



THE
ANTHONY N. SABGA
CARIBBEAN AWARDS
FOR EXCELLENCE

NEWS RELEASE

December 1, 2016

2017 LAUREATES

Port of Spain, December 1, 2016 Laureate Announcement Press Conference

The Anthony N Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence is pleased to announce four laureates for its 2017 Awards. The Laureates are:

Arts & Letters: *Mr Winslow Craig, Sculptor, Guyana*
Mr Kwame Ryan, Conductor, Trinidad & Tobago (Joint Awardees)

Entrepreneurship: *Ms Shadel Nyack Compton, Agro-Tourism Entrepreneur, Grenada (OECS)*

Public & Civic Contributions: *Dr Christopher Arif Bulkan (Attorney), Guyana*

No laureate in Science & Technology was named for 2017

The Laureates were proposed by country nominating committees (CNCs), and selected by a regional panel of eminent persons (EPP).

Listings of the Panel and Committees and brief Laureate biographies are included in this press kit.

The Anthony N Sabga Caribbean Awards is the only programme in the Caribbean which seeks out and rewards outstanding nominees in Arts & Letters, Public & Civic Contributions, Science & Technology and Entrepreneurship. It has been in existence since 2005. The prizes are worth TT \$500,000 each, and each laureate receives a medal and citation at the awards ceremony, which will be held in Guyana next May.

For further information, visit us at www.ansacaribbeanawards.com, or find us on Facebook. An introductory video is available on our YouTube Channel (ANSCAFE).

Contact for soft copies of the photos or other information:

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Arts & Letters

Mr Kwamé Ryan, Conductor, Trinidad & Tobago (Joint)



Kwamé Ryan is a Trinidad conductor and music educator whose career has spanned the globe and has seen him practise his vocation with some of the leading orchestras and opera houses of Australia, France, Germany, South Korea, South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States, and most recently in Trinidad & Tobago. At present, he is the Director of the Academy for the Performing Arts at the University of Trinidad & Tobago.

Born in Canada (1970) of Trinidad parentage, Mr. Ryan grew up on the island, but left at age 14 to pursue a career in classical music, as at the time, there was no means to do so locally. He attended Oakham School in the United Kingdom, originally to study piano, voice and violin, but switched from violin to double bass, becoming, after only three years' tuition, Principal Double Bassist in the National Youth Orchestra, and in the National Youth Chamber Orchestra of England. His further education included studies at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he was awarded a BA and an MA in Musicology (1992/2002). He also studied

Advanced Conducting at The Peter Eötvös Conducting Institute in Szombately, Hungary, while working as a Teaching Assistant at Tübingen University, Germany.

Having completed his education, Mr. Ryan worked most extensively in the United Kingdom, the United States and Europe. He has held positions as Assistant Conductor of the Stuttgart State Opera in Germany (1998-9), General Music Director, City of Freiburg, Germany (1993-2003), Musical Director of the National Youth Orchestra of France (2009-2011) and Musical and Artistic Director of the National Orchestra of Bordeaux, France (2007-2013).

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Mr. Ryan has been the recipient of several awards. They include scholarships to Oakham School, and Cambridge University as well as his induction as an Officer in the Order of Arts & Letters by the Government of France. He has also sat as Member on several prestigious juries, including, The International Voice Competition in Montreal, Canada (2012), and the International Theatre Academy, Frankfurt, Germany (2011).

His career has resulted in an international network of institutions, promoters, and artists upon which Mr. Ryan continues to draw in developing innovative and original projects worldwide. It includes collaboration with such major U.S. institutions as the Symphony Orchestras of Baltimore, Atlanta, Detroit and Dallas; the Stuttgart, Freiburg, Baden-Baden and Bavarian Radio Symphonies in Germany; the Paris Opera; the English National Opera; the Stuttgart Opera, the Philharmonia Orchestra, London; and the Seoul South Korea Philharmonic.

Beyond such bastions of musical excellence in the professional realm, Mr. Ryan has cultivated ties with a wide range of national and municipal institutions dedicated to the development of talent among young people. Beyond his tenure as Music Director of the National Youth Orchestra of France, he has worked as Associate Conductor of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, Guest conductor of the Royal Danish Academy of Music, and enjoys close ties with the Youth Orchestra of the Americas, and the Music Conservatory in Freiburg, Germany.

