



## 21<sup>st</sup> Heinz Awards Honor Musician Troy “Trombone Shorty” Andrews for His Unique Sound and for Preserving, Passing On Musical Legacy of New Orleans

*Andrews’ foundation, music education programs providing quality instruments, instruction, mentorship to city youth*

**PITTSBURGH, September 14, 2016**—The Heinz Family Foundation today named musician Troy “Trombone Shorty” Andrews the recipient of the prestigious 21<sup>st</sup> Heinz Award in the Arts and Humanities category in recognition of his achievements as a musician and for his community work to protect and pass on to younger generations the rich musical heritage of New Orleans. As part of the accolade, Mr. Andrews will receive an unrestricted cash award of \$250,000.

Mr. Andrews, an internationally celebrated musician and New Orleans native who began playing the trombone—and performing professionally—at the age of four, is using his talent and success to help the city’s children succeed as the city continues to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. Working from the perspective that New Orleans raised him, he has focused his efforts on preserving the tradition of musicians fostering the next generation out of a wholehearted love for music, their hometown and each other.

“I was the last of the generation brought up surrounded by the great New Orleans musicians: jam sessions every Tuesday with free barbeque for the neighborhood, hearing jazz funerals on my way to elementary school, people playing at someone’s birthday party,” Mr. Andrews said. “Those musicians saw something in me and took me under their wing, all out of love. What I’m doing today is a direct influence of coming from New Orleans. We play music from a very joyous place, from love—we celebrate life. If I’d grown up anywhere else, my story would be very different. Music is the heartbeat of this city, and it makes me really happy to be able to reach out to kids around the city and people around the world. It’s a beautiful thing.”

In 2011, Mr. Andrews established the Trombone Shorty Foundation, through which schools across the city receive professional-quality instruments donated by Mr. Andrews. As part of the foundation, he also created the Trombone Shorty Music Academy where students follow a music performance curriculum created by Mr. Andrews. The Trombone Shorty Foundation and Tulane University also collaborated to establish the Fredman Music Business Institute in 2014 to provide music industry leadership training to promising high school musicians. Shorty Fest, an annual music festival featuring guest musicians and some of the most talented grade-school musicians in the region, helps fund the foundation.

Mr. Andrews has also written a book for young readers, *Trombone Shorty*, which chronicles his young life and how he made his dream a reality. The book earned Mr. Andrews and his illustrator, Bryan Collier, a 2016 Caldecott Honor Book award.

“Troy Andrews is extraordinary not only as a talented and innovative musician but as a man who shares his talents and enthusiasm to preserve the rich musical legacy of New Orleans and the wellbeing of his hometown,” said Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation. “His joy and enthusiasm are contagious and his commitment to his community is exemplary. Mr. Andrews instills his love of music

among New Orleans youth, and with children and adults around the world who have been moved by his unique and uplifting fusion of many different musical genres.”

In his 26-year career, Mr. Andrews has achieved remarkable success as a multi-instrumentalist, composer, performer and musical innovator. Inspired by diverse influences, Mr. Andrews has created a unique sound he calls “Supafunkrock,” a distinctive marriage of rock, funk, jazz, soul and hip hop. To date, Mr. Andrews has recorded six studio albums and appeared as sideman on 21 albums for other artists; played with some of the world’s most legendary musicians; toured the world with the band he leads, Orleans Avenue; and performed multiple times at the White House.

Established to honor the memory of U.S. Senator John Heinz, the 21<sup>st</sup> Heinz Awards this year recognize those who have made significant contributions in five distinct areas of great importance to Senator Heinz: Arts and Humanities; Environment; Human Condition; Public Policy; and Technology, the Economy and Employment. Now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, the Heinz Awards has recognized 128 individuals and awarded more than \$25 million to the honorees. For more information about the awardees visit <http://heinzawards.net/2016>.

In addition to Mr. Andrews, the 21<sup>st</sup> Heinz Awards honored the following individuals:

- **Environment: Hal Harvey, San Francisco, Calif.**  
Mr. Harvey, one of the leading strategists in the nonprofit sector’s efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change, is being recognized for his results-driven solutions in energy policy and innovation to dramatically reduce carbon emissions and energy waste worldwide.
- **Human Condition: Nadine Burke Harris, M.D., San Francisco, Calif.**  
Dr. Burke Harris, a pediatrician, is being recognized for her work in establishing pioneering protocols to identify and treat children suffering from toxic stress caused by extreme poverty, neglect, and unsafe or chaotic surroundings.
- **Public Policy: Michelle Alexander, Columbus, Ohio**  
Ms. Alexander, a legal scholar, advocate, civil rights attorney and author, is being recognized for her work in drawing national attention and constructive action to the issue of mass incarceration of African American youth and men in the United States.
- **Technology, the Economy and Employment: Matt Mullenweg, Houston, Texas**  
Mr. Mullenweg, visionary co-founder of WordPress, is being recognized for creating a free, simple-to-use, open-source website and blogging platform that is helping to democratize online publishing.

Winners will receive their awards in Pittsburgh on October 4, 2016.

EDITORS/REPORTERS: To obtain photos of Mr. Andrews or any of the other recipients, please contact Abby Manishor at [amanishor@burness.com](mailto:amanishor@burness.com) or 917-539-3308.

**About the Heinz Awards**

Established by Teresa Heinz in 1993 to honor the memory of her late husband, U.S. Senator John Heinz, the Heinz Awards celebrates the accomplishments and spirit of the Senator by recognizing the extraordinary achievements of individuals in the areas of greatest importance to him. The awards, administered by the Heinz Family Foundation, recognize individuals for their contributions in the areas of Arts and Humanities; Environment; Human Condition; Public Policy; and Technology, the Economy and Employment. Nominations are submitted by invited experts, who serve anonymously, and are reviewed by jurors appointed by the Heinz Family Foundation. The jurors make recommendations to the Board of Directors, which subsequently selects the Award recipients. For more information on the Heinz Awards, visit [www.heinzawards.net](http://www.heinzawards.net).

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