

6TH ANNUAL
NASHVILLE
Honors Gala.

For Immediate Release

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Kenny Chesney and Darius Rucker to appear at 2014 Honors Gala

Chesney and Rucker will pay tribute to Honorees:

Mark Bloom, Beth Dortch Franklin, Scott Hiebert, Mike Dungan and Dale Morris

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – January 3, 2014 – The T.J. Martell Foundation announced today two of the stars that are slated to make special appearances at the sixth annual Nashville Honors Gala. Country music recording artists Kenny Chesney and Darius Rucker will make special appearances at the gala, which will be held at the Nashville Omni Hotel on March 10, 2014.

This year's high profile affair will recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the music industry, the Nashville economy and medical research. Honorees are Nashville real estate visionary Mark Bloom, music industry icons Dale Morris and Mike Dungan, entrepreneur Beth Dortch Franklin and cancer research pioneer Scott Hiebert.

The T.J. Martell Foundation's Nashville Honors Gala is a high-profile festive affair, which brings together celebrities with business, medical, sports and entertainment industry leaders to raise awareness and funds for innovative cancer research at 11 top research hospitals in the United States including the Frances Williams Preston Laboratories at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center.

"We are so excited that Kenny Chesney and Darius Rucker will be appearing to pay tribute to our honorees and to help support the wonderful work of the T.J. Martell Foundation," said T.J. Martell's Director of Strategic Development, Tinti Moffat. "Both artists are longtime supporters of the foundation and have become known for using their enormous fame and public influence to raise money and awareness for charitable causes."

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Moffat added, "Our honorees embody the spirit of what our organization believes in and have played instrumental roles in their industries as well as the city of Nashville. This event benefits a great cause and has been an incredible experience each year."

The March 10 event is invitation-only and begins at 5:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception and premiere silent auction. The festivities continue at 7:00 p.m. with dinner, the awards presentation, outstanding musical performances and a live auction.

The co-chairs for the 2013 event include Danielle Bouharoun, Wells-Fargo Private Banking; Ree Buchanan, Wrensong Publishing ; and Mark Wright, Show Dog Music.

Table sponsorships range from \$11,500 to \$100,000. Individual tickets are \$1,000. Ads honoring the honorees may also be purchased in the commemorative journal. For journal ads and sponsorship information, email Tinti Moffat at tmoffat@tjmartell.com or visit www.honorsgala.tjmartell.org.

Darius Rucker, who first attained multi-platinum status as the lead singer and rhythm guitarist of Hootie & the Blowfish, was the first African American to have a Number One country song since Charlie Pride in 1983. The 2008 hit, "Don't Think I Don't Think About It," off the album *Learn to Live* was followed by two more singles that topped the chart - "It Won't Be Like This For Long" and "Alright" - and earned him the New Artist award from the Country Music Association. His 2010 follow-up, *Charleston, SC 1966*, included two more Number Ones, "Come Back Song" and "This." Recently, Rucker was nominated for the CMA's Musical Event of the Year award for his performance of "Stuck on You" with Lionel Richie, and in October, he achieved a childhood dream when he was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry.

Rucker's newest studio album "True Believers," also the name of his 2013 headlining tour, is a triumphant reflection of the rewards and challenges of sustaining a marriage, and it has been called his most ambitious project yet.

Kenny Chesney is one of the greatest selling country artists of all time. He has had 24 #1 hits, sold more than 30 million albums and his tours are consistently ranked among the highest grossing in the world. The Country Music Association honored Chesney with the Entertainer of the Year award in 2004, 2006, 2007, and 2008. Other notable awards include the Academy of Country Music's 1997 New Male Vocalist of the Year, 2002 Top Male Vocalist of the Year, and the Triple Crown Award in 2005. He was awarded his fourth consecutive Entertainer of the Year award from the Academy of Country Music on May 18, 2008.

Chesney's latest release, titled *Life on a Rock*, includes the singles "Pirate Flag" and "When I See This Bar."

Mark Bloom will receive the Spirit of Nashville Award. More than 20 years ago, Mark Bloom and two friends had a vision for Nashville. He saw the city growing, downtown in particular, and decided to invest in a piece of property on Lower Broadway. Today, Corner Partnership, LLC, which Bloom controls

with Ronnie Scott and Larry Papel, has become one of Nashville's most successful and visionary real estate development groups. The partnership has invested in hotels, restaurants, high-rise condos and tracts upon tracts of raw land.

Bloom's real estate prowess extends beyond investing in boom areas before prices rise. He is a forward thinker who creates Nashville "firsts." As transplants from cities like New York and Los Angeles continue to pour into Nashville, Bloom was one of the first to see the need for "super-luxury" urban living, and continues to develop such brands throughout downtown. Among Corner Partnership's holdings are Hilton Nashville Downtown, Union Station Hotel, Midtown's Adelia and prime sites in the Gulch, East Nashville and Lower Broadway.

