 1951 transaction to buy the Empire State Building. Later as a major theatrical producer in New York City and London, he produced or coproduced nearly 200 plays (WEST SIDE STORY, BUS STOP, A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS, TEA AND SYMPATHY, MARY, MARY, DEATHTRAP, and FIRST MONDAY IN OCTOBER), and brought to the stage such important writers as Eugene O'Neill, Tennessee Williams, Harold Pinter, and T.S. Eliot.

In 1961 he was asked by President Kennedy to help establish the National Cultural Center, which years later would be named in honor of the 35th President -- the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. As Chairman of the Center's Board of Trustees from 1961-1988, Mr. Stevens not only led the Center's fundraising efforts but also guided its programming, which included the commissioning of new works, among these Bernstein's MASS for the Center's opening in 1971.

In addition to his work on behalf of the Kennedy Center, Mr. Stevens also served as President Johnson's Special Assistant on the Arts (1964-1968) shepherding legislation which established the Nation's first National Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, both of which he chaired from 1965 to 69. In 1985 he established the American National Theater.

Mr. Stevens' interests involve the full range of arts disciplines and he has held many board positions including: Director of the Metropolitan Opera Association, Peabody Conservatory, Folger Library, and Circle in the Square Theatre; Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Film Institute (1969-72); member of the Executive Committee of the American National Theatre Association (Treasurer, 1951-65); cofounder of the American Shakespeare Festival Theatre and Academy; founder of the National Institute of Music Theatre (President, 1969-75); Director of the National Symphony Orchestra Association and the Ballet Theatre Foundation, Chairman of the National Book Awards (1988-), and a member of President Reagan's Committee on the Arts and Humanities since its founding in 1982.

He has received many awards: the Royal Order of Vasa (Sweden - 1973); Grande Ufficiale dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica (Italy - 1977); The Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (1979); Grand Decoration of Honor in Silver (Austria - 1979); Knight of the British Empire (Great Britain - 1980); the National Artist Medal, the highest award of the American National Theatre Association (1983); the award for Distinguished Service to the Arts from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters (1984) and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1988).

MRS. VINCENT ASTOR

MRS. VINCENT ASTOR (Brooke Russell Astor), an outstanding patron of culture and the arts in the City of New York for the past quarter of a century, was born in Portsmouth, NH, and now lives in New York where she serves as President of The Vincent Astor Foundation. Under her guidance The Foundation has provided funds to the arts exceeding \$64,600,000. She has also provided leadership as a trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Pierpont Morgan Library and the New York Public Library, as well as Rockefeller University and the New York Zoological Society.

She has dedicated her life to a wide variety of philanthropic projects in the metropolitan area of New York and has made her name synonymous with major giving in the arts. Numerous groups have honored her for her patronage: in the sixties the New York State Association of Architects, the American Institute of Architects, the Architectural League of New York, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City Club of New York; in the seventies the Museum of the City of New York, the American Institute of Architects, and the Municipal Art Society; and in the eighties she received the City's first Mayor's Cultural Award (1980) and the State's Governor's Arts Award (1985). In 1986 she was honored by the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. In 1988 she received the Presidential Citizen's Medal from President Reagan.

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The author of four books including a 1980 autobiography entitled Footprints, Mrs. Astor has received five honorary degrees in Law, Humane Letters and Biomedical Science. As Douglas Dillon has said, she has been "absolutely the ideal trustee...providing leadership, spirit and imagination as well as financial support" to the arts of New York City.

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OBERT C. TANNER

OBERT C. TANNER, a major philanthropic figure in Utah, has supported many different art forms including the literary arts, the visual arts, design arts, music and dance. He was born in 1904, in Farmington, Utah, and lives in Salt Lake City today. He was educated at the University of Utah, Stanford, and Harvard. He taught at Stanford and is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the University of Utah. He holds eleven degrees from colleges and universities -- four earned and seven honorary. Mr. Tanner grew up in a poor farm family with ten children and spent his youth working in various jobs. He financed his education by thinning sugar beets, building an ore dump, cleaning furnaces and selling high school class rings. He is founder and chairman of the O. C. Tanner Company, specializing in employee recognition awards with annual sales in excess of \$100 million.

Mr. Tanner's contributions to Utah's artistic community are numerous. Among his notable achievements, he was chairman of the commission that planned the construction of Salt Lake City's Symphony Hall, the Utah Art Center, and the restoration of the City's historic Capitol Theatre. His personal gifts include a fountain, offices, and interior decoration of the Symphony Hall. He is a patron of the Utah Opera Company and Ballet West. He has endowed the "Gift of Music" biennial concerts, featuring performances in the Mormon Tabernacle by the Utah Symphony, together with the Tabernacle Choir and world-famous guest artists. These concerts are free to the public. He has given more than thirty fountains to communities, hospitals, colleges, and universities. The best-known fountains are located at Harvard, Stanford and Linacre College, Oxford, England. In 1970 he and his wife, Grace Adams Tanner, almost singlehandedly saved the Utah Shakespearean Festival, Southern Utah State College. Their gift constructed on the campus what the Folger Shakespearean Library, Washington, D.C., considers the world's most accurate replica of an Elizabethan playhouse. Visitors to the five national parks in Utah, are able to attend artistic productions at the O.C. Tanner Amphitheater located near the entrance to Zion National Park. Mr. Tanner has established eleven philosophy library rooms at prestigious colleges and universities. He has endowed more than a dozen lectureships including the world-renowned "Tanner Lectures on Human Values" given annually at Oxford, Harvard, Cambridge, Michigan, Stanford, University of Utah, University of California, Yale and Princeton. The trustees of the lectures also select other universities to sponsor one-time lectures. In recent years, lectures have been given at Madrid, Hebrew, Warsaw, Buenos Aires, Helsinki, Australian National, Jawaharlal Nehru universities, and this year, at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

His public service includes: Chairman, Utah American Revolution Bicentennial Commission; Utah Symphony Board; Executive Committee, White House Conference on Children and Youth. In 1985, he was appointed by President Reagan as a member of the Federal Commission celebrating the Bicentennial of the Constitution of the United States. He was awarded the United Nations Peace Medal for his services on behalf of the United Nations Association of the United States of America.

