

# Artists as Mentors



“As one chosen by destiny and richly endowed by nature, the artist must have a sense of obligation toward those who are denied these riches. It is for him to repay nature and to offer his gifts to humanity, in all humility of heart, as an act of gratitude for the grace bestowed upon him.”

—SERGE KOUSSEVITZKY



*A mentor* is a trusted friend, a teacher, an experienced person who encourages us to do our best, to achieve more than we may believe we can. Many successful people give credit to key people who have helped them on their way.

The mentor-protégé relationship can be one of the most important in our lives.

In this exhibit are a few examples of people who have led and continue to lead the way for others. There are thousands more.

Are there people who have helped you whom you want to thank? Are there people to whom you need to reach out a hand?

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

—MAYA ANGELOU



“The life and essence of art – whether it is a painting, music or dance – lies in expressing a wellspring of emotion, the universal realm of the human spirit. It is a melding of the individual and the universal. That is why great art reaches out beyond ethnic and national barriers to move people the world over.”

—DAISAKU IKEDA, *Founder of ICAP and President of Soka Gakkai International*

**This exhibit is sponsored by the International Committee of Artists for Peace (ICAP)**, a coalition of artists and organizations dedicated to promoting global peace and individual happiness through concerts, exhibitions, educational activities and programs for young people. You can read more about ICAP at [www.icapeace.org](http://www.icapeace.org)

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# Quincy Jones

## Touching and transforming lives

“Quincy Jones’ entire life is a testament to the power of mentoring. Through his spirit, insight, inspiration, and caring, Quincy has touched and transformed many lives—ranging from celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey and Will Smith to former gang members in South Central Los Angeles. Through his work with UNICEF and other international agencies, he has served as a role model for using the power of celebrity to improve the lot of humankind.”

—DR. JAY WINSTEN  
*Associate Dean, Harvard  
School of Public Health*

**Quincy Jones** is a musician, composer and music producer with a long and distinguished career. In his more than fifty years in the entertainment industry, Jones has earned 79 Grammy Award nominations and 27 Grammys. In 1991, he won the Grammy Legend Award. He has seven Academy Award nominations and in 1995 won the Academy’s Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award.

Quincy Jones credits Ray Charles, jazz great Count Basie and musical director Bobby Tucker as early influences on his astonishing career. He says, “That’s what a mentor is all about: one person, who sees that glimmer in your eye, sees the question marks in your eye.” And Jones takes his obligation to pay back his debt to his own mentors by caring for young people all over the world.

Jones founded the Listen Up Foundation in 1991 to “break the cycle of poverty and violence by connecting children with education, technology, culture, and the roots and fruits of music.” The foundation supports programs that meet the critical needs of children—healthcare and education. Listen Up works with local programs that are capable of a global reach.

“I feel that there is a wealth of untapped greatness in the younger generation that needs a jump start to come forth,” Jones says. “I see young kids giving up. They don’t think they can live past 25. It’s a ray of hope when they realize they can expect more from their lives.”



**Claude Nobs** (1936) is the founder and general manager of the Montreux jazz Festival. Nobs has recorded Montreux performances for more than forty years, using the most advanced technology of the time, creating a priceless archive. His passion for music and gift for friendship has helped to make him internationally famous and beloved. Nobs has received numerous awards and honorary degrees saluting his long leadership of the most famous music festival in the world. Carlos Santana says of Nobs, "This is the diamond of all the festivals. It's because of his heart. He doesn't have any fear, he attracts and he wills things to happen like no one else."

# Claude Nobs

## Jazz Festival Encourages Young Talent

**M**entoring and encouraging young musicians has been central to the Montreux Jazz Festival from the beginning, when Claude Nobs founded the festival in 1967.

A variety of competitions enliven every festival, and world-famous musicians offer master classes to aspiring superstars.

International jazz voice competitions, guitar competitions, and piano solo competitions honor young artists, provide them with new audiences (winners perform on one of the Festival's main stages the following year) and many other prizes.

Musical artists of many styles offer master classes, and workshops give an opportunity for visitors and professional musicians to communicate intimately.

