



For Immediate Release

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APAP|NYC 2020 Ushers in New Decade of Creativity in the Performing Arts; Closes 63rd Annual Global Performing Arts Gathering with Ben Folds; New APAP Board Members Announced

January 15, 2020 – The Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) closed its annual conference on Tuesday, January 14, with a conversation on this year’s focus on “Risk and Resilience” with Ben Folds, multi-platinum selling singer-songwriter and arts education champion. “Having the license to fail is what we need when we’re making anything,” Mr. Folds said when asked about the risks he takes in pursuing his artistic endeavors. As host of the “ArtsVote 2020” podcast series, Mr. Folds has been interviewing 2020 presidential candidates. He shared why he felt these conversations were so important for our industry as well as the wider public to hear. “The arts are a big part of our economy...a big art of life and how we express ourselves, communicate and measure our happiness,” said Mr. Folds. “I want to know that people who are making policy, commandeering a big part of the economy like this, understands how it works and have ideas for it. That would tell me about how they view the rest of life and how they would steer other policy – get to the center of who they are.”

Mr. Folds is a highly recognized champion for arts education and music therapy funding in our nation’s public schools. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Americans for the Arts’ Arts Action Fund’s ArtsVote2020 national initiative to advocate for a greater commitment to the nation’s creative economy through improved public policies for the arts and arts education.

The 63rd annual global performing arts gathering brought together thousands of arts professionals from around the country and 31 countries. With an EXPO Hall boasting nearly 400 booths, dozens of professional development sessions, pre-conference intensives and forums and featuring more than 1000 world-class artist showcases, APAP|NYC concluded its six-day event with Mr. Folds reminding us that “music is communication” and that our field is helping to make a difference in this world through our creative pursuits everyday.

Every year, the APAP membership meets at the conference to elect board members for the organization. On January 13, APAP members voted in new

2020 board members: Amy Lam, Artistic Programmer, Celebrity Series (Boston, MA); Omari Rush, Executive Director, Culture Source (Detroit, MI); Beatrice Thomas, Consultant, Arts Equity Strategist, Artist (San Francisco, CA); and Cristina Vazquez, Director, Contenidos Artisticos (Chicago, IL).

About APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals

APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals, based in Washington, D.C., is the national service, advocacy and membership organization dedicated to developing and supporting a robust, performing arts presenting field and the professionals who work within it. Our 1,600 national and international members represent leading performing arts centers, municipal and university performance facilities, nonprofit performing arts centers, culturally specific organizations, foreign governments, as well as artist agencies, managers, touring companies, and national consulting practices that serve the field, and a growing roster of self-presenting artists. As a leader in the field, APAP works to effect change through advocacy, professional development, resource sharing and civic engagement. APAP is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and led by President & CEO Mario Garcia Durham. In addition to presenting the annual APAP|NYC conference—the world's leading gathering and marketplace for the performing arts (Jan. 8-12, 2021)—APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting.

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