Mr. Tanner has authored ten books including three books on character education and three on the New Testament. In 1980, Queen Elizabeth invested Mr. Tanner into the American Society of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, a charitable and chivalric institution.

National Endowment for the Arts



The National Endowment for the Arts is an independent agency of the Federal Government created in 1965 to encourage and assist the nation's cultural resources. The Endowment is advised by the National Council on the Arts, a Presidentially appointed body composed of the Chairman of the Endowment and 26 distinguished private citizens who are widely recognized for their broad knowledge of, or expertise in, or their profound interest in, the arts. The Council advises the Endowment on policies, procedures, and programs in addition to making recommendations on grant applications.

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR
THE ARTS

WASHINGTON
D.C. 20506

A Federal agency advised by the
National Council on the Arts



NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS

SELECTION PROCESS

In the fall, the National Endowment for the Arts sends out 7-8,000 requests each year for nominations of individuals who have made an important contribution to the cultural life of the nation and who would be eligible for the National Medal of Arts. The solicitations are mailed to news media, artists, arts organizations, arts service organizations and regional organizations, and to the general public.

Last year, several hundred nominations were received by early December and panel books containing the nomination form and pertinent biographical information were prepared in December and forwarded early in the new year to a committee of the National Council on the Arts. The members of the committee, selected for their representation of the various arts discipline fields, reviewed the materials and met in Washington late January to further review and discuss the nominations and to vote on those most qualified.

The committee's recommendations were forwarded to the full Council for consideration at its February meeting. Although the annual total number of National Medal of Arts recipients may not exceed 12, the Council reviews a much wider number of nominations put forth by its committee. The Council then must vote for those it feels are the most qualified to receive the award.

Once the selection of finalists is made by the Council, the list of recommendations is forwarded to the White House for final approval by the President.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 28, 1988

The President and Mrs. Reagan will present the National Medal of Arts to twelve Americans who have made a major contribution to the cultural life of the Nation. The awards ceremony will take place during a White House luncheon honoring the recipients on August 9th.

The 1988 National Medal of Arts will be awarded to: writer Saul Bellow; actress Helen Hayes; photographer/film director Gordon Parks; architect I.M. Pei; dancer/choreographer Jerome Robbins; pianist Rudolf Serkin; composer/conductor Virgil Thomson; art historian/curator Sydney J. Freedberg; arts administrator Roger L. Stevens; arts patron (Mrs. Vincent) Brooke Astor; music patron Francis Goelet; and arts patron Obert C. Tanner.

This will be the fourth annual presentation of the National Medal of Arts, which unlike other arts awards is not limited to a single field or area of endeavor. The Medal is designed to honor those who have encouraged the arts in this country and offered inspiration to others either through distinguished achievement, support, or patronage.

Proposed by President Reagan, the National Medal of Arts was approved by Congress and enacted into law in 1984. It specifically authorizes the President to award no more than 12 medals each year "to individuals or groups who in the President's judgment are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support, and availability of the arts in the United States."

Sculptor Robert Graham designed the National Medal of Arts. The four-inch sterling silver medal depicts six dancing figures and the words "National Medal of Arts" in bas-relief on the obverse. The reverse of the medal bears the cast words "United States of America" and the engraved name of the individual recipient.

Nominations for the National Medal of Arts are sought annually by the National Endowment for the Arts. Recommendations for recipients of the Medal are made by the National Council on the Arts, the Endowment's presidentially-appointed advisory body, of the most highly qualified candidates; these recommendations are then forwarded to the White House for final selection by the President.

For further information contact:
Joseph M. Slye/Katherine Christie
National Endowment for the Arts (202) 682-5440 tel.

News Media Contact List

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JEROME ROBBINS	DANCER/CHOREOGRAPHER	Ms. Beth Skinner/Miss Eleanor Holdrige (212) 249-4757 tel.
RUDOLF SERKIN	PIANIST	Ms. Mary Lynn Fixler Herbert Barrett Mgmt Inc. (212)245-3530 tel.
VIRGIL THOMSON	COMPOSER/CONDUCTOR	Mr. Allan Stimson/ Mr. Jay Sullivan (212) 243-3700 tel. (Chelsea Hotel)
SYDNEY J. FREEDBERG	ART HISTORIAN/CURATOR	Dr. Beverly Brown National Gallery of Art (202) 842-6146 tel.
ROGER L. STEVENS	ARTS ADMINISTRATOR	Ms. Laura Longley Ms. Tiki Davies Kennedy Center (202) 254-3696 tel.
MRS. VINCENT ASTOR (BROOKE ASTOR)	ARTS PATRON	Ms. Linda Gillies Dir., Vincent Astor Foundation/Mr. Marshall V. Astor (son) (212) 758-4110 tel.
FRANCIS GOELET	MUSIC PATRON	Arts Endowment (202) 682-5440 tel.
OBERT C. TANNER	ARTS PATRON	Mr. B. Jackson Wixom VP Marketing, O.C. Tanner Co. (801) 486-2430 tel.

