

The Handel Medallion

The Handel Medallion was established 1959 under Mayor Robert F. Wagner in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Handel's death. It is New York City's highest award for contributions to the city's intellectual and cultural life. It is not given every year. The Oratorio Society of New York received the medal on its 100th anniversary in 1974.

Handel Medallion Recipients

- 1959** John Celebre, John M. Conway, Thea Dispecker, Robert W. Dowling, John Effrat, The Equitable Choral Club, Dr. George Federer, Ruggero Ferace di Villa Foresta, Virginia Innes-Brown, Newel Jenkins, Dr. Antonine T. Knoppers, John E. McCarthy, John McKeen, James F. Oates, Charles Pappas, Richard C. Patterson Jr., James J. Rorimer, Rose M. Singer, Sir Hugh Stephenson
- 1960** Elizabeth Barry, Sara Baum, Stuart Chanin, Joan Davis, Malcolm Frager, Jaime Laredo, Isaac Stern
- 1963** Rudolph Bing, Leopold Stokowoski, Earl Wrightson
- 1964** Sidney Poitier, John D. Rockefeller III, George Seuffert, Dr. S. Arthur Keith Swenson, Paul Taubman
- 1965** Joseph B. Martinson, Henry Moore, Carlos Moseley, Julius Rudel
- 1966** Pablo Casals, Justino Diaz, Benny Goodman, Lionel Hampton, Jane Marsh, Jan Peerce, David Sarnoff
- 1967** Robert Russell Bennett, Marc Chagall, George Delacorte, Rebekah Harkness, Richard Rodgers, William Schuman, Richard Tucker
- 1968** Charles Beetz, Janet Schenk
- 1969** Milton Cross, Helen Hull, Claire Reis, Peter Wilhousky
- 1970** George Balanchine, Ben Chancy, Martha Graham, Hall Johnson, Robert Merrill, John L. Motley, Alice Tully, William Warfield
- 1971** Aaron Copland, Dorothy Kirsten, Joseph Papp
- 1972** Charles Chaplin, Dizzy Gillespie, Francis Robinson, Virgil Thomson
- 1973** Harold Arlen, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Geraldine Fitzgerald, Gary Graffman, Melissa Hayden, Sol Hurok, Lincoln Kirstein, Louise Nevelson, Arthur Rubinstein, Beverly Sills
- 1974** **The Oratorio Society of New York**
- 1975** Lucia Chase, Joshua Logan, The Metropolitan Opera, Oliver Smith
- 1976** George Abbott, Agnes de Mille, Dame Margot Fonteyn, Eva LeGallienne, Yehudi Menuhin, Jerome Robbins, Lee Strasberg
- 1977** Marian Anderson, Leonard Bernstein
- 1978** Elliot Carter, Valdimir Horowitz
- 1979** Andres Segovia
- 1980** Marilyn Horne
- 1981** Lena Horne, Robert Joffrey, John Lennon (posthumous)
- 1985** Leontyne Price
- 1986** Isaac Bashevis Singer, Anthony Tudor
- 1989** Charles Wadsworth
- 1996** Kitty Carlisle Hart
- 1997** Lyle Russell Cedric "Skitch" Henderson
- 1999** Merce Cunningham
- 2000** Licia Albanese, Roberta Peters
- 2008** Neil Simon
- 2009** Jessye Norman
- 2010** Judith Jameson
- 2011** Stephen Sondheim
- 2013** Harvey Lichtenstein