



## **3,500 So Far Registered To Attend National Performing Arts Convention (NPAC) Next Week**

- ***More than 9,500 have already participated by reading the official blog - based on key sessions - electronically beginning the convening;***
- ***Over 60 sessions and presentations to take place plus many live performances –some just announced including Dianne Reeves;***
- ***‘AmericaSpeaks’ will guide process for setting future agenda for the performing arts;***
- ***‘ArtsTown’ to include 215 exhibitors.***

June 4, 2008, (New York, NY) – The nation’s first truly combined National Performing Arts Convention (NPAC) has reached 3,500 registered attendees a week before convening. Never before have 30 national performing arts service organizations come together from all fields, such as dance, music, opera and theatre, to tackle their shared challenges and learn which industry-wide solutions work best. Scheduled for June 10-14 in Denver, Colorado, NPAC will bring together people with a diverse range of interests in the non-profit performing arts to shape the direction of the industry for the next decade. Attendance is open to everyone.

Since April 1, NPAC has run a group blog, ‘Program Notes,’ in conjunction with ArtsJournal. Weekly entries posted at [www.artsjournal.com/npac](http://www.artsjournal.com/npac) by top bloggers have served as platforms for digital debate and discussion with over 9,500 readers so far. At the convention both the entries and comments will inform the live NPAC sessions. Continuing the digital effort at the convention, twenty bloggers representing various artistic genres and roles will report on NPAC. Entries on sessions, networking events and performances will be posted throughout the four days and an open comment field will be created for general discussion.

Nearly 100 arts leaders and visionaries will be presenting at NPAC. Some of the best known names include acclaimed author of *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap...and Others Don't* Jim Collins, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel, Baltimore Symphony music director Marin Alsop, Venezuelan music education phenomenon Jose Antonio Abreu, current and former National Endowment for the Arts chairs Dana Gioia and Bill Ivey, actor (*The West Wing, The Practice, Philadelphia, Rent, The American President*) playwright and teacher Anna Deavere Smith and artistic director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Bill Rauch – to name a few.

In tandem with the 60-odd sessions, Denver will be particularly alive with performance during NPAC. A total of 126 performances are being offered by more than 50 companies, including four world premieres and the U.S. debut of European conductor Damian Iorio in *The Rape of Lucretia*. Every major Colorado performing arts group will be performing with many adjusting their normal schedules so their seasons coincide next week. Also Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves will perform during the closing NPAC session on Saturday, June 14. A full list of presenters, performances and sessions can be found at [www.performingartsconvention.org](http://www.performingartsconvention.org).

A cornerstone of NPAC will be the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Town Meeting of the Performing Arts implemented by *AmericaSpeaks*. Caucus sessions will be held each day, designed to cull ideas for consideration at Saturday's concluding Town Meeting. Facilitators will work with tables of ten, to identify and discuss core questions that impact the future of the arts. Responses from the tables will be compiled and shared with the full convention. On Saturday, June 14, the ideas that came out of the caucuses will be addressed at a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Town Meeting®. Using the latest technologies, topics will be consolidated, discussed and voted upon by all present, each with an individual touch pad. Results will be projected on large video screens to identify and hone agenda issues for the whole performing arts community. At this concluding session, attendees will have established clear priorities for action toward a stronger future for the performing arts in America.

Meanwhile on the upper level of the Convention Center, *ArtsTown* will be full of activity. Using Denver's model of "ArtsTown 2028" as inspiration, the NPAC exhibition floor is designed to reflect a healthy community where the arts and the art of doing business are intrinsically linked, where the pace of performance is balanced with the room to relax and refuel and where you can discover hundreds of new ideas. In addition to 215 exhibitors, there will be performances, the main NPAC registration desk, a Town Hall advocacy center, opportunities to meet one-on-one with experts at the smART bar, a public library and bookstore, the POP Cyber Café, the Prague Quadrennial Exhibit, message boards and convenient lunch options, free coffee and indoor parks.

Participants will be able to easily register on-site at the Colorado Convention Center next week. Also people can still register online; however payment must be processed in person in Denver. Full details and registration information are at [www.performingartsconvention.org](http://www.performingartsconvention.org).

Participating NPAC national arts service organizations include: Alternate Roots, American Association of Community Theatre, American Composers Forum, American Music Center,

Americans for the Arts, Association of Performing Arts Presenters, Chamber Music America, Chorus America, Conductors Guild, Creative Capital, Dance USA, Early Music America, Folk Alliance, Fractured Atlas, The Future of Music Coalition, Grantmakers in the Arts, International Performing Arts for Youth, International Society for the Performing Arts, Kaiser Permanente Educational Theater Program, League of American Orchestras, Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, Meet the Composer, Music Critics Association of North America, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, National Association of Latino Arts and Culture, National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts, National Performance Network, North American Performing Arts Managers and Agents, OPERA America, Theatre Communications Group, and University/Resident Theatre Association.

NPAC is made possible through the generous support of a range of donors and sponsors. A full list is available at <http://performingartsconvention.org/sponsors.htm>

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