

GERSHWIN PRIZE AWARDED TO SIR PAUL MCCARTNEY

James Madison Council members John and Teresa Amend were recently invited to the Library of Congress for presentation of the third annual Gershwin Prize for Popular Music to Sir Paul McCartney.

The evening was kicked off by comments from Speaker Nancy Pelosi and consisted of McCartney tributes by a Stradivarius Violin Quartet and a Piano Concerto by Lang Lang, an esteemed Chinese concert pianist. The concert was closed by Sir Paul himself with “Yesterday” and an encore performance of “Blackbird.” Many of Sir Paul’s esteemed friends and colleagues mingled throughout the crowd including Elvis Costello, Jack White, Herbie Hancock, Dave Grohl, Emmylou Harris, Faith Hill and all three Jonas Brothers. Other notable attendees included comedian Jerry Seinfeld, Saturday Night Live guru Lorne Michaels, Edie Brickell and nearly every member of Congress. Former Gershwin award recipients Paul Simon and Stevie Wonder were also present.

The James Madison Council, an invitation-only private-sector advisory body to the Library of Congress, serves as the Library’s primary link to the business community. Established in 1990 by Librarian of Congress, James H. Billington, the Council’s mission is to provide support, insight and energy to cutting edge programs that help bring the Library’s remarkable resources to people around the country and throughout the world. Since its founding, the Council has been instrumental in furthering the Librarian’s vision of democratizing knowledge in order to spark imagination and creativity, and cultivate achievement for future generations.