DAVID LYNCH FOUNDATION

for Consciousness-Based Education and World Peace

70 Broad Street, New York, NY 10004 • 212-809-7010 • DavidLynchFoundation.org

For Immediate Release

Press Release

Contact:
Ken Chawkin
1-641-470-1314

Donovan to Be Honored by French Government as an "Officer in the Order of Arts and Letters"

Top National Award for Cultural Achievement to Be Presented in Cannes on 18 January

Iconic singer/songwriter Donovan (*Mellow Yellow, Sunshine Superman, Hurdy Gurdy Man*) will be awarded a distinguished medal as "Officer of Arts & Letters" by the French Minister of Culture, Christine Albanel, during the prestigious MIDEM Music Fair in Cannes, France, on Sunday 18 January.

The ceremony will take place at the Majestic Hotel at 4 p.m.

Donovan will be honored along with two other medal recipients: Paul Zilk, the CEO and president of Reed MIDEM; and Philippe Jaroussky, the famed French sopranist countertenor.

Donovan will receive his medal 16 months after filmmaker David Lynch was honored by French President Nicolas Sarkozy as an "Officer of the Legion of Honor."

"Donovan is greatly deserving of this high award," Mr. Lynch said. "He's a cosmic musician—his songs have brought bliss and enlightenment to the world for more that 40 years."

Donovan works closely with Mr. Lynch, heading up the musical wing of the David Lynch Foundation for Consciousness Based Education and World Peace.

Donovan and his wife, Linda, have traveled with Mr. Lynch throughout Europe, America, and Brazil to bring the benefits of Transcendental Meditation to education. Through their efforts, the Lynch Foundation has now provided scholarships for more than 60,000 children worldwide to learn to meditate.

ABOUT DONOVAN

The legendary folk-rockpop troubadour Donovan began his career as an itinerant folk musician, creating acoustic hits in 1965 with the gentle *Catch The Wind* and *Colours* and his version of Buffy Sainte Marie's protest anthem *Universal Soldier* before transforming the pop music landscape with a series of enigmatic and wondrous pop masterpieces that continue to be played on radio and television. And throughout his long career of 44 years,

Donovan has always been supported by his music publisher, peermusic.

From 1966 through 1969, Donovan scored a string of eleven Top 40 hits in a row, including *Mellow Yellow, Sunshine Superman, Epistle To Dippy, There Is A Mountain, Wear Your Love Like Heaven, Hurdy Gurdy Man, Jennifer Juniper, Lalena, Atlantis,* and *Riki Tiki Tavi*.

Donovan was one of the few artists to collaborate on songs with the Beatles, contributing lyrics and vocals to the song *Yellow Submarine*. Donovan was also invited by The Beatles to join them at Abbey Road Studios for the final orchestral overdub session for the Lennon-McCartney collaboration *A Day in the Life*, the grand finale of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.

Donovan influenced Paul McCartney, John Lennon, and George Harrison in their guitar styles, and during his career played with folk music greats Pete Seeger, Joan Baez, and Bob Dylan, as well as rock musicians Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin and Brian Jones of the Rolling Stones.

In the past five years, Donovan has completed the successful album, *Beat Café*; a new box set, *Try for the Sun: The Journey of Donovan*; a book, *The Autobiography of Donovan: The Hurdy Gurdy Man* (St. Martin's Press); and a documentary, *Sunshine Superman—The Journey of Donovan.*

Donovan is also fulfilling his 40-year interest in Transcendental Meditation by heading up the musical wing of the David Lynch Foundation for Consciousness-Based Education and World Peace.