



Wolf Foundation · קרן וולף
ISRAEL ישראל

לקידום המדע והאמנות לטובת האנושות • to promote science and art for the benefit of mankind

Press Release

2012 Wolf Prize Recipients Maestro Placido Domingo (Music) and 7 Additional Prize Recipients from U.S.A, The U.k and Israel

Tel Aviv, January 10, 2012

On Monday, Minister of Education and Wolf Foundation Chairman Mr. Gideon Sa'ar announced the recipients of the 2012 Wolf Prizes in the sciences and arts. For the first time since the Foundation's establishment in 1976, prize recipients were announced at a public event attended by the Minister, held at the Land of Israel Museum in Ramat Aviv

This year, the five 100,000 dollar prizes will be awarded 10 winners from various of countries. Prizes will be awarded in five fields: in the sciences – physics, mathematics, medicine, and chemistry; and in the arts– in music. The prizes will be awarded by President Shimon Peres at a ceremony on May 13, 2012 at the Knesset.

Gideon Sa'ar, Ministry of Education and Chairman of the Wolf Foundation, stated, "The announcement of the recipients of the 2012 Wolf Prize is a cause for celebration in the science and art community in the world and in Israel. This year's eight prize recipients join a long line of scientists and artists who received a Wolf Prize since 1977, as a token of their role in leading excellence in their field on a global scale. The Wolf Foundation and the prize recipients bring great honor and pride to the State of Israel and reflect Israel's place at the pinnacle of global research and practice. During the actual tenure, we are investing resources in the research excellence in order to preserve and even to strength the status as a world research center, which is vital principal for the future of Israel."



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2012 Wolf Prize Recipients and the Judge's Reasons:

Physics

Jacob D. Bekenstein, Racah Institute of Physics, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel – "His work on astronomical super-massive objects called "black holes" that showed they can possess a statistical-thermodynamic property called entropy even though the internal dynamics could not be known. This work created an entire field of black hole dynamics which has become a cornerstone in the important theoretical physics areas of quantum gravity and strings."

Medicine

Ronald M. Evans, Gene Expression Laboratory, The Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA, USA – "For discovering the gene super-family encoding nuclear receptors and elucidating the mechanism of action of this class of receptors."

Chemistry

Prof. A. Paul Alivisatos, University of California at Berkeley, U.S.A – " has developed the colloidal inorganic nanocrystal as a building block of nanoscience making fundamental contributions to controlling the synthesis of these particles, to measuring and understanding their physical properties, and to utilizing their unique properties for applications ranging from light generation and harvesting to biological imaging."

Prof. Charles M. Lieber, Harvard University, U.S.A – " For developing new methods to control the shape and heterostructure of nanowires, for characterizing their physical properties, and for demonstrating their potential applications."

Mathematics

Prof. Michael Aschbacher , California institute of technology, U.S.A – " Michael Aschbacher is a principal architect of the classification of finite simple groups. His Impact on the theory of finite groups is extraordinary in its breadth, depth and beauty."



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Luis Caffarelli, University of Texas at Austin, U.S.A – "Luis Caffarelli produced outstanding, visionary, original and fundamental work on partial differential equations, in particular on regularity for elliptic and parabolic equations, free boundary problems and fluid mechanics."

Music

Maestro Placido Domingo of the Washington and Los Angeles Opera Houses, USA – "Placido Domingo is one of the greatest tenors of all times. He has appeared in leading roles in 128 operas in around the world. His repertoire encompasses works from the early 18th century to Wagner and contemporary operas. Since the beginning of his career, Placido Domingo has also exhibited devotion to Israel and to various humanitarian causes. He has been especially active in encouraging young artists, and has shown much initiative as the ambassador of Hear the World, an organization that raises awareness about the importance of hearing and educates the public about the consequences of hearing loss. Placido Domingo is a tenor famous for his powerful, multicolored voice that retains its purity and clarity at all registers.

Notably, at the beginning of this career, Domingo appeared with the Israeli opera between 1962 and 1965. The award to Domingo is the first time the Wolf Foundation has awarded a prize to a vocal artist."

Sir Simon Rattle of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Germany – "Sir Rattle is a leading international figure among today's conductors. His name precedes him as a perfectionist in performing a broad range of music compositions, and he is highly acclaimed all over the world by musicians who have performed under his baton, as by the listener audience. Sir Rattle is considered unique in the scope of his repertoire, which he performs at such high standards. For Rattle, Boulez and Bernstein are no less important than Brahms and Bach. He has proven penetrating insights into music from diverse periods and authentic music instruments, and as a result has reached heights that few conductors dare to attempt."

The Wolf Prize is awarded annually by the Wolf Foundation in five areas: four prizes in the sciences and one prize in the arts, in fixed rotation. The prize is awarded to renown scientists and artists "*for the unique contribution to mankind and friendly relations among peoples ... irrespective of nationality, race, color, religion, sex or*



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political views.” To date, 272 recipients from 23 countries have been awarded the Wolf Prize.

The Wolf Prize has gained international prestige, and in the sciences is considered second in importance to the Nobel Prize. In the arts, the Wolf Prize is considered an extremely important award. Over one-third of all Wolf Prize winners have gone on to win the Nobel Prize in the fields of science honored by both prizes (medicine, physics, and chemistry). Former Wolf Prize recipients in the sciences include Prof. Avraham Hershko, Prof. Ada Yonath, and Prof. Dan Shechtman; former Wolf Prize recipients in the arts include Zubin Mehta, Isaac Stern, Daniel Barenboim, and Riccardo Muti.

**For additional information and to schedule an interview, please contact:
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