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THE 39TH ANNUAL **JOHN LENNON**[®] TRIBUTE

PETER NORTON
symphonyspace
Broadway at 95th Street • NYC

December 6 • 2019



Photo: Bob Gruen

Theatre Within

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Greetings from Yoko Ono

Dear Friends,

That you have all gathered, yet again, to lovingly remember John is deeply meaningful to me. John is still with us in spirit and your coming together is a confirmation of that beautiful and eternal reality.

That Theatre Within, a small organization with a big positive impact, has kept this heartfelt tribute to John going for such a long time is reflective of the enduring commitment of everyone involved.

Back in the 1970s, Theatre Within was the experimental theater group down the street from us. They held their first neighborhood tribute for John in 1981. Since then, the tribute has blossomed into what it is now, a joyful gathering of artists and fans to celebrate John's music and message, and it is a truly unique New York City event.

I also want to say a few words about this year's John Lennon Real Love Award Honoree, the wonderful Natalie Merchant: Natalie is an artist/activist of the highest caliber. Her music and tireless activism brighten our hearts and world. Her outspokenness on the environment, domestic violence and special-needs children shines such needed light on these important issues. Thank you, Natalie!

And thank you Theatre Within, and thank you everyone here tonight, for remembering John and remembering love with me.

Love,
Yoko



Photo: Bob Gruen



View from the roof of The Dakota.

Natalie Merchant 2019 John Lennon Real Love Award Honoree



Photo: Jacob Blickenstaff



Joan Osborne



Sam Amidon



Rachael Yamagata



Raye Zaragoza

ARTISTS



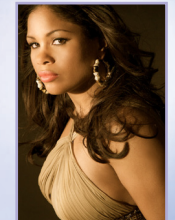
Willie Nile



The Kennedys



Bobby Harden



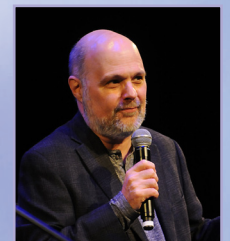
Nicki Richards

House Band

Rich Pagano, Music Director, drums
Jack Petruzzelli, guitars
Scott Sharrard, guitars
Kevin Bents, keyboards
John Conte, bass



Rich Pagano



Joe Raiola

The John Lennon Real Love Award



Natalie Merchant,
2019 John Lennon
Real Love Award
Honoree.



Photo: Jacob Blickenstaff

Established in 2014 by Theatre Within, with the warm cooperation of Yoko Ono, The John Lennon Real Love Award celebrates artists for their lifetime creative achievements, social activism and support of charitable causes. For the past four decades, Natalie Merchant's literate and socially conscious songs have established her among the preeminent artists in pop music.

Upon learning that she was this year's John Lennon Real Love Award Honoree, Natalie issued the following statement:

"John and Yoko's activism had a profound impact upon me as a child. Through their ingenious war protests they challenged the entire world to reflect upon itself. In my estimation, 'Imagine' remains the most powerful three minutes and eight seconds of music ever recorded. It contains a vision of our highest aspirations in the most concise language and simple melody. John and Yoko realized that popular art and celebrity could be used to push society closer toward equity and compassion. I've tried to follow their example throughout my life, as an artist and citizen."

Natalie was the third child born to young Catholic parents in Jamestown, New York in 1963, the same year the Beatles first US single was released. Her parents faithfully bought her every Beatles album in succession and the songs from *A Hard Day's Night*, *Help!*, *Rubber Soul*, *Revolver*, *Yellow Submarine*, *Abbey Road*, *Magical Mystery Tour*, *The White Album* and *Let It Be* made up the soundtrack of her childhood. Although a shy and quiet girl, Natalie responded passionately to music, singing in church and school, and learning to play piano by age seven.

At age seventeen, Natalie became the singer/lyricist of the band 10,000 Maniacs and was moved to write songs based on the struggles she saw in her own recession-crippled, Rust Belt town. In the late 1980's,

10,000 Maniacs achieved worldwide commercial success with their albums, *In My Tribe* and *Blind Man's Zoo*.

While on hiatus in 1988, Natalie moved to New York City and spent a year volunteering in the daycare center of a homeless shelter operated by the Association to Benefit Children. In 1993, after releasing two more albums with 10,000 Maniacs, Natalie left the band to pursue a solo career.

