2007 Governor's Arts Awards Recipients

The Governor’s Arts Awards are presented every two years in recognition of individuals, organizations, communities, and businesses that have made significant contributions to the arts and reflecting in a positive light the value of the arts in Indiana. The awards are the highest honor paid by the state in recognizing the important role the arts play in the cultural and economic health of our state.

“The recipients for 2007 awards reflect a broad spectrum of artistic talent, individual, business, and community support for the arts,” said Richard Stifel, IAC Chairman. “Some have received great notoriety for their work, and others prefer to work behind the scenes, but all share a common bond in their love for and dedication to the arts of our state.”

The 2007 recipients of the Governor’s Arts Awards are:

**Fischoff National Chamber Music Association**, Notre Dame, Ind. – Arts Organization

The Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition was founded in 1973 to encourage young people to pursue chamber music study and performance. Today, Fischoff has far surpassed the vision of its founders. The Fischoff Competition is the largest chamber music competition in the nation, annually hosting 200 musicians from America’s finest music schools. Since its inception, more than 7,000 musicians have participated, many of whom have gone on to distinguished music careers. In addition to the Competition, Fischoff sponsors Arts-In-Education residencies as a gift to the community. The residencies are dedicated to providing unique and interactive programs that target underserved children. In this unique blending of resources, world-class musicians of the Fischoff Competition return to Northern Indiana to work with the community’s greatest resource – its children.

**Menahem Pressler**, Bloomington, Ind. – Performing Artist and Arts Educator

With a performing career spanning nearly five decades, Menahem Pressler has distinguished himself as one of the world’s foremost chamber musicians, solo performers, and teachers. Not only have Mr. Pressler’s talents taken him to the music capitals of the world, his students and graduates of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music have graced the stages and halls of universities and conservatories world-wide. Pressler’s life has been completely devoted to his music and his students. This world renowned pianist is one of the founding members of the Beaux Arts Trio. He is the senior faculty member of the Jacobs School, where he is a Distinguished Professor. No matter where his performance life takes him, he returns home to Bloomington to nurture the students traveling from around the world to study with him. *(Photo credit to Marco Borggreve)*
**Henry Leck and the Indianapolis Children’s Choir**, Indianapolis, Ind. – Arts Educator

An internationally recognized choral director, Henry Leck is the founder and artistic director of the Indianapolis Children’s Choir, one of the largest children’s choir programs in the world. Mr. Leck is widely known as a specialist in choral techniques, and the child’s voice. He has authored music textbooks, and produced teaching videos widely used throughout the country. Through his leadership, the Indianapolis Children’s Choir performs regularly at concert events, conferences and festivals around the world. In 2004, the choir performed in the Czech Republic and Russia, and recorded live with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra. Recently the ICC performed for the Pope at the Vatican in Rome, Italy.

**Lori Efroymson Aguilera**, Indianapolis, Ind. – Arts and Community Leader

A current and former board member of many arts organizations, Lori Efroymson-Aguilera contributes a significant amount of time, expertise, participation and influence to advance the arts and arts organizations. She practices philanthropy in a selfless and enlightened manner both individually and through formally established family and community foundations. Lori sees architecture as a public art form that affects quality of community and individual life. Having served on the boards of the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, and the Indianapolis Urban Design Oversight initiative, Lori’s leadership and vision will influence generations to come. The Efroymson Fund has made major grants to arts-related activities and historic preservation efforts throughout the state of Indiana.

**Jamey Aebersold**, New Albany, Ind. – Performing Artist and Educator

Internationally known saxophonist and authority on jazz education and improvisation, Jamey Aebersold joins Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker and Louis Armstrong as a member of the International Association of Jazz Educators’ Hall of Fame. Jamey has developed a series or more than 100 “Play-a-long” book and CD sets to aid aspiring jazz musicians. These sets enable musicians the opportunity to practice and improvise with well-known jazz personalities at home or in the classroom. This concept has been responsible for changing the practice habits of thousands of musicians around the world. For 30 years, he has also directed the Summer Jazz Workshops program which have brought together some of the finest players/teachers in jazz together with jazz students regardless of their ability or age.
The City of Jasper, Jasper, Ind. – Community Arts Support

Because of its continued support for and expansion of the arts at the community and regional level, the City of Jasper becomes the first two-time recipient in the history of the Governors Arts Award. It remains one of a very few cities nationwide in which the local arts commission is actually a department of city government. The City of Jasper has a continued history of recognizing that the arts and cultural have an important place in the functioning of a healthy community. Mayor William J. Schmitt (pictured to the left) will accept the award on behalf of the City of Jasper.