

# Rollins, Reich Receive Prize

STOCKHOLM, Sweden – Sonny Rollins and Steve Reich have been named winners of the Polar Music Prize Award for 2007, announced by the Royal Swedish Academy of Music.

Ake Holmquist, Chairman of the Board and Award Committee, read the Award Committee's citations:

The Sonny Rollins Citation: "The 2007 Polar Music Prize is awarded to the American tenor saxophonist and composer Sonny Rollins, one of the most powerful and personal voices in jazz for more than 50 years. Sonny Rollins has elevated the unaccompanied solo to the highest artistic level—all characterized by a distinctive and powerful sound, irresistible swing, and an individual musical sense of humor. He is still active and the greatest remaining master from one of jazz's seminal eras."

The Steve Reich Citation: "The 2007 Polar Music Prize is awarded to the American composer and musician Steve Reich. The award recognizes 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."

"It's a real honor for me to receive the Polar Prize from the great country of Sweden," Rollins said. "Sweden has always been one of my favorite places to play over the years. The Swedish public has been very receptive to my music and supportive of jazz in general."

Rollins and Reich will receive

their prizes from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden at a gala ceremony at the Stockholm Concert Hall to be followed by a celebratory banquet at Grand Hotel on Monday, May 21. Each winner receives a total amount of one million Swedish Crowns, equivalent to approximately \$140,000 or EUR 108,000.

A whole weekend of activities is being planned under the name of Polar Music Prize Week, encompassing exhibitions, workshops, seminars, film screenings, and live performances at various locations in Stockholm. On February 1, a reception and press event will be given by the Consul General of Sweden in New York to honor the 2007 Polar Music Prize recipients.

The Polar Music Prize was founded in 1989 by the late Stig "Stikkan" Anderson. As the publisher, lyricist, and manager of ABBA, he played a key role in that group's enormous success. Anderson donated a large sum of money to the Royal Swedish Academy of Music to establish the Stig Anderson Music Award Foundation in the Royal Swedish Academy of Music and to create what was to become known as the Polar Music Prize.

Past honorees include Sir Paul McCartney, Dizzy Gillespie, Witold Lutoslawski, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Quincy Jones, Mstislav Rostropovitch, Sir Elton John, Joni Mitchell, Pierre Boulez, Bruce Springsteen, Eric Ericson, Ray Charles, Ravi Shankar, Iannis Xenakis, Stevie Wonder, Bob Dylan, Isaac Stern, Burt Bacharach, Robert Moog, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Sofia Gubaidulina, Miriam Makeba, Keith Jarrett, B.B. King, György Ligeti, Gilberto Gil, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, and – in 2006 – Valery Gergiev and Led Zeppelin. **JW**

## Feldman Tapped At BluJazz

CHICAGO – Mitchell Feldman has been named managing director of the Chicago-based cooperative jazz label BluJazz Productions. Feldman's jazz publicity and radio promotion company MFA provided those services for six of the past eight CDs released by BluJazz.

"Both I and my wife Diane, who's been running BluJazz with me for the past 12 years, would like to concentrate more on our own careers as musicians and be able to devote more time to performing and writing," said BluJazz president Greg Pasenko.

Feldman was previously the managing director of the jazz labels CMP Records in Germany from 1985-89 and of Synergy Music in Denver in 2004 and 2005.

"I'm delighted to take on the additional responsibilities at BluJazz and free up more time for Greg and Diane to concentrate on their own music," Feldman said.

Feldman's has been coordinating the release of three new titles scheduled to come out on the BluJazz over the next few months: *Brownstone*, a tribute by Brooklyn-based saxophonist Jeff Newell's New-Trad Octet to the turn-of-the-century brass band music of John Phillip Sousa and others set for release in March 2007; *Blue Nights* by Berlin-based vocalist Judy Niemack set for release in April 2007 and featuring guitarist Jean-Francois Prins, Jim McNeely on piano, Dennis Irwin on bass, drummer Victor Lewis, guest soloists Gary Bartz on alto saxophone and Don Sickler on trumpet and flugelhorn; and *Contemporary Residents* a fusion outing by saxophonist and flutist Paul Scea due out in May 2007.

MFA will maintain its core roster of clients and continue to handle radio promotion for Colorado-based Capri Records; publicity for New York-based HighNote/Savant Records and for the lower Manhattan jazz club The Jazz Gallery; and directing publicity and radio promotion activities in the US for the British jazz label Dune Records. Feldman was also recently named publicist for the 2007 Telluride Jazz Celebration taking place August 2-5. **JW**