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# Jazz Winners for All Tastes

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By **BEN RATLIFF**

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For a new awards program, jazz's major players — and its major non-musician supporters — delivered their soliloquies on the stage of Alice Tully Hall last night. It was the first annual Jazz Awards, produced by Knit Media and benefiting two organizations supporting destitute musicians, Musicares and the Jazz Foundation of America. Between presentations there were performances by Joe Henderson, Alice and Ravi Coltrane, Geri Allen and others. Eric Bogosian was the master of ceremonies.

For each of the 24 categories listed, separate awards were given by two nominating bodies: one a consortium of record producers, members of the news media, club owners, managers and agents; the other the Jazz Journalists Association, a worldwide group of critics. Predictably, the critics and industry voters had different opinions on all but four categories.

For best artist in performance, the winners were Danilo Perez (from the industry) and the Mingus Big Band (from the journalists). The lifetime achievement award was similarly split between Benny Carter and Max Roach; the BMI best composer award, Wynton Marsalis and Maria Schneider; recording of the year, Pat Metheny and Charlie Haden's "Beyond the Missouri Sky" (Verve) and T. S. Monk's "Monk on Monk" (N2K); best debut artist, Brad Mehldau and Olu Dara, and musician of the year, Wynton Marsalis and Ornette Coleman.

Winners in both camps were Sonny Rollins, improviser of the year; Mingus Big Band, for big band; Kenny Barron, keyboardist, and Mr. Rollins, tenor saxophonist.

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