In addition to his endeavors with Corner Partnership, LLC, Bloom is a Senior Vice President of Investments with UBS Financial Services, Inc., and spearheaded the municipal bond department at J.C. Bradford & Co.

Beth Dortch Franklin will receive the Lifetime Humanitarian Award. Beth Dortch Franklin began her transportation career in the mid 1980s with her family's company, Star Transportation. Despite limited experience in trucking, she turned a struggling family company toward the road to success. Franklin created a team of talented associates to help guide the growth and direction of Star Transportation.

In 1999, while Mrs. Franklin was turning Star into a profitable enterprise, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. For the first time since taking the company's reigns, she was forced to take time off and release the daily management to her executives. According to Franklin, her battle with cancer taught her volumes about being a trusting and effective CEO. She remains cancer free and has spent the past 7 years actively working with the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center (VICC) and the Tennessee Trucking Foundation (TTF). She continues to serve on the Board of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center and still works with the Tennessee Trucking Foundation. Both passions reflect Franklin's "love for life."

After serving as CEO of Star for more than 20 years, Franklin achieved the challenging goal of a successful transition. Having grown Star Transportation to 850 employees and over 600 tractors Franklin's family approved the sale of the company for \$100 million dollars. Every employee was offered the opportunity to continue their employment and Franklin agreed to exit the "for profit" transportation industry for a period of seven years.

Mrs. Franklin is currently adding a new career to her business days that will allow her to continue her work with VICC and the TTF, among a handful of other non-profits. Exciting details about her new career will be shared next year.

Scott Hiebert, PhD, will receive the Medical Research Advancement Award. Dr. Scott Hiebert's career focuses on research advances in the area of hematology and malignant blood cancers. He is a leader in national programs funded by the National Institutes of Health and numerous other foundations. He also serves as Associate Director of Cancer Research at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center.

Mike Dungan will receive the Frances Williams Preston Lifetime Achievement Award. Mike Dungan is Chairman and CEO of Universal Music Group Nashville, the largest music company in the country music business. A native of Cincinnati, he has worked in the music business since he was 16 years old, getting his start doing odd jobs in a local record store. In 1979, Dungan began his label career as a pop promotion rep for RCA, working in the Cincinnati, Detroit, and then Minneapolis markets. In 1987, he took a sales position with RCA and Arista Records parent company, BMG. Two years later, Arista Records hired him as its Director of Marketing for the Midwest. In 1990, Dungan moved to the newly formed Arista Nashville label to head up Sales and Marketing, later rising to the post of SVP and General Manager. While at Arista, he was instrumental in the careers of Brooks & Dunn, Alan Jackson, Pam Tillis, and Diamond Rio and was responsible for signing Brad Paisley. In 2000, Dungan was named President of EMI Music's Capitol Records Nashville, and over the next 12 years, helped to build that company to enormous success, with the Capitol label being named Billboard Magazine's country label of the year again in 2012, its 7th straight year to win that award.

In May of 2012, Dungan shifted to the Universal Music Group as Chairman and CEO. Shortly after that time, it was announced that Universal would purchase EMI, reuniting Dungan with his old roster at Capitol. That label group is now home to 32 artists, including Luke Bryan, Keith Urban, Lady Antebellum, Little Big Town, George Strait, Eric Church, Darius Rucker, Sugarland, Jennifer Nettles, Alan Jackson, Shania Twain, Dierks Bentley, Gary Allan, Vince Gill, Billy Currington, and new breakout artist Kacey Musgraves.

Dale Morris will receive the Tony Martell Entertainment Achievement Award. When music business icon Dale Morris first came to Nashville, there were few record companies and even fewer booking and artist management companies. He took advantage of the latter two, and over the last 40+ years, his management and booking clients have toured virtually every city with a stage, won every award there is to win, and sold enough records, tapes and CDs to fill a stadium.

Throughout the course of his career, Morris has handled the careers of ALABAMA, Kenny Chesney, Jake Owen, Big & Rich and Martina McBride amongst others. As well, his company, Morris Light and Sound, provides full service production which integrates audio, video and lighting services for live events and tours throughout North America - from Kenny Chesney's stadium shows to Presidential rallies and more.

Most recently, Dale has partnered in a resorts and entertainment company that currently includes The Deadwood Mountain Grand and the 33,000 square-foot log Fontanel Mansion.

About the T.J. Martell Foundation

The T.J. Martell Foundation is the music industry's largest foundation that funds innovative medical research focused on finding cures for leukemia, cancer and AIDS. The T.J. Martell Foundation was founded in 1975 by music industry executive Tony Martell and his colleagues, in loving memory of his son, T.J., who died of leukemia. The Foundation has provided more than \$250 million for research at top hospitals in the United States. The Foundation sources and supports early-stage research projects aimed at developing more effective clinical treatments for patients which otherwise might not be funded. In

Nashville, the T.J. Martell Foundation funds the Frances Williams Preston laboratories at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. For additional information, visit www.TJMartell.org.

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