Natalie's first solo album, *Tigerlily* (1995), with its collection of unadorned and intimate songs, sold five million copies. With *Tigerlily*, she continued to write outside of the traditional box of pop subject matter with songs about gifted children, urban alienation and the death of River Phoenix.

Tigerlily was followed by *Ophelia* (1998), *Motherland* (2001), *The House Carpenter's Daughter*

(2003) and *Leave Your Sleep* (2010), earning Natalie the continued admiration and affection of fans around the world.

In 2012, Natalie spearheaded the making of *Dear Governor Cuomo*, a concert film that contributed to the success of the anti-fracking movement, and in 2013, after learning of the death of a woman near her home caused by domestic violence, she directed a documentary called *Shelter: A Concert Film to Benefit Victims of Domestic Violence*.

Currently, Natalie is involved in The Mother Goose Project, a four-year artist residency with the Hudson Valley based non-profit Commission on Economic Opportunity to develop a music, poetry and movement curriculum for Head Start preschool children based on traditional rhymes, songs and games.



Photo: Jessica Riehl

Natalie performing
at an anti-fracking
protest concert in 2012

Throughout her entire career, Natalie has been dedicated to supporting humanitarian causes and non-profit organizations, among them: Riverkeeper, The Center for Constitutional Rights, Doctors Without Borders, Scenic Hudson, Food & Water Watch, Tibet House, The Southern Center for Human Rights, Fresh Air Fund, Head Start, Planned Parenthood and many others.

For her beautiful music that has touched our hearts and awakened our consciousness, for her selfless commitment to helping others, for her support of environmental and social causes, and for her powerfully positive local and global impact, Theatre Within is honored to present Natalie Merchant with the 2019 John Lennon Real Love Award.



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Executive Producer Steve Lurie
Music Director Rich Pagano
Consulting Producer Ed Berenhaus
Production Director Barbara Pitcher
Event Director Helene Cohen
Sound Designer Marie Kim
Stage Manager Todd McCraw
Assistant Stage Manager Mike LoBue
Lighting Director Brian Aldous
Production Coordinator Cortney Schwam
Stage Monitors Jim Perry
Assistant Event Director Victoria Greig
Stage Tech Yuek Wong
Production Assistant Butch D'Ambrosio
Production Assistant David Fino
Graphic Designer Nadina Simon
Graphic Designer Ryan Flanders
Projection Design Justin Adler
Projection Tech David Levin
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Acknowledgements

**For their kind support of the
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we express our heartfelt gratitude to:**

Yoko Ono, Jonas Herbsman, and Bob & Elizabeth Gruen, Richelle DeLora (Bob Gruen Studio), Liz Penta, Meagan Fair (Emcee Artist Management), Julie Epstein (Capitol Records), Janeen Shaitelman (WFUV), Anthony Gioffi (Boulevard Pro), Mark Lapidos (Fest for Beatles Fans), Judd Goldrich (Guitar Center), Dan Cohen (Nonesuch Records), Camille Conte, Mike Thut, Derek Meade, Gen Nishino, Stephanie Torres, Lisa M. Scicchitano, and the entire team at Symphony Space.

Theatre Within

About Us

Theatre Within is committed to having a positive social impact by providing free, ongoing workshops in creative expression and mindfulness to communities in need. We are also committed to celebrating John Lennon's music, life and timeless message of peace and love with our *Annual John Lennon Tribute*.

Workshops

Since 2015, Theatre Within has provided hundreds of free workshops at Gilda's Club NYC for those whose lives have been impacted by cancer. In 2019, we provided 70 free workshops – in songwriting, art, puppetry and meditation – to children who have lost a parent to cancer or with a parent in treatment and adult cancer survivors. To reach more people in the cancer community, we will soon be providing workshops at Gilda's Club Westchester.

Annual John Lennon Tribute

Theatre Within's signature production since 1981, the *Annual John Lennon Tribute* has evolved from a small neighborhood gathering to an important New York City cultural event, attracting top artists and benefitting many local and international charities. Since 2014, all proceeds have helped fund our own life-affirming programs.



Theatre Within's Board of Director's, from left to right: Helene Cohen, Jill Walker, Joe Raiola, Mike Tassone and Dr. Ron Marino.

Photo: Regan Kelly



Rosanne Cash, recipient of the 2018 John Lennon Real Love Award, at the 38th Annual John Lennon Tribute.