Seeking to put this network at the disposal of aspiring musicians in his home country of Trinidad & Tobago, in 2012, Mr. Ryan first collaborated with the NGO The Heroes Foundation to create a music mentorship event, which saw young local musicians participating in workshops and concerts with members of international orchestras. Inspired by the success of this pilot, he then contacted the University of Trinidad & Tobago (UTT) in 2013 to propose the development of an international peer exchange programme in residence at its Academy for the Performing Arts. The UTT responded by offering him a full-time position, which he accepted while continuing to freelance worldwide.

By 2015 he had realized his vision, launching the musical youth exchange, CONNECTT, subsequently renamed - The Youth Music Exchange (YMX).

As newly appointed Director of the Academy for the Performing Arts (APA), Mr. Ryan intends not only to grow YMX as part of the Academy, but also to expand that institution's range of offerings and international reach in Music Technology, Dance, Acting, Animation, as well as in Theatre Design and Production. His vision for performing arts pedagogy at the APA emphasizes the preservation of long-standing cultural traditions alongside ground-breaking innovation, all with the goal of building a world-class but uniquely Caribbean institution - a hub of excellence and achievement in the performing arts unlike any other in the Caribbean region.

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Arts & Letters

Mr Winslow Craig, Sculptor, Guyana (Joint)



Mr Winslow Craig is a Guyanese sculptor whose natural talent manifested at an early age, and blossomed with formal training at the ER Burrowes School of Art in Georgetown. He works in many media, like metal, wood, and bronze, and is known for his invention of a new medium for sculpture: “sawdoue” an amalgam of sawdust and glue which is placed on steel.

Today, Mr Craig is a lecturer in art at the University of Guyana and his work can be found in private collections through the region, in Guyanese institutions and international collections from New Zealand (Retribution II), China (The Unseen Helper) and Belize (Cutting Edge and The Watcher). He was also commissioned by Cable and Wireless to create a trophy for its 2000 cricket series, which was titled Willow and Leather.

Born in the Kappawarri Creek of the Essequibo River in 1967, Mr Craig began sculpting from an early age. Of part indigenous heritage, he was influenced by his father, who was a woodsman and woodworker, to begin whittling. He sold his first piece at age seven for the sum of \$20. Nonetheless, his plans for the future focused on his becoming a gold-miner until a teacher encouraged him to apply to the ER Burrowes School of Art in

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Georgetown. He was accepted and his graduation work, *Discovery*, was acquired by the Guyanese polymath, Denis Williams, for the Guyana national collection.

Thereafter, Mr Craig was awarded a 1997 Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship in Arts & Craft which took him to the Christchurch Polytechnic School of Art and Design, New Zealand, where he created *Retribution II*. After this fellowship, he was selected to attend the International Sculpture Symposium in China (2001), where he was the only artist representing the English-speaking Caribbean.

Mr Craig's work explores the themes of spirituality, justice, gender issues, nature and the environment. His work, *Fighting for Global Peace*, has been featured in a documentary aired on CNN World Report in the aftermath of the Gulf War. Apart from many exhibitions in Guyana, his work has been shown in Haiti, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, the US, Venezuela, and China. He is regarded as one of the leading sculptors in Guyana, according to former minister of culture, Dr Frank Anthony. Ian McDonald described his work as being of "world class genius".

He has been commissioned by various regional institutions, like the Bank of Guyana, and the Commonwealth Youth Programme. One of his pieces was also commissioned by the Government of Guyana and presented to the Walter Reed Memorial Hospital in the US, where Guyanese president Cheddi Jagan was treated.

Mr Craig won the Guyana Visual Arts Competition (Sculpture) 2014, and was awarded a Guyana National Award, The Medal of Service (2002). He continues to work and teach in Guyana.

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Public & Civic Contributions

Dr Christopher Arif Bulkan, Attorney, Guyana



Dr Christopher Arif Bulkan, Attorney, Academic, Guyana, Public & Civic Contributions

Dr Christopher Arif Bulkan is a Guyanese lawyer and senior lecturer at the Faculty of Law, UWI, St Augustine. As an academic and legal practitioner, he has been at the forefront of promoting indigenous rights, environmental rights, and human rights regionally through legal interventions, training and advocacy.