MRS. VINCENT ASTOR

MRS. VINCENT ASTOR (Brooke Russell Astor), an outstanding patron of culture and the arts in the City of New York for the past quarter of a century, was born in Portsmouth, NH, and now lives in New York where she serves as President of The Vincent Astor Foundation. Under her guidance The Foundation has provided funds to the arts exceeding \$64,600,000. She has also provided leadership as a trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Pierpont Morgan Library and the New York Public Library, as well as Rockefeller University and the New York Zoological Society.

She has dedicated her life to a wide variety of philanthropic projects in the metropolitan area of New York and has made her name synonymous with major giving in the arts. Numerous groups have honored her for her patronage: in the sixties the New York State Association of Architects, the American Institute of Architects, the Architectural League of New York, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City Club of New York; in the seventies the Museum of the City of New York, the American Institute of Architects, and the Municipal Art Society; and in the eighties she received the City's first Mayor's Cultural Award (1980) and the State's Governor's Arts Award (1985). In 1986 she was honored by the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. In 1988 she received the Presidential Citizen's Medal from President Reagan.

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SAUL BELLOW

SAUL BELLOW was born in Lachine, Quebec, in 1915, and was raised in Chicago. He attended the University of Chicago, received his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University, with honors in Sociology and Anthropology, did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin, and served in the Merchant Marine during World War II.

Mr. Bellow's first novel, *DANGLING MAN*, was published in 1944 and his second, *THE VICTIM*, in 1947. In 1948 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and spent two years in Paris and traveling in Europe, where he began *THE ADVENTURES OF AUGIE MARCH*. That book, as well as two later novels, *HERZOG* (1964) and *MR. SAMMLER'S PLANET* (1970), won the National Book Award for fiction; he is the only holder of three NBAs. His novel *HUMBOLDT'S GIFT* (1975) was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. In October 1976 Saul Bellow was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Bellow has contributed fiction, criticism, and essays to such leading general and literary magazines as *Partisan Review*, *Playboy*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Esquire*, *American Scholar*, and *The New Republic*. During the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict, he served as a war correspondent for *Newsday*. He has taught at Bard College, Princeton University, the University of Minnesota, among others; and is a member of the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago.

His ninth novel, *THE DEAN'S DECEMBER*, was first published in 1982. A second collection of short stories, *HIM WITH HIS FOOT IN HIS MOUTH AND OTHER STORIES*, was published in 1984, followed by *MORE DIE OF HEARTBREAK*, his tenth novel, published in June 1987.

In 1965 Bellow was awarded the International Literary Prize for *HERZOG*, becoming the first American to receive the prize. He received the Pulitzer Prize in 1976. In July 1983, the President of the Republic of France appointed Bellow a Commander of the Legion of Honor. He had already been awarded the Croix de Chevalier des Arts & Letters, the highest literary distinction given by that nation to non-citizens, in 1968. In Italy in September, 1984, Bellow received the Malaparte Prize for his contributions to literature. In November 1984, Saul Bellow was given the "National Treasure" award by *Family Weekly* magazine, a nationwide Sunday newspaper supplement. In June 1985, the town of Lachine, Quebec, his birthplace, dedicated and renamed the library: Saul Bellow Public Library.

SYDNEY J. FREEDBERG

SYDNEY J. FREEDBERG, a distinguished art historian and teacher, was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1914, attended Boston Latin School, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree, a master's degree and a Ph.D. from Harvard. He has devoted his entire professional career to the advancement of art in America.

Most noted for his scholarship in the field of the Italian Renaissance, his teaching career began at Harvard in 1938 and continued through 1983 with the exception of eight years as a professor at Wellesley College. He was Chairman of the Fine Arts Department at Harvard from 1959 to 1963 and again from 1972 to 1973. He was Acting Director of the Fogg Art Museum from 1978 to 1979 and Professor in Residence at Bernard Berenson's Villa I Tatti from 1973 to 1974 and again from 1980 to 1981. From 1977 to 1980 he served as Chairman of the University Museums Council. In 1980 he was appointed the Arthur Kingsley Porter Professor of Fine Arts at Harvard which he held until 1983 when he accepted appointment as Chief Curator with the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

During his Harvard career, he served as National Vice Chairman of the Committee to Rescue Italian Art (1966-74) and joined the Board of Directors of Save Venice, Inc. in 1970 on which he still serves.

His writings include five major works: Parmigianino: His Works in Painting (1950); Painting of the High Renaissance in Rome and Florence (2 volumes, 1961); Andrea del Sarto (2 volumes, 1963); Painting in Italy, 1500-1600 (Pelican Series in the History of Art, 1971); and Circa 1600: A Revolution of Style in Italian Painting (1983). Since the 1930's Dr. Freedberg has contributed scores of articles to major professional art journals; and his lectures and seminars have influenced generations of artists, art historians, museum professionals and patrons.

As Chief Curator for the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, he has, as Director J. Carter Brown states, "reaffirmed the role of the museum, not only as a repository of great works of art, but as an active instrument of public education."

A recipient of many honors, he was twice decorated by the Italian Government -- in 1968 with the Order of the Star of Solidarity and in 1982 with the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic. He has received the Order of the British Empire (1946), the Morey Prize of the College Art Association (1965) and the Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Art Dealers' Association of America (1985). He has been a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences since 1965.

FRANCIS GOELET

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HELEN HAYES

HELEN HAYES, born in Washington, D.C. on October 10, 1900, often referred to as the "First Lady of the American Theater," has been one of our most lasting and versatile actresses.

