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THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

welcome you to

THE WHITE HOUSE

on the occasion of the presentation of the

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

GERSHWIN PRIZE

FOR POPULAR SONG

to

CAROLE KING



Wednesday, May 22, 2013

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS...

The Library of Congress is the Nation's oldest federal cultural institution and the largest library in the world, with more than 144 million items in some 460 languages on approximately 745 miles of shelves. It is the Nation's storehouse of knowledge, with vast collections of books, manuscripts, maps, sound recordings, films, newspapers, prints, and photographs. Increasingly, these collections are being digitized and made accessible to everyone on the Library's Web site at www.loc.gov. Now anyone can view Thomas Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence, the papers of Abraham Lincoln, Revolutionary War maps, Civil War photographs, the first Thomas Edison films and sound recordings, and millions more documents of American history, and increasingly, world history. The items themselves are housed in three buildings on Capitol Hill, the oldest being the beautiful Thomas Jefferson building, opened in 1897.

The music collections in the Library of Congress encompass virtually all musical genres—classical, jazz, folk, gospel, blues, rock, country, and hip-hop. There are original manuscripts of European masters such as Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, and Brahms, as well as those of American masters such as Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Aaron Copland, and Leonard Bernstein. There is the largest sheet music collection in the world, dating back to the earliest publishers in Europe and America and up to the present. Of utmost importance to the study of popular music is the Library's vast collection of traditional music, including the repertoires of early blues men such as Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters, and field recordings of diverse American folk music traditions. The Library's sound recording collection spans more than 100 years of recording history, from the first cylinder recordings of the 1890s to the most recently released albums in every musical style. These collections are now housed in the new Packard Campus for Audio Visual Conservation, a state-of-the-art preservation facility in Culpeper, Virginia, opened in 2008.

Since 1925 the Library of Congress has offered free public concerts in its 500-seat Coolidge Auditorium. Recent seasons have brought in a rich diversity of performers, from violinist Joshua Bell, to slam champion Marc Bamuthi Joseph, to Rosanne Cash and Mark O'Connor. Library commissions have brought into existence such 20th century masterpieces as Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and Bela Bartok's *Concerto for Orchestra*.

One of the goals of establishing the Gershwin Prize is to put a spotlight on the musical treasures in the Library of Congress, especially the vast popular music collection, and to encourage students, teachers, scholars, and researchers to use this free public resource.



...AND THE GERSHWINS

The George and Ira Gershwin Collection housed in the Music Division of the Library of Congress is the world's preeminent body of primary-source materials for the study of the life and work of the Gershwins, providing not only biographical information and a record of the brothers' compositional processes, but also a compelling and immediate sense of their distinctive personalities. Most significant in the collection are the music (including orchestrations, piano-vocal scores, and sketches), lyric sheets, and librettos. Many of these are in the handwriting of the Gershwins. There is also a wealth of correspondence providing a first-hand view of the brothers' daily lives, creative processes, and personalities. Pictorial materials include many photographs of George, Ira, and members of their family and circle of friends, as well as paintings and drawings by both George and Ira. Legal and financial papers, 34 scrapbooks, programs, posters, scores from George's music library, and scripts for radio broadcasts, all add up to an unparalleled resource for the study of the Gershwins and their milieu.

The Gershwin Collection began in 1939, two years after George's death, with an exchange of letters between Ira Gershwin and Harold Spivacke, then chief of the Music Division. The first item Ira gave to the Library was George's sketch for "The Crapshooter's Song" from *Porgy and Bess* along with the promise that he would "dig up something more satisfactory." In 1953 came the manuscripts of the large-scale works, including *Rhapsody in Blue*, *An American in Paris*, and the *Concerto in F* from the estate of Rose Gershwin. These were followed by many generous gifts from other family members and friends. In 1987, Ira's widow, Leonore, donated the remaining music manuscripts and lyric sheets from her home. Until her death in 1991, she continued to purchase items for the collection, and today her generous bequest continues to support acquisitions and programs that extend the legacy of the Gershwin brothers.

In 1985, the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded posthumously to George and Ira Gershwin for their "outstanding and invaluable contributions to American music, theatre, and culture." The medal, designed and executed by Edgar Z. Steever and Charles Y. Martin, both sculptors and engravers at the U.S. Mint, features both brothers in profile. On the back is the now-famous inscription Ira wrote in the Librarian of Congress' guest book in 1966. Quoting from his Pulitzer Prize-winning show *Of Thee I Sing*, he wrote, "shining star and inspiration, worthy of a mighty nation—and I do mean the LOC [Library of Congress]."

In commemoration of George and Ira Gershwin's dedication to American song and culture and the generous efforts of their families to preserve and perpetuate that heritage, the Library of Congress has named its Prize for Popular Song after these two prolific artists. The medal that is awarded to Carole King is adapted from the design of the Gershwin Congressional Gold Medal.

CAROLE KING

An iconic creative force, King is more than a half century into her singular career as a songwriter, performer, and author. A universally renowned and beloved figure, she is known for such enduring hits as "You've Got a Friend," "So Far Away," "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," and "I Feel the Earth Move." King wrote her first hit at age 17, penning "Will You Love Me Tomorrow" for the Shirelles with then-husband Gerry Goffin. The dozens of chart hits Goffin and King wrote during this period have become part of music legend, including "Take Good Care of My Baby," "The Loco-Motion," and "Up on the Roof."

It was King's breakout 1971 album *Tapestry* that took her to the pinnacle, and remains one of the best-selling records of all time. It spoke personally to her contemporaries and provided the spiritual musical backdrop to the decade. The album's success established King as an influential force in the industry, and she built a legacy of deeply personal communication through song that endures today. To date, more than 400 of her compositions have been recorded by more than 1,000 artists—including The Beatles, Mary J. Blige, Barbra Streisand, James Taylor and Aretha Franklin—and resulted in 100 hit singles. In 2007, King and Taylor recorded six performances that were documented in the GRAMMY Award-nominated, GOLD-certified *Live at the Troubadour* CD and DVD, released in 2010 and inspiring the pair's sold-out world tour, as well as a feature-length documentary that premiered on PBS.

Among her many honors, King was the first woman to win four GRAMMY Awards in a single year, and has been inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. King also has written songs for movie soundtracks, and, in April 2012, her memoir, *A Natural Woman*, debuted on the *New York Times* bestseller list.



PROGRAM

Selections by

GLORIA ESTEFAN

BILLY JOEL

CAROLE KING

JESSE MCCARTNEY

EMELI SANDÉ

JAMES TAYLOR

TRISHA YEARWOOD



EVENT EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Peter Kaminsky, Bob Kaminsky,
Mark Krantz, Cappy McGarr,
Dalton Delan, and David S. Thompson

Program subject to change

GLORIA ESTEFAN

An international superstar, Estefan has sold more than 100 million records, recorded more than two dozen albums throughout a long and prolific career, and has become an icon and role model for Latinos the world over. She has won seven GRAMMY Awards and is an accomplished songwriter, actress, children's book author, and philanthropist. Recently, Estefan sang with Tony Bennett as part of his compilation of duets with Latin-American musicians, *Viva Duets*. Estefan's next album, a multilingual collection of covers titled *The Standards*, will be released in September 2013.

BILLY JOEL

A singer-songwriter and composer, Joel is one of the world's most popular artists of all time, with more than 150 million albums sold worldwide. He is a six-time GRAMMY Award winner, has received a GRAMMY Legend Award and a Tony Award, and has been inducted into The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and The Songwriter's Hall of Fame. Joel donates his time and resources to a variety of charitable causes. As an advocate for music education, he launched an educational initiative providing scholarships and endowments to a variety of institutions.

JESSE McCARTNEY

An American singer, songwriter, and actor, McCartney began his career performing in Broadway musicals. From age 11 to 13, McCartney acted on *All My Children* and recorded with the group Dream Street. In 2004, he began his platinum solo recording career with the album *Beautiful Soul*, and in 2008, he co-wrote the GRAMMY-nominated hit "Bleeding Love" for singer Leona Lewis. McCartney continues to act in television on the series *Army Wives* and will be touring and releasing a new single this summer.

EMELI SANDÉ

A native of rural northern Scotland, Sandé has been playing the piano since age 10. The singer-songwriter's work has been performed by artists including Rihanna, Leona Lewis, Tinie Tempah, Susan Boyle, and Cheryl Cole. Her debut album, *Our Version of Events*, was the United Kingdom's biggest-selling debut of 2012 and won Sandé the BRIT 2012 "Critics' Choice" and 2013 "Best Female" and "Album of the Year" awards. Her style features richly melodic, classically powerful, retro-futurist soul-pop songs, with influences of Nina Simone, Joni Mitchell, and Lauryn Hill.

JAMES TAYLOR

His music embodies the art of songwriting in its most personal and universal form. In a career spanning four decades, with close to 100 million albums sold and five GRAMMY Awards, Taylor's immediately recognizable warm baritone, introspective lyrics, and unique guitar playing still blaze a path to which musicians throughout the world aspire. In 2011 Taylor was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Obama, and in 2012 he was awarded the distinguished Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French government.

TRISHA YEARWOOD

One of the highest-selling female artists in country music history, Yearwood has recorded 12 albums since her 1991 debut, most recently the GRAMMY Award-nominated *Heaven, Heartache and the Power of Love*. The Grand Ole Opry member has won three GRAMMY Awards, three Country Music Awards, two Academy of Country Music Awards, and an American Music Award, and has been inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame. Yearwood is also a two-time *New York Times* bestselling cookbook author and host of the EMMY Award-nominated *Trisha's Southern Kitchen*.

IN PERFORMANCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

In Performance at the White House is a music series distributed for national television broadcast by PBS and produced since its inception in 1978 by WETA, the flagship public broadcasting station in the nation's capital. WETA created *In Performance at the White House* to showcase the rich fabric of American culture in the setting of the nation's most famous home. Throughout the years, the series has embraced virtually every genre of American performance from pop, country, gospel, jazz, and blues to theater and dance. Past programs have presented such talent as cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, dancer and choreographer Mikhail Baryshnikov, jazz icon Sarah Vaughan, country music singer Merle Haggard, and the United States Marine Band.

During the Obama administration, there have been 10 *In Performance at the White House* programs to date, from February 2009 to the most recent concert in April 2013. These events have honored the musical genius of Stevie Wonder, Sir Paul McCartney, Burt Bacharach and Hal David as each was honored with the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song; celebrated Hispanic musical heritage during Hispanic Heritage Month; marked Black History Month by featuring the music of Motown, Memphis Soul, the Blues, and the Civil Rights Movement; explored the rich roots of country music; and spotlighted Broadway and the unique spirit of the American musical.

Carole King: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize In Performance at the White House will be broadcast on PBS stations nationwide on Tuesday, May 28, at 8 p.m. (ET). The program will also be broadcast via the American Forces Network at a later date to American service men and women and civilians at U.S. Department of Defense locations around the world.