Along with Tracy Robinson and Douglas Mendes, in 2009 he co-founded the UWI Rights Advocacy Project (U-RAP) which provides pro bono legal services, research and advocacy on human rights issues across various Caribbean territories. One of these groups is the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC), with which U-RAP has commenced a collaboration which includes, among other activities, training of lawyers and human rights defenders to better respond to the needs of several marginalized populations.

Dr. Bulkan, who previously practiced law in Guyana (1990-2004), is the one of the few experts on the emerging legal framework dealing with the rights of indigenous people, which has regional and extra-regional implications. He is the author of the publication *The Survival of Indigenous Rights in Guyana*, and in April 2016

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he was the Conference Chair of a regional conference on issues affecting Indigenous Peoples, held in Belize City, Belize.

Involved in human rights advocacy for his whole life, he has worked tirelessly to establish and defend the rights of several vulnerable and marginalized communities, including indigenous peoples, LGBT persons and persons living with HIV/AIDS in various ways. He has provided pro bono training and education on rights issues for a number of communities at workshops and public lectures in several Caribbean countries, including Guyana, Belize, and Trinidad and Tobago. He has also been involved in public advocacy against the death penalty, both regionally and at events sponsored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Dr. Bulkan was one of the initiators of two ground-breaking cases on gender rights in the Caribbean. They were Caleb Orozco vs Attorney General in Belize, and McEwan, Clarke, Fraser, Persaud and SASOD vs Attorney General of Guyana. The former case was successful on all counts in August 2016, while in the latter the acting Chief Justice of Guyana ruled in September 2013 that cross dressing, as an expression of one's gender identity, is not illegal. Both cases are now at varying stages in the appeal process.

In addition to his advocacy work, he has also published widely in books, refereed journals, and even newspapers. Both his academic and public intellectual work, the latter most notably in his contributions to the Stabroek News' In the Diaspora weekly feature, focus on issues of corruption and good governance, highlighting the links between constitutionalism and the attainment of economic and social rights in addition to civil and political rights. Dr. Bulkan also served as a member of the Board of Directors of Transparency Institute Guyana Inc., a local chapter of Transparency International, from 2011 to 2015.

Dr Bulkan was educated at Osgoode Hall Law School of York University in Canada on a Canadian Commonwealth scholarship, University College London in the UK, and the University of the West Indies. He joined the Faculty of Law at the UWI, Cave Hill in 2008 before moving to the St Augustine campus in Trinidad in 2012, where he served as Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Law from 2013 to 2016 and is now Senior Lecturer.

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Entrepreneurship

Ms Shadel Nyack Compton, Grenada (OECS), Agro-Tourism Entrepreneur



Ms. Shadel Nyack Compton is an entrepreneur who has managed to merge history, commerce, agriculture, tourism and environmental and community responsibility into a single viable enterprise that is the Belmont Estate in Grenada. The estate, which was a traditional agricultural plantation during the eras of slavery and colonialism, and which had fallen into ruin, was revived by Ms. Nyack Compton as a successful tourist attraction, producer of organic agricultural products, and a source of material and intangible enrichment to the community.

Belmont Estate was bought over by Ms. Nyack Compton's grandparents in the 1940s, making them the first Indo-Grenadians to own a plantation. Despite its success up to the 1960s, by the late 1990s when Ms. Nyack Compton took it over, the estate employed about 10 persons on a casual basis and had all but stopped producing. In the early part of the 21st century, the new proprietor started a small restaurant, created a small museum documenting the history of the estate, and began offering tours and other cultural and educational

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events at the site.

Ms. Nyack Compton's persistence paid off when she invited a group of tour operators in 2002, and they were enthused enough about the facility to generate interest and clientele. The agricultural production, which had slowed down, was revived and increased. In 2004, only two years after commencing the tourism department of the business all the tourism facilities, the plantation house, most of the farming buildings and facilities were devastated by Hurricane Ivan. There was equal destruction to the tree crops and fields. To further exacerbate the loss, in 2005, the estate was hit by another hurricane - Emily. These hurricanes resulted in significant loss, and resulted in the tourism department being closed for three years. It resumed operations in 2007.

