

For Immediate Release
February 7, 2017

Folk Alliance International Announces Lifetime Achievement Awards and the Spirit of Folk Awards Recipients

**International Folk Music Awards Show On Opening Night Of The 29th Annual Folk
Alliance International Conference February 15-19, 2017**

Acclaimed Singer/Songwriter Paula Cole To Host

Kris Kristofferson, Megan Mullally, and Eliza Gilkyson to Present Additional Awards

Kansas City, MO – [Folk Alliance International](http://www.folk.org) (FAI) is proud to announce the 2017 recipients of the **Elaine Weissman Lifetime Achievement Awards** and the **Spirit of Folk Awards**, to be presented at the **International Folk Music Awards Show** on February 15th, 2017, opening FAI's annual conference. The International Folk Music Awards (IFMAs) are held to celebrate excellence, tradition, innovation, and the collective history of the global folk community.

Named for one of FAI's founders and determined by FAI membership vote, the Elaine Weissman Lifetime Achievement Awards are presented each year to a living recipient, a memorial recipient, and an organization or recognized academic. The 2017 recipients are iconic composer **David Amram** (Living), activist songwriter **Malvina Reynolds** (Legacy), and prolific Canadian folklorist **Helen Creighton** (Business/Academic). Biographies for this year's recipients at www.folk.org/LAA.

The Spirit of Folk awards are presented annually to honor and celebrate people and organizations actively involved in the promotion and preservation of folk music through their creative work, community building, and demonstrated leadership. The 2017 recipients are **Barbara Dane, Chloe Goodyear, Michelle Conceison, Ramy Essam, Si Khan, and SONiA disappear fear**. Biographies for this year's recipients at www.folk.org/SpiritofFolk.

Emceeding the evening is Grammy-Award winning artist and feminist, **Paula Cole**, the first woman in history to individually receive a Grammy nomination for Producer of the Year. The 2017 IFMAs Show also features guest presentations by Kris Kristofferson, Megan Mullally, and Eliza Gilkyson.

Additional presentations at the 2017 IFMAs are the inaugural [People's Voice Award](#) (being presented to Bruce Cockburn), the inaugural [Clearwater Award](#) (presented to the Clearwater Festival), the member-voted [Best of 2016](#) Awards for Album, Song, and Artist of the Year (to be announced that evening), and the induction of inaugural members of the Folk DJ Hall of Fame.

A platform for emerging talent, FAI's conference is the world's largest gathering of the folk music industry. Official showcases offer artists from around the globe the opportunity to perform for hundreds of presenters (bookers for festivals, venues, and concert series), agents, managers, media, and music industry representatives from 20 different countries.

#

About Folk Alliance International

Since 1989, and with more than 3,000 members worldwide, Folk Alliance International (FAI) is a 501(c)3 non-profit with a mission "to nurture, engage and empower the international folk music community - traditional and contemporary, amateur and professional – through education, advocacy, and performance." Members include artists, record companies, publishers, presenters, agents, managers, and more.

FAI produces the world's largest conference for the folk music industry, an annual public Music Camp, the International Folk Music Awards Show, and the Kansas City Folk Festival. Advocacy, education, outreach, and networking are key aspects of the year-round activity of the organization.

The annual conference is one of the five largest music conferences in North America and draws 2500 registrants from 20 countries. The 29th edition will be held February 15-19, 2017, at the Westin Hotel Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri, and features special presentations by Billy Bragg and Ani DiFranco. www.folk.org

Folk Alliance International Contacts:

Media Inquiries: Lellie Capwell
Lellie@ipc-media.com
media@folk.org, 818-384-1180

Communications Manager:
Erika Noguera, communications@folk.org
816.221.3655 x7