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2013 MARIAN ANDERSON AWARD WILL GO TO BERRY GORDY
15TH Anniversary Award Gala will honor Motown Music Legend

Philadelphia, PA – June 3, 2013 – Mayor Michael A. Nutter announced today that Berry Gordy—the legendary force behind the creation of Motown and many of America’s top pop music stars—will receive the 2013 Marian Anderson Award.

In making the announcement, Mayor Nutter noted that, “Few individuals have changed the course of music history as Berry Gordy, who created one of the most influential music genres of all time, managed to break racial barriers, encouraged careers for so many, and entertained millions of people with the Motown Sound, has. Berry Gordy’s contribution to American society and pop culture has been truly outstanding. I am proud to announce Berry Gordy as the recipient of the 15th Annual Marian Anderson Award and celebrate Motown in Philadelphia.”

In commenting on the announcement, the Award board chair Pamela Browner White expressed how excited the entire board was to be preparing an evening that will celebrate Berry Gordy and some of the most popular music of the last 50 years. “Berry Gordy is a world class mentor, producer, and entrepreneur, and all the stars he launched have become an enormous part of our popular culture. This music recognizes

no boundaries. It is beloved by everyone and has been one of this country's gifts to world culture. And it exists because of Berry Gordy."

Berry Gordy is the founder of Motown Records, the hit-making enterprise based in Detroit, Michigan, that nurtured the careers of Smokey Robinson and The Miracles, Diana Ross and The Supremes, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, The Temptations, Michael Jackson and The Jackson 5, and many other music greats. The "Motown Sound" reached out across a racially divided, and politically and socially charged country to transform popular music.

Mr. Gordy is also a songwriter, boxer, producer, director, innovative entrepreneur, teacher and visionary. -In the 1960s, Gordy moved his artists into television, on shows like *American Bandstand* and *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Actively involved in the Civil Rights movement, he also released the recorded speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. -His films include *Mahogany* and *Lady Sings the Blues*, which garnered five Academy Award nominations.

Gordy has received four honorary doctorates: -one in philosophy from Occidental College; two in the humanities, from Morehouse College and Michigan State University; and one in music from Eastern Michigan University.

Among the awards recognizing Gordy's accomplishments are the Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award, the Gordon Grand Fellow from Yale University, induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, the Rainbow Coalition's Man of the Millennium Award, the Rhythm and Blues Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award, the T.J. Martell Foundation's Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award, and the Grammy Salute To Industry Icon's President's Merit Award. -In February 2011, President Barack Obama honored him with a Salute to Motown Evening at the White House.

Berry Gordy's unparalleled contribution to music and popular culture is chronicled in his autobiography, *To Be Loved: The Music, The Magic, The Memories of Motown*. It is the basis for his play, *Motown the Musical*, which had its world premiere on Broadway on April 14, 2013.

Browner White continues, "Part of our work is to encourage young men and women to follow their dreams inspired by people like Marian Anderson and Berry Gordy. Miss Anderson would be the first to say that her career was the result of many people helping her along the way. -And we at the Award are trying to provide the same crucial assistance and support for young artists through our Young Artist Study-Grant program that was inspired by Miss Anderson and visionaries like Berry Gordy. We hope you will join us on November 19 when we present Berry Gordy with this year's Award in an evening of musical celebration." For information about attending the November 19 Award Gala Dinner please call the Award office at 215 893-1837.

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MARIAN ANDERSON AWARD

The Marian Anderson Award honors artists and individuals whose body of work has improved the world beyond the power to entertain. -Previous recipients include James Earl Jones (2012), Mia Farrow (2011), Bill Cosby (2010), Maya Angelou and Norman Lear (2008), Richard Gere (2007), Sidney Poitier (2006), Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis (2005), Oprah Winfrey (2003), Danny Glover (2002), Quincy Jones (2001), Elizabeth Taylor (2000), Gregory Peck (1999), and Harry Belafonte (1998). No Award was given in 2004 or 2009.

Created in 1998, the Award is named for the great Philadelphian and American singer Marian Anderson, and is produced and administered under the direction of J. Patrick Moran. Since its inception, the Award program has provided more than

\$500,000 in free public programs, residencies, commissions, and grants to young artists.

This year's Gala Performance, the details of which will be announced this summer, will be preceded by the annual black-tie Gala Dinner, also at the Kimmel Center. Those interested in attending the Gala Dinner, which includes a premium ticket to the Gala Performance, can call the Marian Anderson Award office at 215-893-1837.

MARIAN ANDERSON

Marian Anderson, the most celebrated contralto of the 20th century, was born in Philadelphia on February 27, 1897, to an African-American family of modest means. Recognized for her extraordinary musical talent, as well as her generosity and commitment to others, Ms. Anderson was a master of repertoire across operatic, recital, and American traditional genres. Throughout her musical career, she played an incalculably vital role in the acceptance of African-American musicians in the classical musical.

In 1957 Ms. Anderson was appointed by the U.S. Department of State to serve as a Special Envoy to the Far East, and the following year President Dwight D. Eisenhower named her to the post of delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations. She sang at President John F. Kennedy's inauguration in 1961 and in 1963 President Lyndon B. Johnson bestowed the Presidential Medal of Freedom upon her. On her 75th birthday, in 1974, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution ordering a special gold medal minted in her honor. On April 8, 1993, Marian Anderson died at the age of 96 in Portland, Oregon.