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GRAMMY AWARD WINNER
ROSANNE CASH
WILL RECEIVE THE
9th ANNUAL VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARD FROM
THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS & IDEAS

FEBRUARY 26, 2019

NEW HAVEN, CT—The International Festival of Arts & Ideas will present its 9th Annual Visionary Leadership Award to activist, author, and Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter, Rosanne Cash, at an Award Luncheon and Ceremony on February 26, 2019, at the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale (155 Temple Street).

The annual Award Luncheon, co-chaired by Kiki Kennedy, Kimberly Goff-Crews, and the Reverend Kevin Ewing, draws over 400 attendees from across the region and raises money for the Festival's diverse roster of programming presented in June each year. The award, which was established in 2010 in honor of Festival Co-Founder Jean M. Handley, is presented annually to a Visionary Leader whose trailblazing work impacts the world. Ms. Handley provided thoughtful and effective leadership as a lifelong champion of many of the region’s arts, cultural, social, and educational organizations. She was a role model for all, a woman of extraordinary wisdom, and an individual of exceedingly high standards who was generous with her talent and time.

Prior awardees include bestselling author, National Book Award-winning poet, and MacArthur “Genius” Fellow Claudia Rankine (8th Annual); Peabody Award-winning broadcaster and revitalization strategy consultant Majora Carter (7th Annual); Sheryl WuDunn, the first Asian-American reporter to win a Pulitzer Prize (6th Annual); Angélique Kidjo, award-winning singer/songwriter and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador (5th Annual); Sheila Nevins, documentary film producer and president of HBO Documentary Films (4th Annual); Charlayne Hunter-Gault, journalist and civil rights leader (3rd Annual); Jill Abramson, journalist and first female Executive Editor of the New York Times (2nd Annual); and Zainab Salbi, the pioneering Founder and CEO of Women For Women International (1st Award).
“We are honored to present our 2019 Visionary Leadership Award to Rosanne Cash,” Chad Herzog, co-director and director of programming for the International Festival of Arts & Ideas shares. “Rosanne has shown us that the power of voice reaches far beyond the stage. Her commitment to ending gun violence, protecting the First Amendment, and advocating for artists’ rights makes it easy to see why we are welcoming her back to New Haven as our 2019 Visionary Leader.”

One of America’s pre-eminent singer-songwriters, Rosanne Cash has released 15 albums of extraordinary songs that have earned four GRAMMY Awards and nominations for 11 more. She has actively advocated against gun violence and is a longtime board member of PAX and the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. She wrote an op-ed piece on gun control for the New York Times following the 2017 mass shooting in Las Vegas. Rosanne is also a board member of the Content Creators Coalition (C3), a membership-based, artist-run non-profit advocacy group representing creators in the digital landscape. In 2014, Cash represented artists in testimony before Congress on the issue of intellectual property rights and digital music licensing. She is also an author whose four books include the best-selling memoir, Composed, which the Chicago Tribune called “one of the best accounts of an American life you’ll likely ever read.” Her essays have appeared in The New York Times, Rolling Stone, the Oxford-American, The Nation, and many more publications. In addition to continual worldwide touring, Cash has partnered in programming or served as artist in residence at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, San Francisco Jazz, the Minnesota Orchestra, and The Library of Congress.

She was awarded the SAG/AFTRA Lifetime Achievement Award for Sound Recordings in 2012, and she received the 2014 Smithsonian Ingenuity Award in the Performing Arts. She was chosen as a Perspective Series Artist at Carnegie Hall and hosted four concerts during their 2015–16 season. In 2015, she was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters’ Hall of Fame. In 2018, she was the recipient of the “Spirit of Americana” Free Speech Award presented by the Americana Music Association in partnership with the First Amendment Center.

Her latest album, She Remembers Everything, was released on November 2, 2018.

The 9th Annual Visionary Leadership Award Luncheon is sponsored by Bank of America / US Trust and Inner City News. The Luncheon is hosted by the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale.

Tickets for the 9th Annual Visionary Leadership Award Luncheon are $150. Premium tickets, which include preferred seating, a post-luncheon reception with Rosanne Cash, and recognition in the luncheon program, are $250. Tables are available from $1500. Reservations can be made online here.

MORE ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS & IDEAS

The International Festival of Arts & Ideas is a year-round organization that culminates with an annual celebration of performing arts, lectures, and conversations each June in New Haven, Connecticut. The Festival convenes leading artists, thought leaders, and innovators from around the world for 15 days of dynamic public programs to engage, entertain, and inspire a diversity of communities. More than 80% of Festival programs
are free to the public, including events that feature some of the most influential jazz, classical, dance, and theater artists of our time.

The Festival takes place in venues and open spaces in downtown New Haven, in the heart of the northeast corridor, two and a half hours south of Boston and ninety minutes north of New York City.

The Festival’s programs have an impact throughout the year and include additional performances, educational opportunities, and the annual Visionary Leadership Award. The Festival was established in 1996, by Anne Calabresi, Jean M. Handley, and Roslyn Meyer. They envisioned an annual celebration in New Haven—a city steeped in a rich array of cultural and educational traditions—distinguished from other arts festivals by its fusion of the arts with events centered on sharing ideas.

The Festival is presented with major support from KeyBank, Comcast/NBC Connecticut, Yale University, The City of New Haven, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, Connecticut Office of the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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