Today, the estate employs some 90 persons full time, plus another 20 temporary or part time staff, is organic and fair trade certified for its cocoa, nutmegs, spices, and fruits, and has created partnerships with other local businesses, like the Grenada Chocolate Company (which uses the estate's cocoa for chocolate production), the Grenada Craft Cooperative, and the Grenville Co-operative Credit Union, which operates an outlet on the estate, and several farmers, tour operators, and hotels on the island. It offers tours, a 250-seat restaurant, conference room, museum, goat dairy that produces goat's cheese for the local market, value added products, beautiful gardens, farm and exotic animals, plant nursery and a vibrant charity arm. Ms. Nyack Compton is presently preparing for the opening of Belmont Estate's own chocolate factory early next year.

Concretely, Ms. Nyack Compton's success as an entrepreneur can be illustrated by the growing income and tourist arrivals to the estate. Belmont Estate had an income of (XCD) \$669,006 in 2002, and by 2015 it had grown to \$2,287,788. Visitor arrivals grew from 1,248 guests in 2002 to 27,919 guests in 2015.

She did not start her career as a business person. Born in the UK (1964), Ms. Nyack Compton was trained as a lawyer at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., in the United States, and at the Hugh Wooding Law School in Trinidad & Tobago. A mother of two, she still practices law in Grenada. Her decision to move into business was born out of a desire to contribute to the well-being of her people and country and to revive her family's traditional business. She is extremely passionate about her business that offers customers high quality products and services and extraordinary experiences, and she uses it as an avenue to inspire and develop others, and for education, research and philanthropy.

Ms. Nyack Compton has been recognized many times for her endeavours. She has received awards from the Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce (2010 & 2015), and was named Businesswoman of the Year (2013) by that organization. She was recognized by the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (2014), and Belmont Estate was conferred several awards and citations for service, responsible & sustainable development of agriculture and tourism, environmental stewardship, and has been awarded certificates of Service Excellence by the international tourism rating website, Trip Advisor (2013 - 2016).

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<p>BARBADOS</p>	<p>Dr Marcia Burrowes (Chair) Dr Henderson Cummins, QC Mr Hilford Murrell Laureate Prof Leonard O'Garro Dr Basil Springer, GCM Mrs Jacqueline E Wade</p>
<p>GUYANA</p>	<p>Dr Seeta Terry Shah Roath (Chair) Mr Vincent Alexander Mr Al Creighton Dr Marlene Cox Mr Phillip Da Silva Mr Alim Hosein Laureate Annette Arjoon-Martins Ms Josephine Whitehead, AA</p>
<p>JAMAICA</p>	<p>Dr Brian Heap (Chair) Professor Terrence Forrester Professor Gerald Lalor, OJ, CD, Laureate Prof Kathleen Coard Miss Petrona Morrison Mr Morin Seymour Dr Glenda Simms Professor Ronald Young</p>

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THE OECS	Dr Charmaine Gardner (St Lucia) (Chair) Mr Errol Allen (St Vincent) Mr J Emile Ferdinand, QC (St Kitts) Professor Gerald Grell MD, JP, SAH (Dominica) Ms E Ann Henry, QC (Antigua) Dr Beverley Steele, LLD, CBE, MH (Grenada) Mr Marius St Rose (St Lucia)
TRINIDAD TOBAGO &	Mr Vincent Pereira Mrs Helen Drayton Dr Linda Hadeed Bro Noble Khan Mrs Diana Mahabir-Wyatt Mr Victor Mouttet Prof Brinsley Samaroo

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The Eminent Persons Selection Panel

Sir Shridath Ramphal, OE, OCC, GCMG Chair (Barbados / Guyana)

Justice Christopher Blackman, GCM (Barbados)

Justice Rolston Nelson (Trinidad & Tobago)

Prof Compton Bourne, OE (Trinidad & Tobago/Guyana)

Prof Bridget Brereton (Trinidad & Tobago)

Mr Christopher Bovell, CD (Jamaica)

Mrs Judy Y Chang, CA, CPA, CMT (Trinidad & Tobago)

Prof E Nigel Harris, (St Lucia, Guyana)

Maj Gen (Ret'd) Joseph Singh, MSS, MSc, MInstD, FCMI, FRGS, RCDS (Guyana)

Sir K Dwight Venner, CBE, LLD (HON) (OECS)

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