



Malian singer Oumou Sangaré receives this year's Rolf Schock Prize in the Musical Arts

Contributions to science, art and music are being rewarded with the Rolf Schock Prizes for 2024. This year's laureates are the philosophers and linguists Hans Kamp and Irene Heim, mathematician Lai-Sang Young, director, screenwriter and artist Steve McQueen, and singer Oumou Sangaré. This year's prize amount is 600 000 Swedish kronor per prize area. The prize ceremony will be held at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts on the 11th of November.

The Rolf Schock Prize is unusual in that it rewards both logic and philosophy, mathematics, visual arts and music. The laureates are selected through a unique collaboration between three Swedish royal academies: the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Royal Academy of Fine Arts and the Royal Swedish Academy of Music. The final decision is made by the Schock Foundation.

Musical Arts

The 2024 Rolf Schock Prize in Musical Arts is awarded to **Oumou Sangaré**

“for her pioneering music-making with roots in ancient traditions. As one of the greatest artists of our time in traditional music, Sangaré embraces all parts of society and is a source of inspiration in various genres all over the world.”

Malian singer, composer and songwriter Oumou Sangaré (born 1968) is known worldwide for her vibrant and powerful music, which often contains revolutionary messages about women's rights, tradition and poverty. The artist represents the genre of

West African traditional music Wassoulou, a style of popular music derived from the vocal and instrumental traditions of rural southern Mali.

Oumou Sangaré is a musician who rose from the poor neighborhoods of Bamako to become a vocal activist. The Malian star puts her generosity, enormous energy and notoriety at the service of the most disadvantaged and is internationally renowned as the one of the most influential voices of Africa.

Since the release of her debut album *Moussoulou* in 1989, the Malian singer has received a lot of attention. Among other things, she is one of the artists who appears in a remake of the John Lennon song *Imagine*, from the album *The Imagine Project* by Herbie Hancock. The single received a Grammy Award for Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals.

Previous laureates: Pianist Víkingur Ólafsson (2022) Composer and pianist György Kurtág (2020) Conductor and soprano Barbara Hannigan (2018) Saxophonist and composer Wayne Shorter (2017) Conductor Herbert Blomstedt (2014) Violinist and conductor Andrew Manze (2011) Violinist Gidon Kremer (2008) Composer Mauricio Kagel (2005) Mezzo Soprano Anne Sofie von Otter (2003) Composer Kaija Saariaho (2001) *The Kronos Quartet* (1999) Conductor Jorma Panula (1997) Composer György Ligeti (1995) Composer Ingvar Lidholm (1993)

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Photos of the laureates can be found at www.kva.se

Other 2024 laureates

Hans Ellegren, Chair of the Schock Foundation and Secretary General of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, finds recognising important achievements in both science and culture stimulating and rewarding.

“This year’s laureates may appear very unlike each other, but that is what makes this prize so enjoyable. It unites very different subjects and very different personalities, who perhaps have more in common than might initially be apparent,” he says.

Logic and philosophy

2024 Rolf Schock Prize in Logic and Philosophy is jointly awarded **Hans Kamp**, University of Stuttgart, Germany and **Irene Heim**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA

“for (mutually independent) conception and early development of dynamic semantics for natural language.”

Mathematics

The 2024 Rolf Schock Prize in Mathematics is awarded to **Lai-Sang Young**,
Courant Institute, New York University, USA

“for long-lasting and deep contribution to the theory of non-uniformly hyperbolic dynamical systems”.

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Visual Arts

The 2024 Rolf Schock Prize in Visual Arts is awarded to **Steve McQueen**

“In a world characterised by violence, fanaticism and greed, Steve McQueen’s artistic practice offers a shining compass in the dark. Exceptionally consistent, sharp and precise, he activates the onlooker’s position when faced with the work of art, while insisting on the capacity of the moving image to give body, voice and presence to those who have been banished to the margins. The “realism” he presents is equally a denouement of privilege, power and oppression, and an earnest communication of moments of serene joy and euphoria; an upholding of humanitarian values.”

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About the prize

On his death in 1986, Rolf Schock left a significant fortune behind and, in his will, he donated a large sum of money to allow a prize to be awarded in his name. His wish was that the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences would propose laureates in logics and philosophy, as well as in mathematics, that the Royal Academy of Fine Arts would propose a laureate in one of the visual arts and the Royal Swedish Academy of Music in one of the musical arts. His fortune is managed by the Schock Foundation, which formally decides the laureates. This year’s prize amount is 600 000 Swedish kronor per prize area, a total of 2,4 million Swedish kronor. The prize ceremony will be held at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts on the 11th of November.

Read more about the prize at www.rolfschockprizes.se