

SFJAZZ Gala 2015 Honors Joni Mitchell with Lifetime Achievement Award

SFJAZZ Center, San Francisco, CA, May 8, 2015

*With Joni Mitchell, Wayne Shorter, Brian Blade & The Fellowship Band,
SFJAZZ Collective and others*

(San Francisco, CA, December 17, 2014) – SFJAZZ announces that its annual Gala on May 8, 2015 will honor Joni Mitchell with the SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award for her artistic vision and contributions to modern music. The program will feature Brian Blade & The Fellowship Band, the award-winning SFJAZZ Collective, and special guests in a tribute to the rich musical legacy of Ms. Mitchell. All proceeds from the SFJAZZ Gala 2015 will support SFJAZZ’s artistic and education programs. The SFJAZZ Gala raised over \$1.4 million in 2014. SFJAZZ Trustee Nion McEvoy and longtime SFJAZZ supporter Penny Coulter will serve as Co-Chairs for this year’s historic Gala.

Ms. Mitchell’s extensive collaborations with jazz artists are a hallmark of her far-ranging vision and iconic sensibilities. In the final project before his death, bassist Charles Mingus wrote six pieces for Joni Mitchell. Those compositions featuring lyrics by Ms. Mitchell are captured on the 1979 classic *Mingus* featuring jazz legends Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock (both previous recipients of the SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award). Her work with other groundbreaking artists including Jaco Pastorius, Tom Scott, Tony Williams, Pat Metheny, and Michael Brecker has led to a legacy that transcends pop and jazz music.

The mission of SFJAZZ is to celebrate the full spectrum of jazz as a living artform, built on a constantly evolving tradition. The organization has also championed openness and creativity in all forms of music. No artist better embodies constant evolution than Joni Mitchell. From her early days in the folk music scene of the 1960s to her recent collaboration with the Alberta Ballet, she is broadly recognized as one of the most influential and important artists in the history of modern music.

Over its 33 years of existence, the nonprofit SFJAZZ has become a worldwide leader in jazz presentation, creation and education, both fostering and inspiring the next generation of jazz audiences and musicians. The award-winning LEED Gold certified SFJAZZ Center, which opened in January of 2013 in San Francisco’s vibrant Hayes Valley neighborhood, is the first free-standing building devoted and dedicated to jazz and has become a hub of art, music, culture, and community.

Premiere patron tables are now available via Stephanie Garcés, 415-283-0364, sgarcés@sfjazz.org. Further details on the SFJAZZ Gala 2015, including ticket and sponsorship information, will be posted on www.sfjazz.org/jonimitchell in early 2015.

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