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**TERENCE BLANCHARD HONORED AS A BMI ICON AT   
BMI’S 35TH ANNUAL FILM, TV & VISUAL MEDIA AWARDS**

***COMPOSER WILLIAM ROSS RECEIVED THE CLASSIC CONTRIBUTION AWARD***

***The Evening Also Celebrated the Previous Year’s Top Composers for   
Film, TV And Visual Media***

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(L-R) BMI Vice President Creative-Film, TV & Visual Media Doreen Ringer-Ross, Terence Blanchard, William Ross, and BMI President & CEO Mike O'Neill attend the 35th Annual BMI Film, TV & Visual Media Awards on May 15, 2019 in Beverly Hills, California. (Photo by Lester Cohen/Getty Images for BMI)

**LOS ANGELES, CA (May 16, 2019) –** Last night, [**BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc.)**](http://www.bmi.com/) held its **35th annual Film, TV & Visual Media Awards** to celebrate the top performing composers in film, TV and visual media of the past year. The highest honors of the evening went to film composer and multiple award-winning jazz musician **Terence Blanchard**, who was named a **BMI Icon** in recognition of his significant contributions to the cinematic community, and **William Ross**, who received **BMI’s Classic Contribution Award** for his outstanding workas an arranger, orchestrator, conductor, music director, composer and mentor to emerging talent. The private ceremony was hosted by Vice President Creative – Film, TV & Visual Media, **Doreen Ringer-Ross** and BMI President and CEO **Mike O’Neill** at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, California.

O’Neill presented Blanchard with the BMI Icon accolade in front of a room of his peers, noting that the award was “reserved for extraordinary members of the BMI family, whose artistry has had an unparalleled impact on both music lovers and music creators.” He went on to say, “You’ve humbly said you stand on the shoulders of musical legends. Well, Terence, steady your shoulders, because there are many you will carry as they aspire to your legacy.”

After a tribute video that highlighted his successful career, Blanchard thanked BMI “for opening your arms to all of us who want to be a part of the creative process.” He went on to say, “We just want to express ourselves in an artistic way. We have a burning desire to say something that is in us and sometimes we don’t even know what it is that we are trying to say, but these projects give us room to do that.”

In receiving this honor, Blanchard joins an elite group of previous BMI Icon recipients including Alan Silvestri, James Newton Howard, Alexandre Desplat, Rachel Portman, David Newman, Thomas Newman, Danny Elfman, Harry Gregson-Williams and John Williams, among others.

Earlier in the evening, William Ross was presented with the BMI Classic Contribution Award in recognition of his extensive work mentoring new talent throughout his career, which has spanned feature films, the recording industry and television. In receiving this award, Ross joins a prestigious list of previous recipients including Rick Baitz, Lucas Richman, Peter Golub, Mike Post, Chris Montan, David Newman and Terence Blanchard, who received this honor for his vital work as an educator and mentor to emerging composers in 2010.

Many other notable composers were also saluted throughout the ceremony for music featured in the past year’s top-grossing films, top-rated network television series and highest-ranking cable network and streamed media programs. Some of the night’s multiple award winners included Nathan Barr, Tyler Bates, Ludwig Göransson, Harry Gregson-Williams, Mark Mothersbaugh, Mac Quayle,Rob Simonsen and Brian Tyler. Atli Örvarsson received the most awards of the night with a total of four crystal statuettes for his work on the hit TV shows *Chicago P.D.*, *Chicago Med*, *Chicago Fire* and *FBI*.

Over a career that has spanned three decades, Blanchard has scored more than 50 films, recorded more than 33 albums and toured the world. He’s a five-time GRAMMY Award winner, a 2018 US Artists Fellow, and most recently, an Oscar nominee for his music in Spike Lee’s blockbuster *BlacKkKlansman,* which the *New York Times* called “a soaring, seething, luxuriant score.” As Lee’s longtime collaborator, Blanchard has scored 17 of his films including *Malcolm X; Jungle Fever; Clockers; Summer of Sam; Inside Man; 25th Hour (which garnered a Golden Globe Nomination)* and the documentary *When the Levees Broke,* about Blanchard’s hometown of New Orleans during the devastation from Hurricane Katrina. Outside of his work in film and television, Blanchard is a celebrated bandleader and trumpeter with an unwavering dedication to jazz education - frequently holding master classes around the world.

For a complete list of winners, as well as information on BMI’s film and television composers and events, please visit: [BMI.com](https://www.bmi.com/news/entry/2018-bmi-film-tv-awards).

High-resolution photos and video footage can be downloaded here:

<https://www.image.net/BMIfilmtelevision2019>

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