

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fourth Annual California Jazz Foundation Fund-Raising Event Announces Honorees John Clayton, Ray Brown

LOS ANGELES, February 29, 2016--The California Jazz Foundation (CJF) will host its fourth annual *Give the Band a Hand* benefit dinner, concert and honors presentation April 2 at the L.A. Hotel Downtown, located at 333 South Figueroa Street in Los Angeles. Saturday's festivities begin at 6 p.m. with cocktails, dinner, honors and of course, music. Aside from memberships and donations, the CJF gala fundraiser is its main source of revenue. Each year, the evening acknowledges deserving figures in jazz. In addition to its greatly anticipated annual "Nica" Award, the Heritage Award will make its debut this year.

CJF founder and President **Edythe Bronston** has announced that **John Clayton**, Grammy-winning educator and mentor, master of the acoustic bass and ever-ready, largely unheralded philanthropist, will be presented with the CJF 2016 Nica Award. Countless young musicians have benefited from John's prodigious work as Artistic Director of the Vail Workshop, and the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival; and as an educator at USC and UCLA. "It is John's ongoing devotion to the young, aspiring musicians in his sessions at Vail and elsewhere throughout the country that defines him," Bronston said. "We are proud for the opportunity to thank him in our own way for his unmatched generosity."

The "Nica" is named for the Baroness Pannonica de Koenigswarter, the famed New York City jazz patron of an untold number of jazz musicians, whose colorful history is detailed in the event's tribute program. Mike Stoller & Corky Hale, Catalina Popescu and Ruth Price are past recipients of the prestigious award.

The Heritage Award's first honoree will be **Ray Brown**, likewise an educator and Grammy award-winning double-bassist, as Clayton's good friend and one-time teacher. Brown is credited with playing a leading role in defining the modern jazz rhythm and made significant contributions to America jazz. Born in 1926, he came to prominence almost immediately when joining Dizzy Gillespie at age 20 and continued to make jazz history until his death in 2002. His wife Cecilia Brown will accept the Heritage Award in his owner.

The *Give the Band a Hand* event will include a silent auction, live auction and cocktails, followed by dinner, honors ceremony and a musical tribute featuring the **Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra**.

MORE—

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CJF member and music director **Greg Porée** has announced additional performances by **Gerald Clayton, Grace Kelly, Christoph Luty, Graham Dechter, Adam Bravo** and the **California Institute of the Arts Combo**.

Honorary dinner chairs are: **Terry Gibbs, Jeff Hamilton, Plas Johnson, Lainie Kazan, Michael Lazaroff, Cathy & Howard Stone** and **Billy Dee Williams**.

Tickets for the Saturday, April 2 gala are priced at a tax-deductible \$200. per person. There are also sponsorship opportunities available. Net proceeds from the event will benefit the California Jazz Foundation. To purchase tickets or to become a sponsor, the CJF can be accessed via www.californiajazzfoundation.org/, by email at info@californiajazzfoundation.org or by telephone at (818) 261-0057. All tickets will be held at the door.

The CJF is a charitable, nonprofit organization created to aid and assist California jazz musicians in financial or medical crisis, committed to providing access to quality social and economic services for all eligible applicants. The CJF will celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2016, and to date has helped more than 190 California musicians with everything from rent, car payments and medical bills to financial counseling through a team of caring, knowledgeable professionals in collaboration with community partners. It's no exaggeration to say that in some instances, the CJF has saved lives. CJF is grateful to its sponsors: The Jazz Cruise, KJAZZ 88.1 FM, The Seymour Group/Elite Properties Realty and Turkish Airlines.

The California Jazz Foundation, a 501(C)(3) corporation (Tax ID#65-1270361), is part of the Entertainment Assistance Cooperative (EAC), an organization comprised of entertainment charities' social workers who regularly meet and share information so that applicants only need to fill out one, rather than many, applications.

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