

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STEVE REICH AWARDED POLAR MUSIC PRIZE FOR 2007

In a press conference today at The Royal Swedish Academy of Music (Stockholm), Chairman of the Board and Award Committee, Mr. Ake Holquist, announced that Boosey & Hawkes composer Steve Reich will receive the Polar Music Prize for 2007.

Steve Reich Citation

"The 2007 Polar Music Prize is awarded to the American composer and musician Steve Reich. The award recognises his unique ability to use repeats, canon technique and minimal variation of patterns to develop an entire universe of evocative music, endowed with immediate tonal beauty. Inspired by different musical traditions, Steve Reich has transferred questions of faith, society and philosophy into a hypnotic sounding music that has inspired musicians and composers of all genres."

*musical excellence
across genres*

The Polar Music Prize was founded in 1989 by the late Stig Anderson, who donated a large sum of money to The Royal Swedish Academy of Music to establish an award foundation, leading to the creation of the Polar Music Prize. Since its inception in 1992, the list of recipients has included such lauded musicians as Pierre Boulez, Dizzy Gillespie, Ravi Shankar, Joni Mitchell, Isaac Stern, Sir Paul McCartney, Keith Jarrett, Mstislav Rostropovich, as well as Steve Reich's 2007 co-recipient, Sonny Rollins. Winners of the prize receive a total amount of one million Swedish Crowns.

The prize will be presented at the Stockholm Concert Hall by His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden, to be followed by a celebratory banquet at Grand Hôtel. The Consul General of Sweden will host a reception and press event on February 1 in New York, with both Steve Reich and Sonny Rollins in attendance.

*Reich, internationally
recognized*

The Royal Swedish Academy of Music is not the first to recognize the magnitude of Reich's impact on the musical world. In 2006 The Japan Art Association presented him with the Praemium Imperiale for Music and in 2005 he received the MacDowell Medal for his outstanding contribution to the world of the arts. The year 2000 brought five additional honors: the Schuman Prize from Columbia University, the Montgomery Fellowship from Dartmouth College, the Regent's Lectureship at the University of California at Berkeley, an honorary doctorate from the California Institute of the Arts, and *Musical America's* Composer of the Year. Reich has also received two Grammy Awards: in 1990, for "Best Contemporary Composition" for *Different Trains*, and in 1998, "Best Small Ensemble Performance" for *Music for 18 Musicians*.

This season honors Steve Reich's 70th birthday, with performances and celebrations at numerous prestigious institutions throughout the United States and around the world.