

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Canadian jazz icon Molly Johnson to host 2013 Business for the Arts Partnership Awards**

*Gala dinner and awards presentation on November 15 at the Carlu in Toronto to celebrate business and arts partnerships, philanthropy and volunteerism in the arts*

(TORONTO, ON – November 6, 2013) Business for the Arts, Canada’s only national charitable organization of business members who support the arts, is pleased to announce that award-winning jazz vocalist, singer-songwriter, artist and philanthropist Molly Johnson will host and perform at the **35<sup>th</sup> Annual National Business for the Arts Partnerships Awards** on Friday, November 15, 2013 at the Carlu in Toronto.

The evening's entertainment will also include dance choreography by Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie and Canada's National Ballet School, jazz artist Gavin Hope, and a performance by Soulpepper Resident Artist Mike Ross. Acclaimed keyboardist, composer and arranger Bill King and the Bill King Trio will accompany the performers.

Each year, the gala brings together more than 400 of Canada’s foremost business and arts leaders to celebrate the extraordinary contributions made by individuals and companies who have shown outstanding commitment to the arts through unique and innovative partnerships. The evening's 2013 award recipients are:

The Edmund C. Bovey Award: **Gary Slaight**, President & CEO of Slaight Communications Inc. and Slaight Music

The Arnold Edinborough Award: **Stephen Delaney**, Senior Associate in Corporate Finance at Paradigm Capital Inc.

The artsVest™ Outstanding Partnership Award: **PAVED Arts, Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra and Affinity Credit Union**

The Globe and Mail Business for the Arts Partnership Awards (four categories):

Best Entrepreneurial Award: **Calgary Hotel Association**

Most Effective Corporate Program Award: **RBC Foundation, RBC Emerging Artists Project**

Most Innovative Marketing Sponsorship Award: **Robert Lowrey Piano Experts**

Small Business Partnership Award: **La Scala Home Cinema and Integrated Media**

“We are delighted to have the fantastic Molly Johnson as the host of our gala awards this year,” said Nichole Anderson, President & CEO of Business for the Arts. “We look forward to an inspiring evening in celebration of the tremendous impact achieved when arts and business come together to create rewarding and successful partnerships. We commend all our winners for their foresight, leadership and commitment in support of arts and culture in Canada.”



Known as one of Canada's greatest voices, Molly Johnson has become a Canadian icon in the jazz scene worldwide. Her critically acclaimed vocal styling and albums earned her a Juno Award in 2009 for Best Vocal Jazz Album and the 2009 National Jazz Award for Best Female Vocalist. A dedicated philanthropist, she established the Kumbaya Foundation and Festival in 1992, raising awareness and funds for people living with HIV/AIDS, and continues to work with many charitable organizations. Molly has been awarded the Queen's Jubilee medal and is an Officer of The Order Of Canada. She is currently the voice of the CBC Radio 2 Weekend Morning program. Her sixth album is set to be released spring 2014.

The gala will be immediately followed at the Carlu by **The Arnold Party**, the official after-party of Business for the Arts' annual awards gala, a galvanizing high-energy gathering of dynamic, arts-minded young professionals to celebrate, encourage and support leadership and volunteerism in Canadian arts and culture, and to celebrate the winner of The Arnold Edinborough Award. Hosted by award-winning actor, comedian and playwright Rick Miller, host of the primetime series *Just for Laughs*, the evening's entertainment will include DJ The Soul Proprietor (Eon of Bedouin Soundclash), performances by Toronto vocalist Saidah Baba Talibah and jazz artist Vincent Bertucci, a live art installation by Sarah Cannon (painter) and Fezz Stenton (projectionist) of Young Offenders (by Young Lions Music Club), and Shannon Litzenberger's contemporary dance installation *Everyday Marvels*, named one of the top 15 things to see at this year's Nuit Blanche by both *Toronto Life* and *The Globe and Mail*.

For more information on the gala, winners, host and entertainment, visit [www.bftaawards.com](http://www.bftaawards.com) or [thearnoldparty.com](http://thearnoldparty.com).

### **2013 Awards Gala Partners:**

Presenting Partner: Sun Life Financial

Arnold Edinborough Award Partner: Michael Vukets & Associates

Arnold Party Presenting Partner: Aeroplan

Official Media Partners: The Globe and Mail, CBC

Venue Partner: The Carlu

### **About Business for the Arts**

Founded in 1974, Business for the Arts aims to strengthen arts and culture in Canada by connecting arts organizations to business patrons, volunteers and ambassadors, and by providing resources for arts and business leaders to establish and build successful partnerships. For more information, visit [www.businessforthearts.org](http://www.businessforthearts.org).

### **For more information, please contact:**

Christine Amendola

Marketing and Communications Manager

Business for the Arts

416-869-3016 ext. 230

[c\\_amendola@businessforthearts.org](mailto:c_amendola@businessforthearts.org)