

**Rosanne Cash, Bonnie Raitt & More Set to Perform at SFJAZZ Gala 2020  
Honoring Mavis Staples with SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Thursday, January 30, 2020  
SFJAZZ Center, San Francisco, CA  
SFJAZZ.org/Gala**

(San Francisco, CA, November 7, 2019) – SFJAZZ will host the SFJAZZ Gala 2020 honoring **Mavis Staples** with the SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award on Thursday, January 30, 2020. The SFJAZZ Gala 2020 will feature exclusive performances from Mavis Staples, Rosanne Cash, Bonnie Raitt, Lizz Wright, Charlie Musselwhite, Robin Hodge Williams & Friends Gospel Choir, Rick Holmstrom, SFJAZZ Collective, SFJAZZ High School All-Stars, and more. The Gala After Party will feature a performance from the energetic soul and R&B band Con Brio with special guests.

On January 30, 2020, the SFJAZZ Center will be filled with cultural and political leaders, celebrities, artists, and music enthusiasts. Bonnie Raitt will present Mavis Staples with the SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award to celebrate her artistic vision and contributions to American music over the last 70 years.

Mick Hellman and Denise Young Smith will serve as Gala Co-Chairs and all proceeds from the SFJAZZ Gala 2020 will support SFJAZZ's artistic and education programs.

"As a two-term board member of SFJAZZ, I am thrilled to be co-chairing this year's Gala," said Denise Young Smith. "The Gala is going to raise funds to continue to support the SFJAZZ's compelling artistic programming and expansive music education vision. I am excited for any opportunity I have to highlight and amplify the roles women have played in American music from the iconic to the behind scenes to the little known or unsung. These stories matter and we must celebrate them in every possible forum. I look forward to many new SFJAZZ supporters joining us this year. It is an incredibly exciting time to experience the relevance of this music!"

"Co-chairing the SFJAZZ Gala with Denise Young Smith in the year we honor Mavis Staples is a special treat," said Mick Hellman. "I love Mavis' beautiful, powerful voice and to-die-for hooks, and am inspired by her commitment to social activism. SFJAZZ's choice to honor Mavis also speaks to the organization's commitment to the connection between jazz and other forms of American roots music such as gospel, blues, and soul."

VIP Gala supporters will enjoy a lively cocktail hour and seated dinner with featured artists followed by the Gala Concert featuring some of the most exciting names in music – all culminating with the SFJAZZ Gala After Party with Con Brio and special guests. Gala-goers and After-partiers will celebrate with an abundant array of the finest cuisine and drinks throughout the evening by Paula LeDuc, with late-night fare from SFJAZZ's favorite neighborhood spots.

With a professional career spanning nearly seven decades, Mavis Staples is the greatest living gospel and soul singer – a two-time GRAMMY winner, 1999 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, 2016 Kennedy Center honoree, Blues Hall of Fame inductee, Gospel Music Hall of Fame inductee and recipient of the 2005 GRAMMY Lifetime Achievement Award whose soaring voice turned classic spirituals into declarations of freedom during pivotal moments in American history.

In honoring Ms. Staples with the SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award, we celebrate her as a singular artist who has incorporated the breadth of American music into her work while remaining steadfastly committed to her gospel roots, mirroring the development of the jazz tradition, which has always looked to sacred music as inspiration and a springboard to new areas of expression. We recognize Ms. Staples' inclusive approach to the roots of American music as a parallel to our mission at SFJAZZ, and we have been fortunate to present her twice in past years, including an October 2003 performance at San Francisco's iconic Grace Cathedral during the 21st San Francisco Jazz Festival that paid tribute to her friend and mentor, Mahalia Jackson.

Mavis Staples will also perform with her band at the SFJAZZ Center on Friday, January 31 and Saturday, February 1, 2020. Tickets for these subsequent concerts are on sale now and range from \$35 to \$95.

SFJAZZ's work in education will be on display throughout the Gala. In 2018, SFJAZZ announced the expansion of in-school education programs and a commitment to reach every public middle school student in San Francisco and Oakland. More than 23,000 students in 70 schools will benefit from the expansion, which includes school day concerts, standards-based classroom learning residencies, and support of school music ensembles. The SFJAZZ Education Department develops and implements these programs with teachers, school administrators, parents, and students to bring jazz into Bay Area classrooms. SFJAZZ has become the world's leading cultural institution devoted to jazz and related forms of music, presenting over 400 performances each year at the SFJAZZ Center and throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. SFJAZZ welcomes over 200,000 fans and students every year both at the SFJAZZ Center and around the Bay Area.

### **Tickets and Information**

VIP Packages, Luminary, Gala, and After Party tickets are now available via [SFJAZZ.org/gala](http://SFJAZZ.org/gala) or Emily Everding, 415-283-0342, [gala@sfjazz.org](mailto:gala@sfjazz.org).

For Further details on the SFJAZZ Gala 2020 including ticket and sponsorship information, visit [www.sfjazz.org/gala](http://www.sfjazz.org/gala).

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