Miss Hayes first appeared on stage in Washington, D.C. at the age of five as Prince Charles in the Columbia Players' production of A Royal Family. She made her New York City debut as Little M. M. in Old Dutch (Herald Square Theatre, November 22, 1909). Some of the stage roles for which she is most famous include: Pollyanna Whittier (Pollyanna), Margaret (Dear Brutus), Cora Wheeler (Clarence), Maggie Wylie (What Every Woman Knows), Norma Besant (Coquette), Mary Stuart (Mary of Scotland), Queen Victoria (Victoria Regina), Harriet Beecher Stowe (Harriet), Amanda Wingfield (The Glass Menagerie), Mrs. Malaprop (The Rivals), and Viola in Twelfth Night.

Equally at ease in all media, Miss Hayes made her motion picture debut in 1910 in Vitagraph's Jean and the Calico Doll. She has appeared in numerous films since then including The Sin of Madelon Claudet; Arrowsmith; A Farewell to Arms; What Every Woman Knows; Stage Door Canteen; My Son John; Anastasia; and Airport. Miss Hayes also had a radio career, beginning in 1930 in a series of fifteen minute talks; her radio work helped the World War II recruiting program for army and navy nurses. Her many appearances on television include roles in the Omnibus program; Dear Brutus; as Essie Miller in Ah Wilderness (Hallmark Hall of Fame); and as a guest on the Ed Sullivan Show, the Today Show, Education Exchange and Here's Lucy among others.

In 1964, she formed the Helen Hayes Repertory Company to sponsor tours of Shakespeare readings in universities. She has also toured the Far East (1965 - 1966) for the State Department. She has been President of the American National Theatre and Academy, Honorary President of the American Theatre Wing, and Second Vice President of the Actors' Fund; she served two terms as a member of the National Council on the Arts (1966-69 and 1971-72).

Among her many honors and awards are an Oscar as best actress in the film The Sin of Madelon Claudet (1932); the Best Radio Actress Award for the Helen Hayes Theater (1940); two Antoinette Perry (Tony) awards (in 1947 for her performance as Addie in Happy Birthday and in 1958 for best actress in Time Remembered); an Emmy award in 1954; the Academy Award for best supporting actress for her performance in Airport (1970) and the Kennedy Center Honors in 1981. She is also the recipient of several medals including the Medal of the City of New York, and the author of a Star on her Forehead (1949); A Gift of Joy (a 1965 autobiography); On Reflection (1968); Twice Over Lightly (1971); and a mystery novel Where the Truth Lies (1988).

Miss Hayes has received many honorary degrees including those from Princeton University, Hamilton College, Smith College, Columbia University, Brown University and Carnegie Institute of Technology.

GORDON PARKS

GORDON PARKS, American photographer, author, filmmaker, composer, was born in Fort Scott, Kansas, in 1912, the youngest of 15 children. Homeless at 15, when his mother died, he moved to Minneapolis where he had to drop out of high school during the Depression. He supported himself as a busboy, piano player and professional basketball player. He also worked on the railroads and educated himself by reading and going to art museums on layovers. A newsreel of the bombing of the USS Panay led him to buy his first camera. Within months he had his first exhibit, sponsored by Eastman Kodak. He moved to Chicago and won the first Julius Rosenwald Fellowship in Photography, which he used to work with Roy Stryker at the Farm Security Administration, and later with the Office of War Information. In the mid 1940's, he worked again with Roy Stryker at Standard Oil (New Jersey). Although he used his camera to document the human condition, he supported his family by doing fashions for Vogue and Glamour.

In 1949 he was hired by LIFE magazine; over the next 19 years he did more than 300 assignments on a broad range of subjects: Hemingway's Paris, Flavio, Diary of a Harlem Family, the black militants in the 1960's. He has written 12 books, including four of poetry, a novel and three autobiographies. The Learning Tree and A Choice of Weapons are still in print more than 20 years later. He is currently working on a novel, a book of poetry and a fourth autobiography.

In 1968 Gordon Parks became the first black man to direct a major Hollywood film, his Learning Tree, for which he also wrote the score and the screenplay, and which he also produced. His other films are Shaft, Shaft's Big Score, Super Cops, Leadbelly, The Odyssey of Solomon Northrup, and his autobiographical Moments Without Proper Names. A composer, he has written popular music, film scores and classical works, including a piano concerto, five sonatas and a symphony. He is presently planning to film his ballet, Martin, honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., for which he wrote the music and libretto.

Gordon Parks' Time-Life exhibit toured the world. The Photographic Collection he gave to Kansas State University has been travelling since the 1970's. His immense retrospective has been on tour since 1983 and will go abroad this year. His recent color photography, Eye Music and Expansions are represented in other exhibits and museum collections. He lectures at schools across America, and has received 19 honorary degrees from universities such as Syracuse, Rutgers and Boston. Learning Tree schools have been established and John F. Kennedy High School in New York named its media center for him.

He is an NAACP Spingarn Medalist and was inducted into the NAACP Hall of Fame in 1984. Named Kansan of the Year in 1985, he received the Governor's Medal of Merit in 1986. His many awards include two Brotherhood Awards from the National Conference of

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Christians and Jews, a Christopher Award for best biography, a Notable Book Award from the American Library Association, a Frederick Douglass Award from the Urban League, Photographer of the Year from the American Society of Magazine Photographers, an EMMY and, in 1988, a World Press Award and the Commonwealth Award for Mass Communications. He serves on the boards of the American Institute of Public Service, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture/New York Public Library and the Kansas Center for the Book, an affiliate of The Library of Congress.

