

NEWS RELEASE

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS ANNOUNCES 2009 MUSIC AWARD WINNERS

Sixteen Composers Receive Awards Totaling \$170,000

New York, March 3, 2009—The American Academy of Arts and Letters announced today the sixteen recipients of this year's awards in music, which total \$170,000. The winners were selected by a committee of Academy members: Robert Beaser (chairman), Martin Bresnick, John Corigliano, Mario Davidovsky, and Shulamit Ran. The awards will be presented at the Academy's annual Ceremonial in May. Candidates for music awards are nominated by the 250 members of the Academy.

Academy Awards in Music

Four composers will each receive a \$7500 Academy Award in Music, which honors outstanding artistic achievement and acknowledges the composer who has arrived at his or her own voice. Each will receive an additional \$7500 toward the recording of one work. The winners are **David Gompper, David Lang, Andrew Waggoner, and Barbara White.**

Benjamin H. Danks Award

The Benjamin H. Danks award of \$20,000 is given to a composer of ensemble works. This year the award will go to **Sean Shepherd.**

Goddard Lieberson Fellowships

Two Goddard Lieberson fellowships of \$15,000, endowed in 1978 by the CBS Foundation, are given to mid-career composers of exceptional gifts. This year they will go to **Laura Elise Schwendinger and Kurt Stallmann.**

Walter Hinrichsen Award

Victoria Bond will receive the Walter Hinrichsen Award for the publication of a work by a gifted composer. This award was established by the C. F. Peters Corporation, music publishers, in 1984.

Charles Ives Fellowships

Harmony Ives, the widow of Charles Ives, bequeathed to the Academy the royalties of Charles Ives' music, which has enabled the Academy to give the Ives awards in music since 1970. Two Charles Ives Fellowships, of \$15,000 each, will be awarded to **Yu-Hui Chang and Ray Lustig.**

Charles Ives Scholarships

Matthew Barnson, Ryan Gallagher, Michael Gilbertson, David M. Gordon, Andrew Norman, and Carolyn O'Brien will receive Charles Ives Scholarships of \$5000, given to composition students of great promise.

American Academy of Arts and Letters

The American Academy of Arts and Letters was founded in 1898 to "foster, assist, and sustain an interest in literature, music, and the fine arts." Each year, the Academy honors over 50 composers, artists, architects, and writers with cash awards ranging from \$2500 to \$75,000. Other activities of the Academy are exhibitions of art, architecture, and manuscripts; publications on the Academy's history and events; publications on the Academy's history and readings and performances of new musicals. The Academy is located in three landmark buildings designed by McKim, Mead & White, Cass Gilbert, and Charles Pratt Huntington on Audubon Terrace at 155th Street and Broadway.

Biographies of 2009 Award Winners in Music

Matthew Barnson (Charles Ives Scholarship) has had his compositions featured at the 2007 MATA Festival and the 2006 ISCM World New Music Days. He has held residencies at Acanthes, Aspen, June in Buffalo, and Ostrava Days. His works have been performed by the Arditti String Quartet, Quator Diotima, the Manson Ensemble, the Knights, the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre National de Lorraine, the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, the Yale Philharmonia, the Janacek Philharmonic, the New York Virtuoso Singers, Seraphic Fire, Nicole Cabell, Ian Howell, Erin Morley, John Graham, Jason Calloway, and conductors Simon Bainbridge, Peter Eötvös, Sarah Hicks, Shinaik Haim, Roland Kluttig, Jacque Mercier and Zsolt Nagy. He is the youngest recipient of a Barlow Commission at the age of 22, and in 2007 received his second Barlow Commission. His teachers include Joseph Schwantner, Augusta Read Thomas, Christopher Rouse, Steven Stucky, Martin Bresnick, Ezra Laderman, David Lang, Ingram Marshall, and in master classes with Wolfgang Rihm, Kaija Saariaho and Toshio Hosokawa. He studied at the Eastman School of Music, the University of Pennsylvania and Yale. A native of Salt Lake City, he resides in New York City.

Victoria Bond (Walter Hinrichsen Award) is the only woman composer/conductor to receive commissions from major organizations and also hold music director positions with leading ensembles. Her catalog includes works written for the Houston, Shanghai, and Richmond Symphony Orchestras, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, American Ballet Theater, Pennsylvania Ballet, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and the Audubon String Quartet. The first woman awarded a doctorate in conducting from The Juilliard School, Bond was appointed by Andre Previn as Exxon/Arts Endowment Conductor with the Pittsburgh Symphony. She has guest conducted throughout the United States, Europe, South America and China and served as Music Director and Conductor of the Roanoke and New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestras, Opera Roanoke, Bel Canto Opera, Harrisburg Opera, and as Music Advisor of the Wuhan Symphony in China. Victoria Bond has been profiled in the Wall Street Journal and on NBC's Today Show, featured in People Magazine and in the New York Times.

Yu-Hui Chang (Charles Ives Fellowship) is a composition faculty member at Brandeis University. She has been recognized through awards and grants from the Aaron Copland Award, Fromm Music Foundation Commission, Koussevitzky Music Foundation Commission, Yoshiro Irino Memorial Prize, American Composers Forum, Meet the Composers, ASCAP, and the Council for Cultural Affairs of the Executive Yuan (Taiwanese government agency), among others. Performances of her music have taken place in the Netherlands, Italy, UK, China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and throughout the U.S., by the National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan, Taipei Symphony Orchestra, Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra, San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, Kalistos Chamber Orchestra, Nieuw Ensemble, Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, Earplay, Dinosaur Annex, Alea III, Triple Helix Piano Trio, Lydian String Quartet, Alexander String Quartet, and Ju Percussion Group. Between 1999-2006, Ms. Chang taught at the University of California-Davis and co-directed the Emyrean Ensemble.

Ryan Gallagher (Charles Ives Scholarship) is a graduate student at Cornell University, where his teachers include Steven Stucky and Roberto Sierra. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from The Juilliard School in 2007, where he studied with Christopher Rouse. A native of Wooster, Ohio, he studied composition with his father, Jack Gallagher of The College of Wooster during high school. Other teachers include Samuel Adler, Richard Cornell, and Stephen Jaffe. Awards include a First Music commission from the New York Youth Symphony, four ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composers Awards, a Arthur Friedman Prize for outstanding orchestral composition at Juilliard, a New York Federation of Music Club's Brian Israel Prize, and a Natalie and Murray S. Katz Young Composers Competition award. Performances of his music include those by the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, The Juilliard Orchestra, eighth blackbird, New York Youth Symphony, New Juilliard Ensemble, Society for New Music, Metropolis Ensemble, and Collage New Music Ensemble.

Michael Gilbertson (Charles Ives Scholarship), a native of Dubuque, Iowa, currently studies at Columbia University and The Juilliard School, where his teachers include Samuel Adler and John Corigliano. Gilbertson's works have been programmed by ensembles including The Juilliard Orchestra, the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, the Grand Rapids Symphony, the Dubuque Symphony, the Flint Symphony, the Rockford Symphony, the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony, and the Galesburg Symphony. His commissioned works have been premiered at Klementinum in Prague and Carnegie Hall in New York. Gilbertson's music has earned numerous awards and recognitions, including awards from ASCAP in 2006 and 2007, a major scholarship from the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, and the 2007-08 Palmer-Dixon Prize, awarded by the Juilliard composition faculty for the 'most outstanding' work composed by a student during the year.

David Gompper (Academy Award) studied at the Royal College of Music in London with Jeremy Dale Roberts and Humphrey Searle, taught at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and received his doctorate at the University of Michigan. Since 1991, he has been Professor of Composition and Director of the Center for New Music at the University of Iowa. In 2002–2003 Gompper was in Russia as a Fulbright Scholar, teaching, performing and conducting at the Moscow Conservatory. Gompper's compositions are heard throughout the United States and Europe. His *Spirals* for two violins and string orchestra was premiered in Albania in April 2008. He recently completed several new compositions: a new violin and piano work called *Ikon* for Wolfgang David, and a work for the Manhattan Sinfonietta entitled *L'Icone St. Nicolas*. His Violin Concerto and other orchestral works will be recorded by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (London) in the fall of 2009 for a release on Naxos in early 2011.

David M. Gordon (Charles Ives Scholarship) earned his B.M. and M.M. degrees in music composition from Northern Illinois University, where his principal teacher was Dr. Jan Bach. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in composition at the University of Chicago, studying with Shulamit Ran and Marta Ptaszynska. Gordon has written works for eighth blackbird, the Pacifica Quartet, the Chicago Sinfonietta, Aguavá New Music Ensemble, Contempo, the Motion Trio, pianist Daniel Paul Horn, and steelpan virtuoso Liam Teague. His music has been featured at the Tanglewood Festival of Contemporary Music, the Caramoor Music Festival, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the Deer Valley Music Festival, Chicago's Symphony Center and Millennium Park, and Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, as well as at concerts in Russia, Poland, Ukraine, and France. Gordon is presently on faculty at Wheaton College, where he teaches composition and music theory.

David Lang (Academy Award) is the recipient of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize in Music for *the little match girl passion*, commissioned by Carnegie Hall for the vocal ensemble Theater of Voices, directed by Paul Hillier. His recent works include *writing on water* for the London Sinfonietta, with libretto and visuals by English filmmaker Peter Greenaway; *the difficulty of crossing a field*, a fully staged opera for the Kronos Quartet; *loud love songs*, a concerto for the percussionist Evelyn Glennie; and the oratorio *Shelter*, with co-composers Michael Gordon and Julia Wolfe, at the Next Wave Festival of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, staged by Ridge Theater and featuring the Norwegian vocal ensemble Trio Mediaeval. Lang is co-founder and co-artistic director of New York's legendary music festival, Bang on a Can.

Ray Lustig (Charles Ives Fellowship) is currently completing his doctorate at the Juilliard School. He has won ASCAP's Rudolf Nissim Prize, the Juilliard Orchestra competition, and the New Juilliard Ensemble competition. His works have been performed in concert halls, clubs, galleries, and museums, including the Stone to Le Poisson Rouge, Alice Tully Hall, by the Juilliard Symphony, the Bowling Green Philharmonia, American Opera Projects, the Da Capo Chamber Players, the New Juilliard Ensemble, Avian Music, COUNTER)INDUCTION, Duo Noire, and Opera on Tap. His teachers include John Corigliano, Robert Beaser, Samuel Adler, Philip Lasser, and Shirish Korde. Before pursuing graduate study in composition, Lustig was a published researcher in molecular biology at Columbia University and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Andrew Norman (Charles Ives Scholarship) is a graduate of the University of Southern California and an Artist Diploma candidate at the Yale School of Music. His teachers include Martin Bresnick, Aaron Kernis, Ingram Marshall, Donald Crockett, and Stephen Hartke. He has been commissioned by the Minnesota Orchestra, the Aspen Music Festival, the New York Youth Symphony, and the Oakland East Bay Symphony among others. He is the recipient of numerous prizes, including the Berlin Prize, the Rome Prize, the ASCAP Kaplan and Nissim Prizes, and the Druckman Prize from Aspen. He has held residencies at the MacDowell Colony, the Copland House, the Orpheum Festival in Zurich, and the National Youth Orchestra Festival. He is currently Composer-in-Residence for Young Concert Artists and his works are published by Schott Music.

Carolyn O'Brien (Charles Ives Scholarship) is a doctoral student in music composition at Northwestern University. She earned a Master of Arts degree in composition from the University of California at Davis and a Bachelor of Music Education degree at Pittsburg State University, Kansas. She was a Fellow at the 2007 Wellesley Composers Conference. Her principal teachers are Yu-Hui Chang, Lee Hyla, and Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez. Her music has been performed by Bent Frequency, Emyrean Ensemble, International Contemporary Ensemble, Left Coast Ensemble, New York New Music Ensemble, and Trio Phonos, directed by Harry Sparnaay. She was awarded second place in the SCI/ASCAP Student Composition Competition, the Libby Larsen Prize through International Alliance for Women in Music, and a commission and position as composer in residence at the San Francisco Community Music Center through the American Composers Forum for the *21st Century Music for The People* project.

Laura Elise Schwendinger (Goddard Lieberman Fellowship) is Associate Professor of Composition at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her music has been performed by Dawn Upshaw, the Arditti Quartet, the Theater Chamber Players, the Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra, Cygnus Ensemble and Matt Haimovitz, at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Wigmore Hall, the Berlin Philharmonie and the Theatre Du Chatalet. Her setting of *in Just-spring* is on Voices of Our Time with Ms. Upshaw (TDK Naxos). Her honors include those from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute, the Rockefeller Foundation, Copland House, the Koussevitzky and Fromm Foundations, the Harvard Musical Association, MacDowell and Yaddo colonies. She was the first composer to win the American Academy in Berlin Prize. Recent premieres include a commission from Miller Theater, *Chiaroscuro Azzurro*, premiered by Jeniffer Koh and the International Contemporary Ensemble, and a cello concerto, *Esprimere*, written for Matt Haimovitz.

Sean Shepherd (Benjamin H. Danks Award) has had his compositions heard at the Aldeburgh Festival, UK, at Alice Tully Hall and Weill Concert Hall in New York, at Tanglewood's Ozawa Hall, the Library of Congress, on the Monday Evening Concerts in Los Angeles, and in London and Geneva. The Berlin Philharmonic's Scharoun Ensemble presented, with composer conducting, a portrait concert in Berlin-Mitte. Upcoming performances include those with the National Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic with Alan Gilbert conducting, and the Cleveland Orchestra with Oliver Knussen conducting. Shepherd was a Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin, and a first-prize winner in the 2005 Lutoslawski Award. He attended the Tanglewood Music Center, Aspen Music Festival, the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme and held a residency at the Camargo Foundation in Cassis, France. His composition teachers include Steven Stucky, Roberto Sierra, Robert Beaser, Sydney Hodkinson, Claude Baker, and David Dzubay. He is a doctoral student at Cornell University.

Kurt Stallmann (Goddard Lieberon Fellowship) received a 2008 Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship. His works include pieces for acoustic ensembles, acoustic/electronic groupings with interactive elements, environmental sounds, and purely synthetic sounds. As a composer and improviser, he enjoys frequent collaboration with improvising musicians and artists from other disciplines. Recent premieres include *Breaking Earth*, a commission from Meet The Composer Commissioning Music/USA for a twenty-five minute multi-disciplinary installation with filmmaker Alfred Guzzetti; and *Dear Ms. Lia*, a text piece that explores this question: Why has his daughter Lia been receiving credit card applications since the age of three? Current projects include a Fromm Music Foundation commission for chamber orchestra with live electronics, a bass/flute acoustic duo for Jeremy Kurtz and Demarre McGill, and an interactive electronic work for saxophonist, Stephen Duke. Stallmann is on the composition faculty at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music where he directs the computer music facility, REMLABS. He serves as Composer-in-Residence at Sharpstown High School in a national pilot program sponsored by the FutureStage program of Fidelity Investments, and the Houston Symphony Education and Outreach Program.

Andrew Waggoner (Academy Award) was born in New Orleans. He studied at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, the Eastman School of Music and Cornell University. His awards include the Lee Ettelson Award from Composers Inc., a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Roger Sessions Prize for an American composer from the Liguria Study Center in Bogliasco, Italy. His music has been commissioned and performed by the the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Saint Louis, Denver, Syracuse, and Winnipeg symphonies, the Cassatt, Corigliano, Miro, and Degas Quartets, the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, the California EAR Unit, pianist Gloria Cheng, violist Melia Watras, 'cellist Robert Burkhart, the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic of Zlin, Czech Republic, Sequitur, the Empyrean Ensemble, CELLO, Flexible Music, Ensemble Nordlys of Denmark, and Ensemble Accroche Note, of France. He was a founding Director of the Seal Bay Festival of American Chamber Music in Vinalhaven, Maine, and is currently Composer-in-Residence at the Setnor School of Music of Syracuse University, teaching regularly at NOCCA Riverfront in New Orleans. With his wife, the cellist Caroline Stinson, he has recently formed Open End, giving concerts over the past three seasons in New York, Syracuse, Strasbourg and Florence.

Barbara White (Academy Award) has a long-standing interest in collaborative and interdisciplinary work, specifically in working with dance and video. White's scholarly writings address such matters as the coordination between sound and movement and the relationship between creative activity and everyday life, as well as the impact on music of gender, listening, and spirituality. She has received commissions from the Philadelphia Orchestra, the New York New Music Ensemble, Boston Musica Viva, the Fromm Foundation, and the Koussevitzky Foundation. Recent performances include the Aspen Music Festival, the Orchestra of St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble, Earplay, Lontano, Eighth Blackbird and the Chameleon Arts Ensemble. Honors and awards include a Fellowship from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, two prior awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a 2003 Guggenheim Fellowship. In 1998, she joined the faculty of the Princeton University Music Department, where she is now Associate Professor. Her CD recordings include "When the Smoke Clears" and "Apocryphal Stories."