"My biggest passion is to share all this. Sharing is essential. That's what the festival is all about — sharing the music while it happens and preserving it for the future..."

— CLAUDE NOBS



**H**erbie Hancock gives credit to the legendary Oscar Peterson, saying, “I consider him the major influence that formed my roots in jazz piano playing. He mastered the balance between technique, hard blues grooving, and tenderness. You’ll find Oscar Peterson’s influence in the generations that came after him. No one will ever be able to take his place.”

The time that Hancock spent with Miles Davis was also central to his growth. “Working with Miles was important,” Hancock says. “He told us to work outside of the comfort zone. He paid us to explore new territory and to go outside of the areas that we knew and to go into the areas we didn’t know. Those kinds of lessons are what I’m trying to carry the spirit of because it’s been engrained in me. I like the challenge of trying to find another vision or pathway for self-expression.”

Hancock recognizes his debts to others, and continues the legacy by mentoring young musicians. He is Chairman of the Board of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, an organization that offers advanced training to promising young musicians and presents jazz education programs in public schools around the world.

“I try to find different ways to find a direction to express myself, and my feelings, ideas and beliefs. I believe in humanity and the creativity of the human spirit, not just the artist. It’s part of being a human being to be creative, and one of the issues people have is that they’re generally afraid to work outside their comfort zone. So, I like to work outside of my own comfort zone.”

—HERBIE HANCOCK

# Herbie Hancock

## Credits the Influence of Jazz Greats

**Herbie Hancock** (b 1940) is a world famous jazz pianist and composer, winner of an Academy Award and numerous Grammys, including the 2008 Album of the Year for “River: The Joni Letters.”

Hancock began as a classical music student, and played a Mozart Piano concerto with the Chicago Symphony at age eleven. In high school, he began to listen to jazz, influenced by Oscar Peterson and George Shearing recordings and the vocal group the Hi-Lo’s.

Playing with his mentor Miles Davis in the 1960s, Hancock also made many influential jazz recordings on his own and with a variety of ensembles. He later explored electronic sound and other genres, constantly experimenting and working with a wide variety of collaborators. Hancock has exceptional range, from classic jazz to fusion to funk to rhythm and blues.



# Ray Charles

## Music Has Its Own Soul

**Ray Charles** (1930-2004) was a pianist and musician who helped to create the sound of rhythm and blues. Charles, blind since the age of seven, rose to national prominence with his song "I Got a Woman" which topped the Billboard R&B singles chart in 1955. Songs such as "What'd I Say," "Georgia On My Mind," "Hit the Road Jack," and "Unchain My Heart," helped him reach pop success, and his unique version of "America the Beautiful" was widely celebrated. His final album, "Genius Loves Company," was released two months after his death. It consists of duets with a variety of musical luminaries, and the album won eight Grammy Awards.

Ray Charles named neighbor Wiley Pittman as his first mentor. He said, "Wiley Pittman, he was a cat. I mean, if it hadn't been for him, I don't think I'd be a musician today. He had a little café, a general store, and he had a piano in there. I was 3 years old and—I don't know why I loved him, I can't explain that—but any time he'd start to practicing and playing that boogie woogie—I loved that boogie woogie sound—I would stop playing as a child, I didn't care who was out there in the yard, my buddies, or whoever, I would leave them, and go inside and sit by him and listen to him play.

So he started to teach me how to play little melodies with one finger. And, of course, I realize today that he could've said, 'Kid, get away from me, can't you see I'm practicing?'

But he didn't. He took the time. Somehow he knew in his heart, this kid loves music so much, I'm going to do whatever I can to help him learn how to play."

Renowned musician and producer Quincy Jones credits Ray Charles as an early mentor. He says, "When we met I was 14, he was 16. I just looked up to him because he knew how to do it all.

"He always used to say to us, 'Quincy, play the music the way it was originally conceived because that's the original soul of the music, and every music has its own soul.' And that stuck with me the rest of my life."

"Somehow he knew in his heart, this kid loves music so much, I'm going to do whatever I can to help him learn how to play."

—RAY CHARLES



# Gloria Estefan

## Grandmother Filled Her Life with Possibilities

**Gloria Estefan**, born Gloria Fajardo in Cuba in 1957, is a five-time Grammy winning singer and songwriter and one of the first Latin American performers to reach large mainstream audiences. Estefan was raised primarily in Miami, Florida, after her father was forced to flee Cuba. In 1975 she joined a local wedding band headed by keyboardist Emilio Estefan whom she married in 1979. As the Miami Sound Machine, the group gained a large Latin fan base. Their 1984 hit, "Dr. Beat" topped European dance charts, and Estefan has continued to record hit songs while she performs internationally. In 2006, Sony released a 2-CD compilation, "The Essential Gloria Estefan," that features most of her biggest hits from 1984 to 2003.

"Success takes perseverance, determination, and an unwavering belief in what you have chosen to do."

— GLORIA ESTEFAN

Gloria Estefan credits her maternal grandmother, Consuelo Garcia as her mentor: "She was a strong, caring, spiritual humanitarian who filled my life with possibilities, and through her example, gave me the belief that there was nothing I could not do or achieve in life...

My grandmother always pointed out my strengths and filled me with hope for the future. She constantly nourished my inquisitiveness, and shared many quests for seeking answers to my questions. She wasn't afraid to let me see her vulnerability, and made that intimacy an asset to be celebrated. Primarily through her example, I learned that we, as women, have limitless potential. I finally said yes to music because of her.

The most valuable lessons I learned from my grandmother were to discover what makes you happy, and do it with as much energy and joy as you can muster. And that success takes perseverance, determination, and an unwavering belief in what you have chosen to do. I feel fortunate to have found such an amazing mentor... She had a profound influence on who I am and continues to be my inspiration."

Continuing the family tradition, at a 2007 concert Estefan introduced her 13-year-old daughter Emily who plays the drums. "She's focused on that and she's very good," Estefan said. "But she knows she has to study and then decide. I am not going to push her, or prevent her from developing herself. It's a matter of time." Estefan also mentors young musicians and music students.



“Dolly paved the way for myself and many young black singers and gave us the courage to reach for the stars...”

— MIRIAM MAKEBA

**Miriam Makeba**, (b 1932) the legendary “Mama Africa,” began her career in her native South Africa, singing a blend of jazz and South African music. She left South Africa in 1959, and aided by Harry Belafonte went to the United States where many of her most famous hits were recorded. Her Grammy-winning 1966 album with Belafonte dealt with the plight of black South Africans under apartheid. Makeba moved to Guinea in the 1970s, and continued to perform widely. Nelson Mandela persuaded her to return to South Africa in 1990, where she appeared in films and concerts. In 2005 she began a worldwide farewell tour, preparing to devote more time to her center for homeless girls in Johannesburg.

**M**iriam Makeba credits Dolly Rathebe as a critical influence in her life and music. Rathebe, a jazz singer and actor, was a major figure in South African music and film before black culture was suppressed by the apartheid regime. She made a comeback in the 1990s and performed widely before her death in 2004.

Makeba honored her long-time friend and mentor, Dolly Rathebe, with a 2001 tribute concert. Makeba said that Rathebe guided and inspired her for more than 50 years. “Dolly paved the way for myself and many young black singers and gave us the courage to reach for the stars in the often very difficult 1950’s and paved the way for today’s music stars,” she said. The Dolly Rathebe Miriam Makeba Charitable Trust was established as a way to thank Rathebe for her inspiration, courage and support.

Carrying on the tradition of older artists mentoring young people, girls between eight and 16 were auditioned to take part in the tribute concert alongside Makeba and other well-known local and international singers.

Makeba has a longstanding commitment to humanitarian issues. She was a Guinean delegate to the United Nations, and won the Dag Hammarskjöld Peace Prize in 1986. Since 1999 she has been a Food and Agriculture (FAO) of the United Nations ambassador campaigning against world hunger.

# Miriam Makeba

## Credits South African Singer as Mentor



# India.Arie

## Thanks to Mom—and Stevie Wonder

**India.Arie** (she added the period because it looked good in a logo) is a songwriter and guitar player, a rising star as a “hot and hip” performer with a trademark blend of R&B, jazz, folk, hip-hop and pop. Born in Denver, CO, in 1975, music was always in Arie’s life. The family moved to Atlanta when India was 13 and after high school she began playing guitar. Her first album, “Acoustic Soul,” released in 2001, brought her seven Grammy nominations—the most of any solo artists. Her next album, “Voyage to India” rose to the top spot on Billboard’s R&B Chart shortly after its release in 2002 and won two Grammys. Her third album, *Testimony: Vol. 1, Life & Relationship*, was released in 2006 and was nominated for three Grammys.

I listen to the people that say that they have been inspired by me, whether it be Glenn Lewis or India (Arie) or Alicia (Keys) or whomever it might be, and you know, yeah, I hear a little me in there, and I like that. You know, we are all influenced by each other. I mean, believe me, I was influenced by Jackie Wilson, Donnie Hathaway, and some of the Beatles stuff, and we can go on and on and on. There are a lot of talented singers out there, and I think the great thing about music is that it is becoming universal, and that’s good.

—STEVIE WONDER

Arie credits her mother, now her stylist, as one of her most important influences. More than 30 years ago, Arie’s mother sang as part of an opening act for a Stevie Wonder concert at Michigan State University.

Today, Stevie Wonder has become India.Arie’s friend and mentor. Their duet of “The Christmas Song,” recorded for a Target TV commercial, was nominated for a Grammy in 2002, and she sings with Wonder on the title track of his 2005 album, “A Time to Love,” written by Arie.

India.Arie is also an Ambassador for UNICEF and is a tireless champion of social and humanitarian causes around the world. She performed at the 2006 UNICEF Snowflake Gala in NYC and has assisted in humanitarian efforts in Africa. In 2005 she worked with Ashley Judd on “Tracking The Monster,” a film on the AIDS crisis.

“Both my mom and dad encouraged me, but once I started singing, my mom was my mentor. She grew up in Detroit when Motown was new, and taught me everything about singing and songwriting. My ‘formal training’ was my mom saying, ‘Try this.’”

—INDIA.ARIE





# Ellis Marsalis

## Renowned Music Educator

**Ellis Marsalis** (b. 1934) has had tremendous influence on jazz both through his own music and through his career as a music educator. As a pianist, Marsalis played with such luminaries as Cannonball Adderley and Al Hirt. He recorded nearly twenty albums and has been featured with many jazz greats.

**E**llis Marsalis' lifelong focus has been on teaching and mentoring young musicians. As an educator at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (CCA), the University of New Orleans and Xavier University of Louisiana, Marsalis has touched the careers of countless musicians including Terence Blanchard, Harry Connick, Jr. and Nicholas Payton.

Marsalis's four internationally renowned musician sons, Wynton, Branford, Delfeayo and Jason Marsalis all attended the CCA and speak admiringly of their father's musicianship and teaching skills. His youngest son, Jason, says that his father is, "a responsible role model... He's someone that had command over being not only a father, but a man... someone you could go to for either information or advice. He's someone that understands very clearly what is needed of any individual."

"I never thought of myself as a teacher. I used to always look at myself as being a coach."

— ELLIS MARSALIS



# Carlos Santana

## The Power of Love

**Carlos Santana** has been called one of the greatest guitarists of all time. Born in Mexico in 1949, Santana is a renowned musician and Latin-rock guitarist. Santana was introduced to traditional Mexican music by his violinist father, then played rock and roll guitar with local bands where he began to invent his own sound. Moving to the United States in the early 1960s, Santana soon formed his own band and his Latin-flavored rock became enormously popular.

**E**arly in his career Carlos Santana emulated his heroes—John Lee Hooker, T. Bone Walker, and B.B. King—whom he heard on powerful American radio stations when their signals crossed the border to Tijuana. In 1999, when Santana signed with Arista Records, he was reunited with mentor Clive Davis, thirty years after signing his first major recording contract with the Columbia executive. His 36th album, “Supernatural” won nine Grammys in 2000, including Album of the Year.

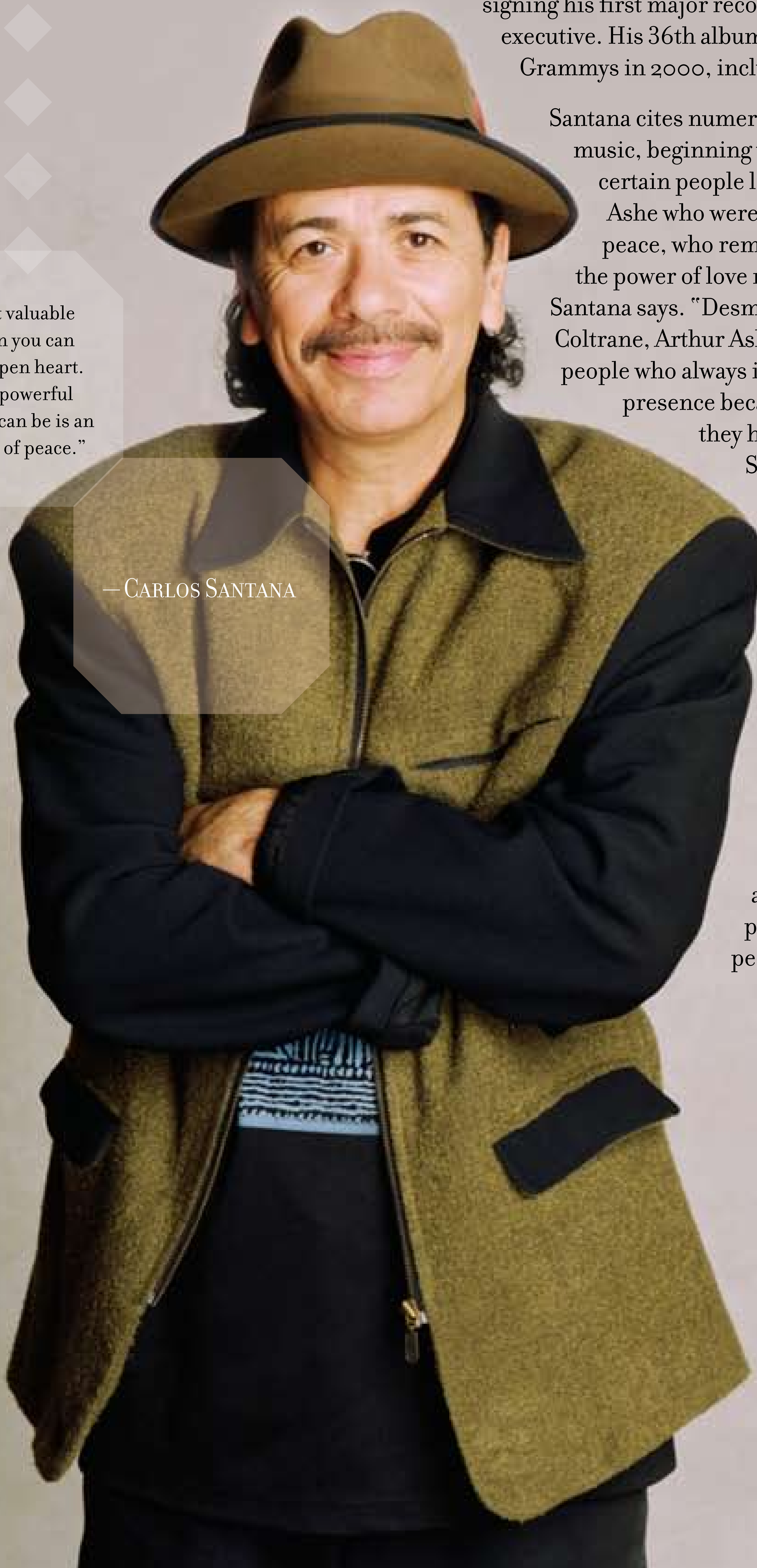
Santana cites numerous influences on his life and music, beginning with John Coltrane. “There are certain people like John Coltrane and Arthur Ashe who were not hostile in their power of peace, who remind us of the saying, “When the power of love replaces the love for power,”” Santana says. “Desmond Tutu, Harry Belafonte, John Coltrane, Arthur Ashe, Bob Dylan, there are certain people who always impress when you’re in their presence because when they walk into a room they have a seriously powerful spirit.”

