Supporting Songwriters, Composers & Music Education

On August 5, The ASCAP Foundation held its Summer Benefit at the home of ASCAP Foundation Board member Tita Cahn, wife of the late legendary ASCAP songwriter Sammy Cahn. Co-hosted by Mrs. Cahn and ASCAP Foundation President Paul Williams, the fabulous evening featured a special performance by Bon Jovi guitarist, singer, songwriter Richie Sambora accompanied by Orianthi and ASCAP EVP of Membership John Titta. Proceeds from the fundraiser support the music education, talent development and humanitarian programs of The ASCAP Foundation impacting over 3 million people throughout the country annually. Thank you to all of those who attended and donated!

TOP LEFT: Richie Sambora, John Titta, Tita Cahn, Paul Williams, and ASCAP Foundation Executive Director Colleen McDonough.
BOTTOM LEFT: Richie Sambora performs his hit Bon Jovi songs with Orianthi and John Titta. RIGHT: ASCAP Foundation Board member Jason Mraz crooning with Richie Sambora.

Providing Opportunities

David Leon, a Cuban-American saxophonist, woodwinds player, and composer/improviser, performed his original work on the Storyville Stage at the Newport Jazz Festival on August 5. As the recipient of a 2017 ASCAP Foundation Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award, David was selected for this incredible opportunity by the competition’s composer/judges Anat Cohen, Keyon Harrold and Yosvany Terry.

It is due to the vision of George Wein, Founder and Chairman of the Newport Jazz Festival, that a talented young ASCAP composer/musician, who is also a Jazz Composer Award recipient, is featured on the Newport Jazz Festival stage providing an unmatched opportunity and exposure for a deserving young artist.

An active leader and sideman, David has toured internationally as a core member of the chamber trio Sound Underground, releasing two albums. He released an EP with experimental improv duo Yeah No Thanks in April 2017. Born and raised in Miami, FL, David graduated with a Bachelor of Music from the University of Miami’s Frost School of Music as a member of the Henry Mancini Institute. Find out more and hear his music at www.davidleonjazz.com.

Our Mission

The ASCAP Foundation is dedicated to nurturing the music talent of tomorrow, preserving the legacy of the past and sustaining the creative incentive for today’s creators through a variety of educational, professional and humanitarian programs and activities which serve the entire music community.

The ASCAP Foundation is a publicly supported charitable organization exempt from federal taxation under IRC § 501(c)(3) and funded by contributions, bequests, royalties and grants from ASCAP members, other foundations & the general public. We welcome your contributions, which are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Please join us in supporting the talent of tomorrow by making a contribution today.
Dear ASCAP Foundation Family,

It is a delight to write this note, not solely out of gratitude for the 2017 ASCAP Foundation Fellowship, but because ASCAP and The ASCAP Foundation have played a pivotal role in my compositional development for the last 12 years. In 2005, as a high school junior, receiving an ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composers Award helped give me the confidence and determination to pursue a career in composition. In 2015, as a slightly-less-young composer, trying to establish myself, ASCAP's partnership with the New York Virtuosi Singers gave me my first New York City Premiere. Many times over the years I've relied on The ASCAP Foundation team for guidance and support in all manner of musical endeavors. Now, in 2017, I'm spending a summer in the most beautiful place on the earth, in the company of brilliant musicians, all through The ASCAP Foundation's generosity. Thank you, for the ASCAP Fellowship, for all of your support over the years, and for the work you do on behalf of countless other young composers.

— Loren Loiacono, ASCAP Foundation Fellow for Composition at the Aspen Music Festival and School

The ASCAP Foundation Composition Fellowship at the Aspen Music Festival and School enables a student to study composition during the summer session.

To make top-notch programs like this one possible, The ASCAP Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity, relies on gifts from donors like you.

Help music creators like Loren achieve their potential:

- $50 provides sheet music for students in a public-school music program
- $125 buys a guitar for a talented young summer music camper yearning to write songs at home
- $250 helps support teaching artists at a junior high school
- $1,000 provides a scholarship for a talented young high school composer
- $5,000 supports a composition fellowship at a top music school

Please visit us at ascapfoundation.org/donate

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Summer Guitar Project at the Fresh Air Fund Camps

With Your Help, We Could Expand this Initiative to Other Camps!

Every summer since 1999, The ASCAP Foundation has enlisted talented songwriter/musicians and special musical guests to travel to the Fresh Air Fund camps in the countryside of upstate New York to teach music to economically disadvantaged children from New York City. Thanks to a generous grant from the Gibson Foundation and donated Gibson guitars, this year over 3,000 youths benefited from The ASCAP Foundation Summer Guitar Project.

For many campers, this was their first opportunity to work with a music teacher, learn to properly hold and play an instrument, and create songs. The ASCAP Foundation also arranged for musician/producer Arden Altino to conduct a class at the camp where he and the kids created an original song. “I thought everyone in our group was going to have to share one guitar, but everyone had their own guitar.” said an excited 10 year old girl from Queens named Vallerya.

The Summer Guitar Project is made possible by the Gibson Foundation and The ASCAP Foundation Irving Caesar Fund. Thanks to D'Addario for guitar strings and picks. Stay tuned to our social media and website to check out a new video of this program!

Music producer Arden Altino teaches a student guitar chords.

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