Get Involved

Theatre Within is currently seeking candidates for our Board of Directors to help fundraise, provide ethical oversight and serve as organizational ambassadors. To apply, send an email expressing your interest, along with a professional resume, to Helene Cohen at: Helene@TheatreWithin.org.

Stay In Touch

Please join our email list at the back of the theater. Follow us online at [Facebook.com/TheatreWithin](https://www.facebook.com/TheatreWithin), [Facebook.com/AnnualJohnLennonTribute](https://www.facebook.com/AnnualJohnLennonTribute) and [Instagram.com/JohnLennonTribute](https://www.instagram.com/JohnLennonTribute).

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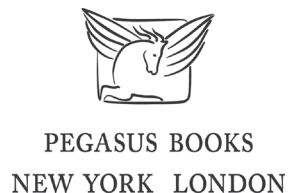
Free songwriting workshops, inspired by John Lennon, provided by Theatre Within. For children and adults impacted by cancer, continuing at Gilda's Club NYC and coming soon to Gilda's Club Westchester.

Starting in the spring of 2020, with your support, Theatre Within will offer this visionary program to public elementary schools in the tri-state area.

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Theatre Within

Thanks to our Generous Supporters





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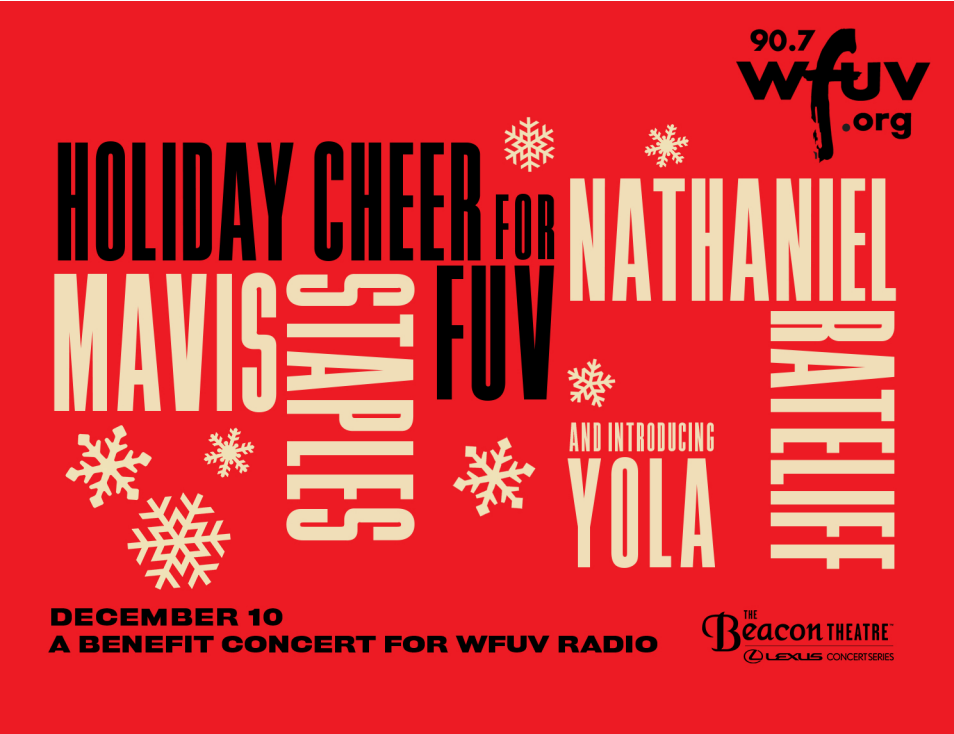
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*"A dream you dream alone is only a dream.
A dream you dream together is a reality." — Yoko Ono*

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*for his continued generous support
of our mission, workshops and
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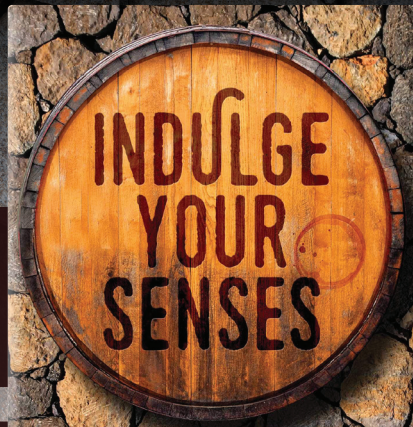
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