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MEDAL OF ARTS LUNCHEON - JULY 14, 1986

MARIAN ANDERSON WAS BORN IN PHILADELPHIA, AND AT THE AGE OF EIGHT, SHE STARTED SINGING IN CHOIRS. SHE BEGAN HER CAREER AS A CONTRALTO IN EUROPE; AND IT WAS SOL HUOK [SOL HYUR-ROK] WHO LAUNCHED HER CAREER IN THE UNITED STATES. IN 1955, SHE MADE HER DEBUT WITH THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN OPERA, THEREBY PAVING THE WAY FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF BLACK PERFORMERS ON THE CONCERT STAGE. ARTURO TOSCANINI SAID THAT "A VOICE LIKE HERS COMES ONLY ONCE IN A CENTURY." MARIAN ANDERSON IS ONE OF THE GREATEST LADIES OF OPERA, AND ACCEPTING FOR HER TODAY IS HER COUSIN, MISS SANDRA GRYMES.

(2)

FRANK CAPRA WAS BORN IN PALERMO, ITALY AND CAME TO OUR COUNTRY AT THE AGE OF SIX. HE HAS SERVED FOUR TIMES AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES AND THREE TIMES AS PRESIDENT OF THE SCREEN ACTORS GUILD. A PIONEER OF THE ART OF FILM, HE IS ONE OF THE GREATEST DIRECTORS AND PRODUCERS IN MOTION PICTURE HISTORY. WE WILL NEVER FORGET THE CLASSIC FILMS IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT, MR. DEEDS GOES TO TOWN, MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON, AND YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU. HE HAS EARNED FIVE ACADEMY AWARDS AND HAS BEEN HONORED WITH THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD OF THE AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE. FRANK CAPRA IS ONE OF THE TRULY GREAT ARTISTS OF A UNIQUELY AMERICAN STYLE OF FILM-MAKING. WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE HIS SON, TOM CAPRA, ACCEPTING ON HIS FATHER'S BEHALF.

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AARON COPLAND WAS BORN OF LITHUANIAN PARENTS IN NEW YORK. HE STUDIED PRIVATELY WITH MANY OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSICIANS, INCLUDING NADIA BOULANGER [Boo-LAW-ZSAY], HE COMPOSED HIS FIRST SYMPHONY IN 1928 AND CONTINUED CREATING MASTERPIECES USING TRULY AMERICAN FOLK THEMES AND TUNES. WE ARE MOST FAMILIAR WITH THE LINCOLN PORTRAIT, FOR WHICH HE WON A PULITZER PRIZE IN MUSIC, AND BILLY THE KID. HE COLLABORATED WITH AGNES DE MILLE ON RODEO [RoE-DAY-O] AND WITH MARTHA GRAHAM ON APPALACHIAN SPRING. AARON COPLAND IS A PARAMOUNT AMERICAN COMPOSER. ACCEPTING FOR HIM IS MRS. VIVIAN PERLIS, HIS CLOSE FRIEND AND OFFICIAL BIOGRAPER.

(4)

WILLEM DE KOONING [VIL'LEM DEH KOO'NING] WAS BORN IN ROTTERDAM, HOLLAND. HE WORKED HIS WAY TO OUR COUNTRY AS A "WIPER" IN THE ENGINE ROOM OF A STEAMSHIP. BEFORE ESTABLISHING HIMSELF AS THE GREAT PAINTER THAT HE IS, HE MADE SIGNS AND WINDOW DISPLAYS; HE WAS A CARPENTER, FURNITURE DESIGNER, AND MURALIST, AND BEGAN HIS WORK IN ABSTRACTION IN 1934. AS A LEADER OF ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM, HE HAS INFLUENCED ALL MODERN PAINTING -- AND IS ACCLAIMED BY ALL THE WORLD AS AMERICA'S GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO MODERN ART. ACCEPTING FOR HIM TODAY IS HIS WIFE, ELAINE, WHO IS ALSO A FINE PAINTER.

