



For Immediate Release

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Top 5 Must-Experience Programming Highlights at APAP|NYC 2020

Media Credential Registration Closes January 6, 2020

December 20, 2019 – The Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) today announced the top 5 media must-experience programming highlights for [APAP|NYC 2020](#), the world’s leading global performing arts gathering, marketplace and members conference, taking place from January 10-14. Access to the EXPO Hall will be made available to the media when it opens on Saturday, January 11 at 2 p.m. Interested media can register for a media credential [here](#).

#1: Opening Plenary: “The Power of Risk-Taking”

Friday, January 10, 5-6:30 p.m., Hilton Grand Ballroom

Kamilah Forbes (Executive Producer, Apollo Theater), **Estelle Parsons** (Academy-award winning actress) and **Alice Sheppard** (Dancer and Choreographer) will discuss their stories as the ultimate risk-takers and models of resiliency in this industry. **Chris Thile** (multiple Grammy-winner and MacArthur Fellow, a member of Punch Brothers and Nickel Creek, and host of the radio program *Live from Here*.) and **Meklit Hadero** (singer, songwriter and TED Senior Fellow) will perform at the plenary during the creative moments.

#2: UP NEXT! Artist Pitch Session

Friday, January 10, 1-3 p.m., Hilton 3rd Floor, West Ballroom

Discover exciting new works that in development or ready to tour.

Artists include **Alphabet Rockers**, **Ephrta Asherie Dance**, **Kaki King**, **Kaneza Schaal** and **Chrisopher Myers**, **Keone & Mari Madrid** and **Hideaway Circus**, **Le Patin Libre**, **Mark Haim**, **Michelle Shocked**, **Mostly Kosher**, **Sean Dorsey Dance**, **Shirley Crabbe**, **Small Island Big Song**, **Squonk**, **Sultans of String**, **Urban Jazz Dance Company**, **Wayne Shorter** and **Esperanza Spalding** and **Will Power**.

#3: “Resilience and Sustainability: The Long Conversation”

Sunday, January 12, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Hilton Grand Ballroom

A lineup of arts professionals discuss “Resilience and Sustainability” in a long conversation format with **Aubrey Bergauer** (dynamic and innovative arts administrator), **Terri Lyne Carrington** (Grammy-award winning jazz

drummer), **Ty Defoe** (Co-Founder, Indigenous Direction), **Nick Slie** (Co-Creator/Performer, Mondo Bizarro), and **Raam** (Iranian-born rock musician, founder of Supernova, a post-punk band in New York and music resident at New York City Artist Safe Haven Residency). **Choir! Choir! Choir!**, a Toronto-based group known for its community-building approach to performance, will lead the audience in a creative moment at the top of the session.

#4: APAP Awards Ceremony

Monday, January 13, 12-1:45 p.m., Hilton Grand Ballroom

The APAP Annual Awards Ceremony will honor **Ping Chong**, internationally acclaimed artist and pioneer in the use of media in theater; **Emil Kang**, former Executive and Artistic Director, Carolina Performing Arts, UNC Chapel Hill; and **The League of American Orchestras (Jesse Rosen, President and CEO; Heather Noonan, Vice President for Advocacy)**. The “Distinguished Service Award” recipient will be announced at the ceremony.

#5: Closing Plenary: Ben Folds on “Art, Life and Music”

Tuesday, January 14, 10-11 a.m., Hilton Trianon Ballroom

APAP|NYC 2020 closes with multi-platinum-selling singer-songwriter **Ben Folds** who will share a message on risk, resilience and creativity based on his book, a collection of essays, anecdotes and lessons about art, life and music. In addition to his enormous body of genre-building music with Ben Folds Five, multiple solo albums and numerous collaborative records, he also serves as the first Artistic Advisor to the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. Mr. Folds is also a highly recognized champion for arts education and music therapy funding in our nation’s public schools. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Americans for the Arts’ Arts Action Fund’s ArtsVote2020 national initiative to advocate for a greater commitment to the nation’s creative economy through improved public policies for the arts and arts education. You can also hear him as host of a podcast series of interviews on arts policies with current 2020 presidential candidates. Folds has recently written his critically acclaimed memoir, “A Dream About Lightning Bugs,” which debuted as a *New York Times* Best Seller.

APAP|NYC’s daily plenary sessions, as well as the annual awards luncheon, will also be streamed on Facebook Live.

For a complete list of sessions, speakers and to learn more about the conference program, please visit www.apap365.org

See more about the conference at APAPNYC.org, [@APAP365](https://twitter.com/APAP365), [#APAPNYC](https://twitter.com/APAPNYC) and facebook.com/APAPNYC. APAP membership information can be found at APAP365.org. APAP|NYC is also founding partner of JanArtsNYC, the most comprehensive annual celebration of the performing arts around the globe and

annual convergence of 13 major performing arts industry forums and public festivals. 2020 event dates and descriptions of all 13 partnering events available at JanArtsNYC.org.

About APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals

APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals, based in Washington, D.C., is the national service, advocacy and membership organization dedicated to developing and supporting a robust, performing arts presenting field and the professionals who work within it. Our 1,600 national and international members represent leading performing arts centers, municipal and university performance facilities, nonprofit performing arts centers, culturally specific organizations, foreign governments, as well as artist agencies, managers, touring companies, and national consulting practices that serve the field, and a growing roster of self-presenting artists. As a leader in the field, APAP works to effect change through advocacy, professional development, resource sharing and civic engagement. APAP is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and led by President and CEO Mario Garcia Durham. In addition to presenting the annual APAP|NYC conference—the world's leading gathering and marketplace for the performing arts (Jan. 10-14, 2020)—APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting.

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