Santana also has been a mentor and inspiration to young musicians, and to children and youth in general.

In 1998 Santana and his wife Deborah founded Milagro, a charitable foundation that funds work with children and youth throughout the world. The foundation focuses on at-risk and disadvantaged children by providing education and health services. Milagro also supports arts and culture programs that strengthen young people and communities.

“The most valuable possession you can own is an open heart. The most powerful weapon you can be is an instrument of peace.”

—CARLOS SANTANA



# Wayne Shorter

“Wayne is a Transformer”

“What you’re doing onstage, if you’re in this higher condition and you’re performing, something transcends the music and reaches to the inside of someone else. And it’s deeper and longer than a hit song. It’s infinite. It triggers a well of wisdom.”

—WAYNE SHORTER

Shorter credits a number of major influences on his life and music including John Coltrane, Miles Davis and good friend Herbie Hancock. In turn, many younger musicians have been nurtured by Shorter and his music. Jazz pianist Rachel Nicolazzo (known as Rachel Z) credits Shorter as her mentor and say that his compositions helped her to bridge the gap between her classical training and jazz, and drummer Terri Lyne Carrington thinks of Shorter as her spiritual mentor. In his late 60s, Shorter is performing and recording with three young musicians who grew up studying his music, creating a new kind of comradarie and carrying the music and the legacy forward.

Herbie Hancock says of Shorter, “Wayne is a transformer. He exudes such honesty, purity, trust, and respect for others that he can transform, elevate, and awaken you life while you’re both having fun. Wayne transforms people, all right, and he gets better and better at it. It’s as though he’s aware that it’s safe to be honest, pure, and trusting. It’s a source of light. He sees that inside everyone, and wants to let that light reveal itself in others.”

**Wayne Shorter** (b. 1933) is a renowned jazz saxophone player and composer. Shorter is noted for avoiding the conventional and finding new ways to express his musical genius. He has recorded dozens of albums as a leader and appears on many more award-winning recordings with others. Shorter played with Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers in the late 1950s, Miles Davis’s second great quintet in the 1960s and the jazz-rock fusion band Weather Report, which Shorter co-led in the 1970s. Shorter formed his current band, an acoustic quartet, in 2000. His albums have won numerous Grammy awards. Shorter has recorded with singer Joni Mitchell since 1977, and also plays on Herbie Hancock’s “River: The Joni Letters,” a 2007 Grammy-winning tribute album to Mitchell.



**Y**o Yo Ma was first mentored by violinist Isaac Stern who heard Ma play at age six and helped the family settle when they immigrated to the United States the following year. Stern also introduced Ma to cellist Leonard Rose with whom Ma studied for many years. Composer-conductor Leon Kirchner was his primary mentor at Harvard University where Ma studied in the 1970s.

In recent years, Ma began the Silk Road Project to explore the music and culture of countries along the ancient Central Asian trade routes as a way to express the idea of music as an international language. Ma is a mentor and role model to the Asian musicians in the Silk Road ensemble. Wu Man, a Chinese lute player, says “Ma is like a big brother to us. He’s the greatest communicator I have ever met. He is able to use his music to create connections between people, and teaches us to listen to each other better both as musicians and human beings.”

Ma takes the nurturing of young talent seriously, teaching master classes everywhere he goes and playing with youth orchestras. He is committed to an optimistic point of view and says, “One of the joys of working with children is that they are still unspoiled by cynicism.”

In 2006 Ma was named a Peace Ambassador of the United Nations.

“When you learn something from people, or from a culture, you accept it as a gift, and it is your lifelong commitment to preserve it and build on it.”

—YO YO MA

# Yo Yo Ma

## Uses music to create connections

**Born** in 1955 to Chinese parents living in Paris, Yo Yo Ma is the most famous cellist of our time. He gave his first concert at age five, and was hailed as a virtuoso at an early age. He has played with the world’s major orchestras and his many recordings have won multiple Grammy awards. His many other activities range from appearing on children’s television programs to scoring and playing on film soundtracks.