AGNES DE MILLE WAS BORN IN NEW YORK. HER NAME IS SYNONYMOUS WITH THE ART OF DANCE. AS PERFORMER AND CHOREGRAPHER, SHE IS UNFORGETTABLE. THERE IS NO MEMORY OF AMERICA THAT COULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT THE DANCE OF OKLAHOMA, CAROUSEL, AND BRIGADOON, OR THE BALLET OF RODEO [ROE-DAY-O] FALL RIVER LEGEND, OR THE FOUR MARYS. AGNES DE MILLE HAS WRITTEN OVER A DOZEN BOOKS ON DANCE AND IS ALSO DISTINGUISHED AS A TEACHER. SHE IS A GREAT ARTIST AND A GREAT AMERICAN.

EVA LE GALLIENNE [EEVA LUH-GAL-YEN] WAS BORN IN LONDON. IN 1921, SHE STARRED IN HER FIRST FILM, LILIOM AND WENT ON TO TRIUMPH IN CAMILLE, THE MASTER BUILDER, AND MARY STUART. SHE ALSO EARNED A SPECIAL TONY AWARD AND AN EMMY FOR HER OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN THE PBS SPECIAL, THE ROYAL FAMILY. EVA LE GALLIENNE FOUNDED AND DIRECTED BOTH THE CIVIC REPERTORY THEATRE IN NEW YORK AND THE AMERICAN REPERTORY COMPANY. IN ADDITION TO HER MANY TALENTS, SHE IS ALSO A RECOGNIZED TRANSLATOR OF THE SCANDINAVIAN CLASSICS OF IBSEN AND HANS CHRISTIAN ANERSEN. SHE IS A GREAT ACTRESS, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, TEACHER AND AUTHOR. ACCEPTING FOR HER IS MRS. ANNE KAUFMAN SCHNEIDER, A CLOSE FAMILY FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE.

(7)

ALAN LOMAX WAS BORN IN AUSTIN, TEXAS, AND IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE WORLD'S MOST RENOWNED FOLKLORIST. HE HAS DEVOTED HIS LIFE AND TALENT TO COLLECTING, COMPILING AND PRESERVING THE FOLK MUSIC OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD. AS DIRECTOR-PRODUCER OF AN ORIGINAL FOLK MUSIC SERIES ON CBS RADIO IN THE THIRTIES AND FORTIES, HE PRESENTED TO ALL AMERICANS FOR THE FIRST TIME SUCH THEN UNKNOWN AS BURL IVES, PETE SEEGER, LEADBELLY, AND WOODIE GUTHRIE. FOR THE PAST 24 YEARS HE HAS BEEN A RESIDENT SCHOLAR AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY WHERE HE HAS PIONEERED THE STUDY OF EXPRESSIVE STYLES OF CULTURE. RECENTLY WE HAVE SEEN HIS WORK IN THE TELEVISION SERIES, "AMERICAN PATCHWORK." MR. LOMAX, YOU HAVE TRULY ENRICHED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CULTURES OF AMERICA AND THE WORLD.

(8)

LEWIS MUMFORD WAS BORN IN FLUSHING, NEW YORK. HE IS ONE OF OUR MOST DISTINGUISHED HISTORIANS, LITERARY CRITICS, AND COMMENTATORS ON CITIES AND URBAN DESIGN. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF SOME 31 BOOKS AND WAS THE RECIPIENT OF A NATIONAL BOOK AWARD IN 1961 FOR THE CITY IN HISTORY. MR. MUMFORD HAS SAID OF THE CITY: "IF IT CEASES TO BE A MILIEU IN WHICH PEOPLE CAN EXIST IN REASONABLE CONTENTMENT...IT WILL BE UNPROFITABLE TO DISCUSS ARCHITECTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS." HIS CONCERN FOR THE WHOLE OF THE CITY, AS OPPOSED TO THE SINGLE ARCHITECTURAL TRIUMPH, HAS TAUGHT US HOW TO STRIVE FOR ARCHITECTURE AS THE HOME OF MAN, THE TITLE OF HIS HIGHLY ORIGINAL BOOK ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF ARCHITECTURE. ACCEPTING FOR MR. MUMFORD TODAY IS HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. ALISON MORSS.