I. M. PEI

IEOH MING PEI is one of our nation's greatest architects. A founding partner of I.M. Pei & Partners, Ieoh Ming Pei was born in China in 1917, the son of a prominent banker and economist. His early years were spent in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Suzhou, his family's ancestral home. After attending St. John's Middle School in Shanghai, Pei came to the United States to study architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from which he received a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1940. He was awarded the Alpha Rho Chi Medal, the MIT Travelling Fellowship, and the AIA Gold Medal upon graduation. In 1942 Pei enrolled in the Harvard Graduate School of Design where he studied under Walter Gropius; six months later, he volunteered his services to the National Defense Research Committee at Princeton, New Jersey. Pei returned to Harvard in 1944 and completed his M.Arch. two years later, simultaneously teaching on the faculty as assistant professor (1945-48). Awarded the Wheelwright Travelling Fellowship by Harvard in 1951, he travelled extensively in England, France, Italy and Greece. I. M. Pei became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1954.

In 1948, William Zeckendorf, the head of Webb & Knapp, Inc., a major American real estate development firm, invited Mr. Pei to accept the newly created post of Director of Architecture. This association resulted in many large-scale architectural and planning projects in Boston, Chicago, Denver, Montreal, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington. In 1955 he formed the partnership of I.M. Pei & Associates, which became I.M. Pei & Partners in 1966. The partnership received the 1968 Architectural Firm Award of the American Institute of Architects.

Mr. Pei's personal architectural style blossomed with his design for the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado (1961-67). He subsequently gained broad national attention with the East Building of the National Gallery of Art in Washington (1968-78) and the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston (1965-79) -- two of some twenty-seven institutional projects executed by Mr. Pei, including religious, hospital and municipal buildings, as well as schools, libraries, and nearly a dozen museums. His most recent work, and the one Mr. Pei considers the most important of his 40-year career, is the expansion and renovation of the Louvre in Paris, for which he was awarded the Medal of the Legion of Honor by French President Francois Mitterand on March 4, 1988. In addition to his institutional projects, Mr. Pei has designed a wide range of corporate buildings both here and abroad, including the Bank of China in Hong Kong which, at 72 stories, will be the tallest building in Asia. Much smaller, but equally significant, is Fragrant Hill Hotel in Beijing: a lowrise building which draws on the roots of vernacular tradition, and which ardently withstood initial client impulses for a modernist tower in order to preserve the sacred precinct of China's ancient capital.

Shortly after Fragrant Hill was commissioned, the Chinese government established strict regulations governing the height of new buildings within critical distances and sight lines of the Forbidden City. In summary, Mr. Pei has designed nearly fifty projects in the United States and abroad; twenty-four have won awards.

Mr. Pei's deep interest in the arts and in education is evidenced by his numerous memberships on Visiting Committees at Harvard, MIT, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as on multiple governmental panels, having also served on the AIA Task Force on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol. A member of the AIA National Urban Policy Task Force and of the Urban Design Council of the City of New York, he was appointed to the National Council on the Humanities by President Lyndon Johnson in 1966, and to the National Council on the Arts by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. Three years later, in 1983, Mr. Pei was chosen the Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize; he used the \$100,000 award to establish a scholarship fund for Chinese students to study architecture in the United States (with the strict proviso that they return to China to practice their profession). Among the many academic awards bestowed on Mr. Pei are honorary degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, New York University, Brown University, the University of Colorado, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Mr. Pei was chairman of President Reagan's "Presidential Design Awards" (1984) which recognize good design in projects funded by the Federal Government.

A Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a Corporate Member of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Mr. Pei has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, to the National Academy of Design, and to the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. In 1975 he was elected to the Academy itself, which is restricted to a lifetime membership of fifty. In 1978 I.M. Pei became Chancellor of the Academy, the first architect to hold that position, and served until 1980. He was inducted a "Membre de l'Institut de France" in 1984, and decorated by the French Government as a Commandeur in the "Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" in 1985. On July 4, 1986 Mr. Pei was one of twelve naturalized American citizens to receive the Medal of Liberty from President Ronald Reagan at the rededication of the Statue of Liberty.

Among the many professional honors awarded to Mr. Pei are The Arnold Brunner Award of the National Institute of Arts and Letters (1963); The Medal of Honor of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (1963); The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Medal "for distinguished contribution to the field of architecture" (1976); The Gold Medal for Architecture of the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1979); The Mayor's Award of Honor for Art and Culture (New York City, 1981); and The Gold Medal of Alpha Rho Chi, the national professional fraternity of architects (1981). In 1979 I.M. Pei received The AIA Gold Medal -- the highest architectural honor in the United States, and three years later, the Grande Medaille d'Or from the French Academie d'Architecture.

JEROME ROBBINS

JEROME ROBBINS, a legendary and innovative ballet dancer, choreographer and director was born in New York City on October 11, 1918. He studied modern dance at classes sponsored by the New Dance League and later learned ballet technique from Ella Dagnova (a former Pavlova dancer), Helene Platova, Eugene Loring, Antony Tudor and Anton Dolin.

Robbins made his debut at the age of 19 as a modern dancer with the Gluck Sandor-Felicia Sorel Dance Center. After joining Ballet Theatre in 1940, he created roles in David Lichine's HELEN OF TROY (1942) and Antony Tudor's ROMEO AND JULIET (1943) and danced the title role in PETROUCHKA. His talent as an American ballet choreographer was recognized in 1944 when he choreographed FANCY FREE and created more ballets for American Ballet Theater -- INTERPLAY (1945), FACSIMILE (1946), SUMMER DAY (1947) and LES NOCES (1965).

Among the many Broadway shows he choreographed, perhaps the most memorable are ON THE TOWN (1945); HIGH BUTTON SHOES (1947); CALL ME MADAM (1950); THE KING AND I (1951) and PAJAMA GAME (1952). In addition, he has demonstrated his remarkable versatility by both directing and choreographing such greats as PETER PAN (1954); BELLS ARE RINGING (1956); WEST SIDE STORY, which many consider his masterpiece (1957); GYPSY (1959); FUNNY GIRL (1964); and FIDDLER ON THE ROOF (1964).

Robbins joined The New York City Ballet in 1949 as Associate Artistic Director and is currently the Co-Ballet Master in Chief. He has choreographed over 50 ballets for The New York City Ballet including THE GUESTS (1949); THE CAGE (1951); AFTERNOON OF A FAUN (1953); THE CONCERT (1956); MOVES (1959); DANCES AT A GATHERING (1969); THE GOLDBERG VARIATIONS (1971); THE FOUR SEASONS (1979); GLASS PIECES (1983); QUIET CITY (1986) and IVES, SONGS (1988).

Robbins choreography for motion pictures includes THE KING AND I, 1956, and WEST SIDE STORY, 1960. Among the television programs which he choreographed were: FORD 50TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW, 1953, PETER PAN, 1955, ED SULLIVAN SHOW, 1960, LIVE FROM STUDIO 8H: AN EVENING WITH JEROME ROBBINS, 1980 and two PBS programs in the "Dance in America" series (TWO DUETS, 1980, and BALLETS BY JEROME ROBBINS, 1986). During his career he has also directed two plays: OH DAD, POOR DAD, MAMA'S HUNG YOU IN THE CLOSET AND I'M FEELIN' SO SAD (1962), and MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN (1963).

Robbins has been the recipient of many honorary degrees and served on the New York State Council on the Arts (1973-77) and the National Council on the Arts (1974-79). He has been honored throughout his career: five Donaldson awards; four Antoinette

Perry awards (1947, 1958, and two in 1965); two Dance Magazine awards (1950, 1957); an Emmy; two Academy Awards (1961); decorated by France with the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (1964); Drama Critics Award (1965); City of Paris Award (1971); Handel Medallion of the City of New York (1976); Capezio Dance Award (1976); American-Israel Arts, Sciences and Humanities Award (1979); Theatre Hall of Fame (1979); the Kennedy Center Honors (1981) and honorary member of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters (1985).

RUDOLF SERKIN

RUDOLF SERKIN, a world class pianist without peer, was born of Russian parentage in Eger, Bohemia (now part of Czechoslovakia) in 1903 and lives today in Guilford, Vermont. He became an American citizen in 1939. He studied piano in Vienna with Richard Robert and composition with Joseph Marx and Schoenberg. Considered a child prodigy when he was four, he made his debut at the age of 12 in Vienna with a symphony under the direction of Oskar Nedbal.

In 1920 he worked with the Busch Chamber Orchestra in Berlin and met the daughter of Adolf Busch whom he married in 1935. In this early period of his career he became noted for his chamber music performances and specialty in performing Bach; in 1926 he settled near Basle and pursued his teaching and concert performances.

Serkin's U.S. debut with Adolf Busch occurred in Washington, DC, at the Coolidge Festival in 1933; later in 1936 he made his solo debut with Toscanini and the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, touring the country as a soloist. He played a series of Mozart and Beethoven concerts with the National Orchestral Association in 1937 and performed a complete series of Beethoven piano and violin sonatas in New York City in 1938. From that time on he has made annual concert tours in the United States appearing with major American orchestras and also touring abroad.

Serkin was appointed head of the piano department at Curtis Institute in Philadelphia in 1939 and later served as its director from 1968 through 1976. He was instrumental in establishing the Marlboro Music School and Festival in Vermont in 1951 and has continued to serve as President and Artistic Director since the beginning of this institution. He has participated frequently in the Casals Festival in Puerto Rico. In his eighties he is still performing and recording.

Mr. Serkin has received many honors here and abroad including Grande Ufficiale dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica (Italy); The Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany; Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art First Class; The Order of the Icelandic Falcon Level of Commander with a Cross; the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963 and the Kennedy Center Honors in 1981. He continues to be a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; was a member of the National Council on the Arts from 1968 to 1974; and is an honorary member of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia (Rome), the Verein Beethoven-Haus (Bonn), and the American Philosophical Society; and in 1984 was awarded Chevalier Ordre National de la Legion d'honneur (France).

Rudolf Serkin's performances of the Viennese classics are legendary; he is considered a paragon among pianists of the mid-20th century.

ROGER L. STEVENS

ROGER L. STEVENS, a major force in the American theater, was born on March 12, 1910, in Detroit, Michigan, grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and attended Choate School in Connecticut. His multifaceted career spans the arts, real estate and politics, and he has been one of the Nation's most successful fundraisers in the arts for more than 30 years.

Formerly a powerful real estate dealer, he negotiated numerous deals including the famous 1951 transaction to buy the Empire State Building. Later as a major theatrical producer in New York City and London, he produced or coproduced nearly 200 plays (WEST SIDE STORY, BUS STOP, A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS, TEA AND SYMPATHY, MARY, MARY, DEATHTRAP, and FIRST MONDAY IN OCTOBER), and brought to the stage such important writers as Eugene O'Neill, Tennessee Williams, Harold Pinter, and T.S. Eliot.

In 1961 he was asked by President Kennedy to help establish the National Cultural Center, which years later would be named in honor of the 35th President -- the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. As Chairman of the Center's Board of Trustees from 1961-1988, Mr. Stevens not only led the Center's fundraising efforts but also guided its programming, which included the commissioning of new works, among these Bernstein's MASS for the Center's opening in 1971.

In addition to his work on behalf of the Kennedy Center, Mr. Stevens also served as President Johnson's Special Assistant on the Arts (1964-1968) shepherding legislation which established the Nation's first National Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, both of which he chaired from 1965 to 69. In 1985 he established the American National Theater.

Mr. Stevens' interests involve the full range of arts disciplines and he has held many board positions including: Director of the Metropolitan Opera Association, Peabody Conservatory, Folger Library, and Circle in the Square Theatre; Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Film Institute (1969-72); member of the Executive Committee of the American National Theatre Association (Treasurer, 1951-65); cofounder of the American Shakespeare Festival Theatre and Academy; founder of the National Institute of Music Theatre (President, 1969-75); Director of the National Symphony Orchestra Association and the Ballet Theatre Foundation, Chairman of the National Book Awards (1988-), and a member of President Reagan's Committee on the Arts and Humanities since its founding in 1982.

He has received many awards: the Royal Order of Vasa (Sweden - 1973); Grande Ufficiale dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica (Italy - 1977); The Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (1979); Grand Decoration of Honor in Silver (Austria - 1979); Knight of the British Empire (Great Britain - 1980); the National Artist Medal, the highest award of the American National Theatre Association (1983); the award for Distinguished Service to the Arts from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters (1984) and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1988).

OBERT C. TANNER

OBERT C. TANNER, a major philanthropic figure in Utah, has supported many different art forms including the literary arts, the visual arts, design arts, music and dance. He was born in 1904, in Farmington, Utah, and lives in Salt Lake City today. He was educated at the University of Utah, Stanford, and Harvard. He taught at Stanford and is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the University of Utah. He holds eleven degrees from colleges and universities -- four earned and seven honorary. Mr. Tanner grew up in a poor farm family with ten children and spent his youth working in various jobs. He financed his education by thinning sugar beets, building an ore dump, cleaning furnaces and selling high school class rings. He is founder and chairman of the O. C. Tanner Company, specializing in employee recognition awards with annual sales in excess of \$100 million.

Mr. Tanner's contributions to Utah's artistic community are numerous. Among his notable achievements, he was chairman of the commission that planned the construction of Salt Lake City's Symphony Hall, the Utah Art Center, and the restoration of the City's historic Capitol Theatre. His personal gifts include a fountain, offices, and interior decoration of the Symphony Hall. He is a patron of the Utah Opera Company and Ballet West. He has endowed the "Gift of Music" biennial concerts, featuring performances in the Mormon Tabernacle by the Utah Symphony, together with the Tabernacle Choir and world-famous guest artists. These concerts are free to the public. He has given more than thirty fountains to communities, hospitals, colleges, and universities. The best-known fountains are located at Harvard, Stanford and Linacre College, Oxford, England. In 1970 he and his wife, Grace Adams Tanner, almost singlehandedly saved the Utah Shakespearean Festival, Southern Utah State College. Their gift constructed on the campus what the Folger Shakespearean Library, Washington, D.C., considers the world's most accurate replica of an Elizabethan playhouse. Visitors to the five national parks in Utah, are able to attend artistic productions at the O.C. Tanner Amphitheater located near the entrance to Zion National Park. Mr. Tanner has established eleven philosophy library rooms at prestigious colleges and universities. He has endowed more than a dozen lectureships including the world-renowned "Tanner Lectures on Human Values" given annually at Oxford, Harvard, Cambridge, Michigan, Stanford, University of Utah, University of California, Yale and Princeton. The trustees of the lectures also select other universities to sponsor one-time lectures. In recent years, lectures have been given at Madrid, Hebrew, Warsaw, Buenos Aires, Helsinki, Australian National, Jawaharlal Nehru universities, and this year, at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

His public service includes: Chairman, Utah American Revolution Bicentennial Commission; Utah Symphony Board; Executive Committee, White House Conference on Children and Youth. In 1985, he was appointed by President Reagan as a member of the

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Federal Commission celebrating the Bicentennial of the Constitution of the United States. He was awarded the United Nations Peace Medal for his services on behalf of the United Nations Association of the United States of America.

Mr. Tanner has authored ten books including three books on character education and three on the New Testament. In 1980, Queen Elizabeth invested Mr. Tanner into the American Society of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, a charitable and chivalric institution.

VIRGIL THOMSON

VIRGIL THOMSON, world renowned composer and conductor, was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 25, 1896, educated first in the Kansas City public schools and later at Harvard where he received his A.B. in 1922. After serving for three years as assistant and accompanist to the conductor of the Harvard Glee Club which toured Europe in 1921, he stayed on for a year in Paris on a fellowship. He continued studying conducting with Chalmers Clifton and counterpoint with Rosario Scalero under a grant from the Juilliard Graduate School. He returned to Paris in 1925 where he lived until 1940. While in France he began to collaborate with Gertrude Stein and composed two operas to her texts: *FOUR SAINTS IN THREE ACTS* (1934) and *THE MOTHER OF US ALL* (1947).

After returning to the United States in 1940, he was appointed music critic of the *NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE*, a post which he held for 14 years, during which time he established himself as one of the major critical writers of the era. He is the author of eight books, including an autobiography (1966), four anthologies, numerous essays, and reviews.

His musical compositions include: the operas *FOUR SAINTS IN THREE ACTS* (1927-8), *THE MOTHER OF US ALL* (1947), and *LORD BYRON* (1968); film scores for, among others, *THE PLOUGH THAT BROKE THE PLAINS* (1936), *THE RIVER* (1937), *THE SPANISH EARTH* (1937), *LOUISIANA STORY* (1948); *THE GODDESS* (1957); *JOURNEY TO AMERICA* (for the U.S. Pavilion at the New York World's Fair - 1964) and *THE DAY AFTER* (1983). He has written many works for orchestra including three symphonies and three concertos; dance scores for choreographers such as Lew Christensen, George Balanchine, Agnes de Mille and Erick Hawkins; theater music for Orson Welles, John Houseman, Peter Brook, and Joseph Losey; choral works including four masses and chamber music. He has made nearly 150 musical portraits, most of them drawn from life, with the sitter posing for him as he would for an artist's portrait, and has appeared as guest conductor with all the major orchestras of the United States as well as many in South America and Europe.

Thomson is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including 20 honorary doctorates; in 1947 Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur and in 1951 Officier de la Legion d'honneur; a Pulitzer Prize in 1949 for the music which he composed for the film *LOUISIANA STORY* -- the only time this award has been made for a film score; a Guggenheim Fellow in 1960; a Gold Medal for Music from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters in 1966; a Carnegie Hall 90th Anniversary Award in 1981; the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1982; Kennedy Center Honors in 1983; and National Music Council Award in 1984. He was the founder and first chairman of the New York Music Critics Circle; became a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1959; served on the board of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in 1975-83; and became Foreign Corresponding Member in the Music Division of the French Academie des Beaux Arts in 1986.

FACT SHEET ON NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS

History

President Reagan formally presented the first National Medal of Arts to seven internationally-known artists and five long-time patrons at White House ceremonies on April 23, 1985.

The National Medal of Arts was first proposed by President Reagan during a White House luncheon honoring another group of distinguished artists and arts patrons in May of 1983. The medal was recommended by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. At that luncheon President Reagan asked Frank Hodson, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, to explore with the Congress the establishment of the nation's first official medal to recognize both artistic excellence and support of the arts. The Congress agreed and on January 23, 1984 passed legislation authorizing the President "to award the National Medal of Arts to individuals or groups who in the President's judgment are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support and availability of the arts in the United States."

The Medal

The National Council on the Arts asked a special committee to review 31 different designs for the new medal. Three were recommended to the Council whose final selection was a design by Robert Graham, the nationally-renowned American Hispanic sculptor who created the Olympic Gateway for the XXIII Olympiad in Los Angeles. The sterling silver, four-inch medal depicts six dancing figures and the words "National Medal of Arts" in bas-relief on the obverse. The reverse of the medal has the cast words "United States of America" and the engraved name of the recipient.

Nominations

Nominations for the National Medal of Arts are sought by the National Endowment for the Arts from the arts fields, reviewed by a special committee of the National Council on the Arts, and reviewed and approved by the full Council. The selection of the most highly qualified candidates is then forwarded to the White House for consideration by the President.

Excerpts from President Reagan's remarks
at the White House luncheon honoring the
1987 National Medal of Arts recipients
June 18, 1987

"The Nation's Founders viewed the arts as essential elements of the new American nation. George Washington declared in 1781 that both 'arts and sciences are essential to the prosperity of the state and to the ornament and happiness of human life.' And Thomas Jefferson was, himself, an artist as well as a politician. And John Adams spoke of his duty to mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history and naval architecture, navigation, commerce and agriculture, in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, and architecture.

"Today it is John Adams' grandchildren's great-great-grandchildren who have that right. And let us resolve that our schools will teach our children the same respect and appreciation for the arts and humanities that the Founders had.

"The arts and humanities teach us who we are and what we can be. They lie at the very core of the culture of which we're a part, and they provide the foundation from which we may reach out to other cultures so that the great heritage that is ours may be enriched by -- as well as itself enrich -- other enduring traditions. We honor the arts not because we want monuments to our own civilization, but because we are a free people. The arts are among our nation's finest creations and the reflection of freedom's light."

NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS

List of Past Recipients

Following is a list of the National Medal of Arts Recipients from 1985, 1986, and 1987:

1985

ARTISTS

Elliott Carter	Composer	New York, NY
Ralph Ellison	Writer	New York, NY
Jose Ferrer	Actor	New York, NY
Martha Graham	Dancer, Choreographer	New York, NY
Louise Nevelson	Sculptor	New York, NY
Georgia O'Keeffe	Painter	Albuquerque, NM
Leontyne Price	Soprano	New York, NY

ARTS PATRONS

Dorothy Buffum Chandler	Los Angeles, CA
Hallmark Cards	Kansas City, MO
Lincoln Kirstein	New York, NY
Paul Mellon	Washington, DC
Alice Tully	New York, NY

1986

ARTISTS

Marian Anderson	Opera singer	Danbury, CT
Frank Capra	Film director	Beverly Hills, CA
Aaron Copland	Composer	Peekskill, NY
Willem de Kooning	Painter	East Hampton, NY
Eva Le Gallienne	Actress, author	Weston, CT
Alan Lomax	Folklorist, scholar	New York, NY
Agnes de Mille	Choreographer	New York, NY
Lewis Mumford	Philosopher, critic	New York, NY
Eudora Welty	Writer	Jackson, MS

ARTS PATRONS

Exxon Corporation	New York, NY
Dominique de Menil	Houston, TX
Seymour Knox	Buffalo, NY

MORE...

1987

ARTISTS

Romare Bearden	Painter	New York, NY
Ella Fitzgerald	Singer	Beverly, Hills, CA
Howard Nemerov	Writer, scholar	St. Louis, MO
Isamu Noguchi	Sculptor	Long Island City, NY
Alwin Nikolais	Choreographer	New York, NY
William Schuman	Composer	New York, NY
Robert Penn Warren	Poet	Fairfield, CT

ARTS PATRONS

J.W. Fisher	Marshalltown, IA
Dr. Armand Hammer	Los Angeles, CA
Sydney and Frances Lewis	Richmond, VA

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