Ann Meier Baker

Director of Music & Opera
National Endowment for the Arts

Ann Meier Baker was appointed the director of Music & Opera at the National Endowment for the Arts in January 2015. She oversees the NEA’s grantmaking in music and opera, and manages the NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships. In addition to her roles with music and opera, she recently led the NEA’s Creativity Connects grant program, which supported projects that paired arts organizations with organizations from other sectors to help address community issues. Previously, Ann served as president and CEO of Chorus America, where she led the national membership association of more than 2,000 professional, volunteer, symphonic and children/youth choruses. She was founding director of the National School Boards Association Foundation, an incubator for new ideas about the challenges facing urban school board leaders and other issues in public education. Ann also worked for the League of American Orchestras, the National Association for Music Education, and she began her career as a professional singer with the United States Air Force Singing Sergeants.

Susan Feder

Program Officer, Performing Arts
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Susan Feder joined the Foundation in 2007 as program officer for Performing Arts and now serves in that capacity in the consolidated program for Arts and Cultural Heritage. Ms. Feder oversees grantmaking for performing arts and related organizations, helps develop new initiatives, and works closely with other programs on grants of overlapping areas of interest. Before joining the Foundation, as vice president of the music publishing firm G. Schirmer, Inc., she spent 20 years developing the careers of many leading composers in the United States, Europe, and the former Soviet Union. Earlier in her career she was editorial coordinator of The New Grove Dictionary of American Music, program editor at the San Francisco Symphony, and a freelance writer on music. A graduate of Princeton University, she serves on the university’s Music Department Advisory Council and the Alumni Schools Committee. Ms. Feder also received an MA in the history and literature of music from the University of California, Berkeley.
Ms. Feder is vice president of the Amphion Foundation, and serves on the boards of Grantmakers in the Arts, the Kurt Weill Foundation, and the Charles Ives Society. Her honors include the Concert Music Award from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP), for which she was described as “Publisher, Advisor, Friend, and Champion,” and an ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award for her program notes for the American Composers Orchestra. In 2014 she was named one of Musical America’s Profiles in Courage recipients. She is the dedicatee of John Corigliano’s Pulitzer-Prize winning Symphony No. 2, Augusta Read Thomas’s Helios Choros, and Joan Tower’s Dumbarton Oaks Quintet.

Marian Godfrey
Cultural Advisor
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Marian A. Godfrey currently serves as Cultural Advisor to the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation in Sheffield, MA. She retired from the Pew Charitable Trusts in 2011, having directed its Culture Initiatives since 1989. Pew's programs support the arts and heritage in its home community of Philadelphia, and take a leadership role in special civic projects that benefit the region and the nation at large. Prior to arriving at Pew in 1989, Ms. Godfrey had an extensive background in nonprofit arts management, handling production, administration, fund raising, and strategic planning for such organizations as Mabou Mines, Dance Theater Workshop, and La Jolla Playhouse. She produced film and video projects, including a feature-length film for Mabou Mines that aired on public television nationwide.

Additionally, she has worked as a consultant both for performing arts organizations and for foundation and corporate programs including AT&T: OnStage. She was a contributing writer to Theatre Times from 1982 to 1989, and has contributed numerous articles to Grantmakers in the Arts’ Reader and other publications. Ms. Godfrey has served on advisory panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, on the Presidential Transition Committee in 1992, and the boards of Theatre Communications Group, Grantmakers in the Arts, the Maine College of Art and the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation. She is the founding chair of the National Arts Policy Roundtable convened by Americans for the Arts and the Sundance Institute; is a member of the board of directors of the League of American Orchestras, the Poetry Foundation and TDC, a management consulting organization; and serves on the Editorial Board for the Yale School of Drama’s on-line Knowledge Base.

Ms. Godfrey is a graduate of Radcliffe College (B.A. in English Literature, magna cum laude) and Yale University School of Drama. In 2003, she received the John Cotton Dana Award for Leadership for
contributions to museum education from the American Association of Museums. She is married to Thomas J. Gardner and divides her time between Richmond, Massachusetts and Vinalhaven, Maine.