

## *Featured Presenters*

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DOLLY PARTON

An internationally renowned superstar, the iconic and irrepressible **Dolly Parton** has contributed countless treasures to the world of music entertainment, penning classic songs such as “Jolene,” “Coat of Many Colors,” and her mega-hit “I Will Always Love You.” With 1977’s crossover hit “Here You Come Again,” she successfully erased the line between country and pop music without noticeably altering either her music or her image.

“I’ve always been a writer. My songs are the door to every dream I’ve ever had and every success I’ve ever achieved,” says

Dolly Parton of her incredible career, which has spanned nearly five decades and is showing no signs of slowing down.

A recipient of the 2005 National Medal of Arts, Dolly began the Dollywood Foundation in 1988 to inspire children in her home community to dream more, learn more, do more and care more. Currently the foundation funds the Dolly Parton Imagination Library across America and in Canada, by giving every preschool child a book each month from the time he or she is born until the child reaches kindergarten. With the help of local sponsors, this program has expanded to over 800 communities in 41 states and, in 2007, gave away over 5 million books.

Tennessee **Governor Phil Bredesen** (invited) and his wife, **First Lady Andrea Conte**, are active members in the community, locally and statewide. He is a founding member of Nashville's Table, a nonprofit group that collects discarded food from local restaurants and distributes it to the city's homeless population. He also founded the Land Trust for Tennessee, a nonprofit organization that works statewide to preserve open space and traditional family farms. Conte is founder and president of You Have the Power – Know How to Use It, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness about crime and justice issues.



Since becoming Chairman of the NEA, **Dana Gioia** has succeeded in garnering enthusiastic bi-partisan support in the United States Congress for the mission of the Arts



Endowment, as well as in strengthening the national consensus in favor of public funding for the arts and arts education.

Gioia's creation of a series of NEA National Initiatives combined with a wider distribution of direct grants to reach previously underserved communities making the agency truly national in scope. Through programs such as *Shakespeare in American Communities*, *Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience*, *NEA Jazz Masters*, *American Masterpieces*, and *Poetry Out Loud*, the Arts Endowment has successfully reached millions of Americans in all corners of the country.