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Atlanta Chamber Players Founder Wins Governor's Award for the Arts & Humanities

Peace and the ACP are Recognized for Their Contributions to the State of Georgia

ATLANTA, October 5, 2016 – Earlier today, the pianist, advocate, and innovator Paula Peace was honored in a ceremony at the State Capitol Building as one of the recipients of the 2016 Governor's Awards for the Arts & Humanities.

Ms. Peace was lauded for her work founding and sustaining the Atlanta Chamber Players (ACP) for 38 years, beginning in 1976 when she co-founded the ensemble. In particular, her work founding and leading the Rapido!® 14-Day Composition Contest with the Antinori Foundation was highlighted as something that has brought national attention to Georgia. Under her direction, the Rapido! contest grew from a regional competition to one that encompasses all 50 states and includes 5 chamber ensemble organizations in Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Detroit, and San Francisco.

At the awards ceremony, the ACP's Vice President Jim Throckmorton said "Because of Paula's pioneering artistic leadership of almost 40 years, Georgia can celebrate its first nationally recognized chamber music ensemble." His remarks were followed by a musical tribute to Ms. Peace, an excerpt from César Frank's Violin Sonata No.1 performed by violinist Helen Hwaya Kim and ACP's Artistic Director Elizabeth Pridgen. Ms. Pridgen, who is an accomplished pianist, took over the reigns of the ACP after Ms. Peace retired in 2014.

After the ceremony, Ms. Pridgen reflected on the recognition: "Paula Peace is truly the Grand Dame of chamber music in Atlanta, and her legacy stretches across the country with the innovative programs she spear-headed, including the Rapido! Composition Contest. Paula has been a mentor and a role model for myself and countless other musicians in the region. The Board members and musicians, past and present, of the Atlanta Chamber Players were thrilled to watch her receive this well deserved Award today, recognizing her contribution to music and to our community."

Paula Peace herself stated "I am so honored that Governor Deal has recognized the importance of chamber music in Georgia with this award. I am humbled by this honor, and I am overjoyed at what the Atlanta Chamber Players continue to accomplish under the leadership of Artistic Director Elizabeth Pridgen. In particular, founding the Rapido! Composition Contest alongside the Antinori Foundation is my proudest legacy, and to hear it celebrated today in front of an assemblage of artists and leaders from all across Georgia is a memory I will always cherish."

The Governor's Awards for the Arts and Humanities pay tribute to the most distinguished citizens and organizations that have demonstrated a lifetime commitment to work in these fields, demonstrating excellence and service. The Awards are presented by the Office of the Governor in partnership with the Georgia Council for the Arts and Georgia Humanities.

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atlanta  chamber players

About the Atlanta Chamber Players:

The Atlanta Chamber Players (ACP), founded in 1976, is a mixed ensemble of strings, winds and piano that presents engaging chamber music programs of diverse musical periods and instrumentation in innovative settings, while featuring the highest quality musicians. ACP has earned a national reputation as a pioneer among chamber music groups. Acclaimed by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution as “Atlanta’s All-Stars,” ACP has premiered 150+ works in Atlanta and reaches thousands through concerts, soirées, educational performances and radio broadcasts each year. Further information can be found at their website: atlantachamberplayers.com

About Rapido!® 14-Day National Composition Contest:

The Atlanta Chamber Players (ACP) founded - with the Antinori Foundation - and nationally directs the 50-state Rapido! Composition Project, which has yielded hundreds of new chamber works to date through four cycles of competition. Further information can be found at the competition website: rapidocompositioncontest.com

About Paula Peace:

Paula is the founder of the Atlanta Chamber Players and served as the group’s Artistic Director for all but a few months of its first 38 seasons. For the group she produced concerts and performed in more than 250 cities; produced, edited, and performed on all six ACP recordings and CDs; produced and performed more than 100 regional and world premieres in Atlanta; and designed and performed hundreds of concert programs, educational lectures and master classes throughout the South. She has served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Piano and Coordinator of Chamber Music at Georgia State University and was an Artist in Residence at Kennesaw State University.

As soloist, Paula has appeared with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, DeKalb Symphony, and the Lanier Symphony. In demand as a collaborative pianist, she performed with top prize winner Amy Porter at the Kobe International Flute Competition in Japan, and in the brass world has performed with Charles Vernon, Stephen Burns, Eric Ruske, Scott Hartmann, Michael Mulcahy and her husband Michael Moore. She has performed with clarinetist Richard Stoltzman with the Chamber Music Society of Emory. She received her BMus from Florida State University in the studio of Leonidas Lipovetsky, and her MMus from State University of New York at Stony Brook, where she studied piano with Martin Canin and did extensive chamber music coaching with Gilbert Kalish, Samuel Baron, Bernard Greenhouse, Timothy Eddy, Alvin Brehm and David Glazer. Other significant teachers include Virginia Hutchings, Menahem Pressler, and Leonard Shure. Summer performances include the Aspen Music Festival and Institut de Hautes Etudes Musicales in Crans, Switzerland. Public Broadcasting Atlanta selected Paula Peace as Lexus Leader of the Arts in 2004. In 2015, she received the Phoenix Award from Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed for her decades of service to the community.

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