EUDORA WELTY WAS BORN IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI AND LIVES THERE TODAY. MISS WELTY IS A PRE-EMINENT AMERICAN WRITER, WHO IS MOST WELL KNOWN FOR HER BOOKS ABOUT THE SOUTH AND THE SOUTHERN FAMILY. SHE HAS INFLUENCED GENERATIONS OF YOUNG AMERICAN WRITERS. IN 1941, SHE PUBLISHED HER FIRST BOOK, A CURTAIN OF GREEN; AND IN 1973 SHE WON A PULITZER PRIZE FOR THE OPTIMIST'S DAUGHTER. HER WORK IS READ WIDELY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD. MISS WELTY CONSIDERS HER 1984 AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL WORK, ONE WRITER'S BEGINNINGS, A VERY SIGNIFICANT AND RECENT EXPRESSION OF HER THOUGHTS. WE ARE HONORED TO PRESENT HER THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS.

DOMINIQUE DE MENIL [DUH MIN-NIL] BEGAN HER CAREER AS A BOLD PATRON OF THE ARTS IN THE 1930'S BY GIVING MAX ERNST HIS FIRST ONE-MAN SHOW. IN 1941, SHE CAME TO THIS COUNTRY FROM PARIS. SHE HAS ORGANIZED EXHIBITIONS IN NEW YORK AND HOUSTON AS WELL AS IN FRANCE AND GERMANY, AND IS CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE POMPIDOU ART AND CULTURE FOUNDATION IN PARIS. SHE HAS PLAYED A PRIMARY ROLE IN THE RENAISSANCE OF ARTS INSTITUTIONS IN HOUSTON, WHERE A NEW MUSEUM WILL SOON HOUSE THE WORLD-ACCLAIMED COLLECTION OF DOMINIQUE DE MENIL AND HER LATE HUSBAND, JOHN. WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE HER HERE TODAY.

EXXON CORPORATION BEGAN ITS SUPPORT OF THE ARTS IN THE FORTIES, AND TODAY IT IS KNOWN BY MILLIONS FOR ITS PROMOTION OF THE ARTS ON TELEVISION - THROUGH GREAT PERFORMANCES AND LIVE FROM LINCOLN CENTER. A PIONEER OF THE PROGRAM, DANCE IN AMERICA, EXXON NOT ONLY BROUGHT DANCE INTO AMERICAN LIVING ROOMS, BUT STIMULATED LIVE DANCE PERFORMANCE ACROSS AMERICA. EXXON HAS ALSO SUPPORTED THE TECHNOLOGY OF LIVE BROADCAST AND SIMULCAST FOR AUDIO FIDELITY. OVER 300 NEW ORCHESTRAL AND CHAMBER WORKS BY AMERICAN COMPOSERS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO BROAD AUDIENCES BY THIS CORPORATION. EXXON IS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF ENLIGHTENED CORPORATE SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS. WITH US TODAY IS JACK CLARKE, EXXON'S SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR.

SEYMOUR H. KNOX WAS BORN IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK WHERE HE STILL LIVES. AS A COLLECTOR AND PATRON, HIS CONTRIBUTION TO HIS BIRTHPLACE IS EVERLASTING. FEW KNOW THAT HE WAS A CHAMPION POLO AND SQUASH PLAYER IN HIS YOUTH WHO REPRESENTED OUR COUNTRY IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS. HOWEVER, HE WILL BE MOST REMEMBERED FOR HIS PERCEPTIVE "EYE" FOR THE NEW AND HIS DARING AS A COLLECTOR OF COMTEMPORARY ART. THE ALBRIGHT-KNOX GALLERY, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MR. KNOX, SET MAJOR PRECEDENTS IN OPENING ITS DOORS TO MODERN ART. WE ARE PLEASED TO AWARD HIM THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS.