



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**The Kennedy Center's National Committee for the Performing Arts
presents**

Tod Machover

with the

NCPA Award for Arts Advocacy

Machover Presented with the Inaugural Award at NCPA meeting September 21

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)—The Kennedy Center's National Committee for the Performing Arts (NCPA) has awarded Tod Machover with its inaugural Award for Arts Advocacy. The award was presented at the Committee's meeting in Boston, Massachusetts on September 21, 2013.

The NCPA Award for Arts Advocacy is given to individuals who have dramatically affected the performing arts landscape through their arts advocacy efforts. The award honors not only the creative talents of the recipient, but the passion of those who support the arts in our schools, communities, and everyday lives. The Award will be presented biannually at culturally rich cities throughout the country.

"We are proud to present Tod Machover with the inaugural Award for Arts Advocacy," stated Norine Fuller, Chairwoman of the Kennedy Center's National Committee for the Performing Arts. "Whether it be in opera, video games or beyond, Tod is devoted to extending musical expression to everyone, from virtuosos to amateurs."

ABOUT TOD MACHOVER

Tod Machover is head of the Media Lab's Opera of the Future group. An influential composer, he has been praised for creating music that breaks traditional artistic and cultural boundaries; his music has been performed and commissioned by some of the world's most important performers and ensembles. In 1995, he received a "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres," one of

France's highest cultural honors, and in 1998 he was awarded the first DigiGlobe Prize from the German government. He has composed five operas and is the inventor of Hyperinstruments, a technology that uses smart computers to augment virtuosity. Hyperinstruments have been used by performers such as Yo-Yo Ma, Prince, and Peter Gabriel. Machover is also the creator of the Toy Symphony, an international music performance and education project. His research group is currently examining ways to use music in therapy for emotionally and physically challenged individuals. Machover's opera, *Death and the Powers*, premiered in Monte-Carlo in the fall 2010; the project was developed by a creative team of international artists, designers, writers, and theatrical luminaries, as well as by an interdisciplinary team of Media Lab graduate and undergraduate students. Scored for a small ensemble of specially designed Hyperinstruments, *Powers* features a robotic, animatronic stage—the first of its kind—that gradually “comes alive” as the opera's main character. *Powers* was a finalist for the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Music. Machover, who was formerly director of musical research at Pierre Boulez's IRCAM institute in Paris, received both his B.M. and M.M. from the Juilliard School in New York.

ABOUT THE NCPA

The National Committee for the Performing Arts (NCPA) was established in 1993 as an organization to support, enhance and advocate national arts education through the Kennedy Center, as the National Center for the Performing Arts. The NCPA is comprised of business, cultural, political and philanthropic leaders from across America who are supporters of the performing arts. NCPA members serve as ambassadors for the Kennedy Center in their home communities and are instrumental in spreading the Center's artistic and educational vision across the country. The NCPA, in its advocacy position on behalf of the Kennedy Center, is not charged with either operational concerns or legal responsibilities of the Center. Its mandate covers the challenge of bringing the work of the Kennedy Center to audiences and constituencies throughout the United States. The NCPA's support is designated to Kennedy Center education and related supporting artistic programming. The members' strong commitment to providing substantial funds through personal contributions, solicitations, and sponsorship of development events significantly furthers the quality of the arts and the arts education mission of the Kennedy Center.

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