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Lifetime Achievement Award

This Special Merit Award is presented by vote of The Recording Academy's National Trustees to performers* who, during their lifetimes, have made creative contributions of outstanding artistic significance to the field of recording. (*Through 1972, recipients included non-performers.)

Past Recipients

Roy Acuff

Awarded: 1987

Julie Andrews

Awarded: 2011

Fred Astaire

Awarded: 1989

Burt Bacharach

Awarded: 2008

Count Basie

Awarded: 2002

Harry Belafonte

Awarded: 2000

Leonard Bernstein

Awarded: 1985

Bobby "Blue" Bland

Awarded: 1997

David Bowie

Awarded: 2006

Maria Callas

Awarded: 2007

The Allman Brothers Band

Awarded: 2012

Louis Armstrong

Awarded: 1972

Chet Atkins

Awarded: 1993

Joan Baez

Awarded: 2007

The Beach Boys

Awarded: 2001

Tony Bennett

Awarded: 2001

Chuck Berry

Awarded: 1984

The Blind Boys Of Alabama

Awarded: 2009

James Brown

Awarded: 1992

Cab Calloway

Marian Anderson

Awarded: 1991

Eddy Arnold

Awarded: 2005

Gene Autry

Awarded: 2009

The Band

Awarded: 2008

The Beatles

Awarded: 2014

Irving Berlin

Awarded: 1968

Art Blakey

Awarded: 2005

Booker T. & The MG's

Awarded: 2007

Dave Brubeck

Awarded: 1996

Glen Campbell

Benny Carter
Awarded: 1987

Pablo Casals
Awarded: 1989

Clifton Chenier
Awarded: 2014

Rosemary Clooney
Awarded: 2002

Ornette Coleman
Awarded: 2007

Sam Cooke
Awarded: 1999

Bobby Darin
Awarded: 2010

Doris Day
Awarded: 2008

The Doors
Awarded: 2007

Duke Ellington
Awarded: 1966

Ella Fitzgerald
Awarded: 1967

The Funk Brothers
Awarded: 2004

Dizzy Gillespie
Awarded: 1989

Morton Gould
Awarded: 2005

Al Green
Awarded: 2002

Merle Haggard
Awarded: 2006

Jimi Hendrix
Awarded: 1992

Buddy Holly
Awarded: 1997

Awarded: 2008
(Original) Carter Family
Awarded: 2005

Johnny Cash
Awarded: 1999

Van Cliburn
Awarded: 2004

Leonard Cohen
Awarded: 2010

John Coltrane
Awarded: 1992

Cream
Awarded: 2006

Sammy Davis Jr.
Awarded: 2001

Bo Diddley
Awarded: 1998

Bob Dylan
Awarded: 1991

Bill Evans
Awarded: 1994

The Four Tops
Awarded: 2009

Judy Garland
Awarded: 1997

Benny Goodman
Awarded: 1986

Stephane Grappelli
Awarded: 1997

Woody Guthrie
Awarded: 2000

Roy Haynes
Awarded: 2011

Woody Herman
Awarded: 1987

John Lee Hooker
Awarded: 2000

Awarded: 2012

Enrico Caruso
Awarded: 1987

Ray Charles
Awarded: 1987

Patsy Cline
Awarded: 1995

Nat "King" Cole
Awarded: 1990

Perry Como
Awarded: 2002

Bing Crosby
Awarded: 1962

Miles Davis
Awarded: 1990

Fats Domino
Awarded: 1987

David "Honeyboy" Edwards
Awarded: 2010

The Everly Brothers
Awarded: 1997

Aretha Franklin
Awarded: 1994

Marvin Gaye
Awarded: 1996

Glenn Gould
Awarded: 2013

Grateful Dead
Awarded: 2007

Charlie Haden
Awarded: 2013

Jascha Heifetz
Awarded: 1989

Billie Holiday
Awarded: 1987

Lightnin' Hopkins
Awarded: 2013

Lena Horne

Awarded: 1989

Mahalia Jackson

Awarded: 1972

Ella Jenkins

Awarded: 2004

George Jones

Awarded: 2012

Juilliard String Quartet

Awarded: 2011

The Kingston Trio

Awarded: 2011

Led Zeppelin

Awarded: 2005

John Lennon

Awarded: 1991

Loretta Lynn

Awarded: 2010

Bob Marley

Awarded: 2001

Curtis Mayfield

Awarded: 1995

Glenn Miller

Awarded: 2003

Charles Mingus

Awarded: 1997

Bill Monroe

Awarded: 1993

Jessye Norman

Awarded: 2006

Charlie Parker

Awarded: 1984

Pinetop Perkins

Awarded: 2005

Maud Powell

Awarded: 2014

Leontyne Price

Vladimir Horowitz

Awarded: 1990

Michael Jackson

Awarded: 2010

Antonio Carlos Jobim

Awarded: 2012

Hank Jones

Awarded: 2009

B.B. King

Awarded: 1987

Kraftwerk

Awarded: 2014

Brenda Lee

Awarded: 2009

Jerry Lee Lewis

Awarded: 2005

Henry Mancini

Awarded: 1995

Dean Martin

Awarded: 2009

Paul McCartney

Awarded: 1990

Mitch Miller

Awarded: 2000

Joni Mitchell

Awarded: 2002

Jelly Roll Morton

Awarded: 2005

Roy Orbison

Awarded: 1998

Dolly Parton

Awarded: 2011

Itzhak Perlman

Awarded: 2008

Elvis Presley

Awarded: 1971

Richard Pryor

The Isley Brothers

Awarded: 2014

Etta James

Awarded: 2003

Robert Johnson

Awarded: 2006

Janis Joplin

Awarded: 2005

Carole King

Awarded: 2013

Kris Kristofferson

Awarded: 2014

Peggy Lee

Awarded: 1995

Little Richard

Awarded: 1993

Armando Manzanero

Awarded: 2014

Johnny Mathis

Awarded: 2003

The Memphis Horns

Awarded: 2012

The Mills Brothers

Awarded: 1998

Thelonious Monk

Awarded: 1993

Willie Nelson

Awarded: 2000

Patti Page

Awarded: 2013

Tom Paxton

Awarded: 2009

Oscar Peterson

Awarded: 1997

André Previn

Awarded: 2010

Tito Puente

Awarded: 1989

Ramones

Awarded: 2011

Paul Robeson

Awarded: 1998

Sonny Rollins

Awarded: 2004

Gil Scott-Heron

Awarded: 2012

Andrés Segovia

Awarded: 1986

George Beverly Shea

Awarded: 2011

Bessie Smith

Awarded: 1989

Isaac Stern

Awarded: 1987

Art Tatum

Awarded: 1989

Mel Tormé

Awarded: 1999

Fats Waller

Awarded: 1993

The Weavers

Awarded: 2006

Hank Williams

Awarded: 1987

Frank Zappa

Awarded: 1997

Awarded: 2006

Otis Redding

Awarded: 1999

Smokey Robinson

Awarded: 1999

Diana Ross

Awarded: 2012

Earl Scruggs

Awarded: 2008

Ravi Shankar

Awarded: 2013

Simon & Garfunkel

Awarded: 2003

Georg Solti

Awarded: 1996

Igor Stravinsky

Awarded: 1987

The Temptations

Awarded: 2013

Arturo Toscanini

Awarded: 1987

Muddy Waters

Awarded: 1992

Kitty Wells

Awarded: 1991

Bob Wills

Awarded: 2007

Awarded: 2003

Max Roach

Awarded: 2008

The Rolling Stones

Awarded: 1986

Artur Rubinstein

Awarded: 1994

Pete Seeger

Awarded: 1993

Artie Shaw

Awarded: 2004

Frank Sinatra

Awarded: 1965

The Staple Singers

Awarded: 2005

Barbra Streisand

Awarded: 1995

Clark Terry

Awarded: 2010

Sarah Vaughan

Awarded: 1989

Doc Watson

Awarded: 2004

The Who

Awarded: 2001

Stevie Wonder

Awarded: 1996

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Overview

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Trustees Award