

**For Immediate Release August 17, 2017**

**Beyond Baroque To Honor Paul Vangelisti, Wayne Lindberg, Hilda Weiss, and Jim Fleck at the 7th Annual Awards Dinner on Sunday, September 24th, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Church in Ocean Park.**

Beyond Baroque is pleased to announce that it will honor the deeply-influential poet and translator Paul Vangelisti, the poetry videographers Wayne Lindberg / Hilda Weiss, and long-time Beyond Baroque technical director Jim Fleck for their dedication to the art, craft, and performance of poetry at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner at The Church in Ocean Park on Sunday, September 24, 2017.

**Paul Vangelisti will receive the George Drury Smith Award for Outstanding Achievement in Poetry.** Previous recipients include David St. John, Wanda Coleman, Eloise Klein Healy, Bill Mohr, Suzanne Lummis, and Holly Prado. The award is given to a Los Angeles-based poet whose work has raised the profile of poetry outside the bounds of Los Angeles and has brought widespread attention to the craft of poetry in Los Angeles. Vangelisti is the author of more than twenty books of poetry, as well as being a noted translator from Italian. Most recently, *Border Music* was published by Talisman House in 2016. His translation of Adriano Spatola's *The Position of Things: Collected Poems, 1961-1992* (Green Integer, 2008) was awarded the Academy of American Poets translation prize in 2010. From 1971-1982 he was co-editor, with John McBride, of the literary magazine *Invisible City* and, from 1993-2002, edited *Ribot*, the annual report of the College of Neglected Science. Currently, with Luigi Ballerini, he is editing a six-volume anthology of U.S. poetry from 1960 to the present, *Nuova Poesia Americana*, for Mondadori in Milan. Vangelisti was Founding Chair of the Graduate Writing Program at Otis College of Art & Design, and now teaches in that program.

**Wayne Lindberg and Hilda Weiss will receive the Distinguished Service Award.** Previous recipients include S.A. Griffin, Amélie Frank, Rick Lupert, Mike Sonksen, Elena Karina Byrne, and Luis J. Rodriguez. The award is given to a Los Angeles-based poet who has inspired public interest in poetry through his or her good works, and raised the pursuit and practice of poetry to new heights through community action. Lindberg and Weiss are writers and the founding duo of *Poetry.LA*, an online video showcase of Southern Californian poets and venues. They've been documenting and archiving poetry readings since 2007, and have acquired over 300,000 hits on YouTube for their videos. Their videos cover a wide range of poets and poetry spaces, from established institutions such as Beyond Baroque, to performance venues, such as Da' Poetry Lounge in Hollywood. Through *Poetry.LA*, Lindberg and Weiss have captured the diversity and pulse of Southern California's poetry communities, revealing the region's powerful and dynamic voice.

**Jim Fleck will receive the Alexandra Garrett Award for service to Beyond Baroque.** Fleck served as Beyond Baroque's technical director for many years, providing support and assistance to well over a thousand poets and performers. He also supported the arts in Los Angeles as a freelance recording engineer, videographer, AV technician, videographer, video editor, sound designer, live sound producer, and assistant music editor before relocating to Florida with his family in 2015.

The 7th Annual Beyond Baroque Awards Dinner will take place at the Church in Ocean Park in Santa Monica, California and, and will be jointly emceed by the poets Brendan Constantine and Rick Lupert. Los Angeles Poet Laureate Emeritus Luis J. Rodriguez will present the Distin-

guished Service Award. Tickets to the annual dinner are \$60 for members and \$70 for all others. Tickets may be purchased through Eventbrite at [7thBeyondBaroqueAwards.eventbrite.com](http://7thBeyondBaroqueAwards.eventbrite.com) or by contacting Beyond Baroque. The event has sold out every year and advance purchases are recommended. Those wishing to congratulate the honorees are encouraged to purchase a program ad, also available on the Eventbrite page.

Beyond Baroque Literary/Arts Center, celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018, is one of the United States leading independent literary/arts center and public spaces dedicated to literary and cultural production, interaction and community building. Founded in 1968, it is based in the old City Hall in Venice Beach, California, near the Pacific Ocean. It offers a program of readings, new music, free workshops and publishing. It also houses an independent bookstore featuring one of the largest collections of new poetry in one place, an archive featuring thousands of books and artworks from local artists with an emphasis on the Venice Beats, and the Mike Kelley Gallery, which exhibits local and international artists.

#### Press and Interview Inquiries

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