



T.J. Martell Foundation's 42nd Annual  
**NEW YORK**  
**honors gala**

**For Immediate Release:**

## **THE T.J. MARTELL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES THE 42<sup>ND</sup> NEW YORK HONORS GALA**

*The Music Industry's Largest Foundation Focused on Saving Lives of Those  
Affected by Cancer Honors Three Outstanding Leaders in Music Business*

Tuesday, October 17, 2017 – New York

**New York, New York – (August 14, 2017)** – The T.J. Martell Foundation for Cancer Research has announced its 42<sup>nd</sup> New York Honors Gala to be held Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at Guastavino's in New York beginning with a red carpet arrival at 6:00 p.m. The honorees include **Steve Boom**, Vice President of Amazon Music, **Sarah Stennett**, CEO & Co-Founder of First Access Entertainment and **Julie Swidler**, Executive Vice President, Business Affairs & General Counsel of Sony Music Entertainment.



Steve Boom will receive the Music Innovation Award, Sarah Stennett will be honored with the Spirit of Music Award and Julie Swidler will be the recipient of the Lifetime Music Industry Award.

**Steve Boom** joined Amazon in 2012 and has led the transformation of Amazon Music into one of the world's leading music streaming services. Steve has global responsibility for all aspects of Amazon Music, including strategy, product development, licensing, marketing, industry relations and business development. He was ranked No. 12 on Billboard's 2017 Power 100 list. Before joining Amazon, Steve was President of Loopt, a pioneer in mobile location-based services, and CEO and Executive Chairman of mig33, a popular mobile social networking service in South and Southeast Asia. Earlier in his career, he spent 10 years at Yahoo!, where he was Senior Vice President responsible for Mobile and launched award-winning mobile products, such as Yahoo! Go and oneSearch, and established wide-ranging partnerships with mobile operators across North America, Europe and Asia. He was also one of the Founding members of Yahoo!'s European management team. He began his career as a corporate attorney with Venture Law Group in Silicon Valley. Steve holds a JD from Harvard Law School as well as a BS in Electrical Engineering and an AB in History from Stanford University.

**Sarah Stennett** is the CEO and Co-Founder of First Access Entertainment, a global entertainment company, with offices in London, Los Angeles and New York, and over 60 members of staff. A joint venture between Sarah Stennett and Sir Len Blavatnik of Access Industries, First Access Entertainment is a company at the forefront of the paradigm shift in the entertainment business, offering a broad range of dynamic services across artist, actor and model management, recorded music, music publishing, strategic brand partnerships and TV/film development. Over the years, Sarah Stennett has built a highly accomplished and successful team of executives who have together with her been responsible for the discovery, development and launch of numerous artists, including Jessie J, Ellie Goulding, Rita Ora, Iggy Azalea, Zayn and Bebe Rexha.



April 2017 saw Stennett become the first woman in over 20 years to be honored with the STRAT award at the Music Week Awards (the UK music business' flagship annual awards), and in June saw her deliver the keynote address at the industry's leading annual conference, Midem (where she was also honored with the International award). Both follow her being awarded a visiting fellowship at the University of Westminster, London and being named as one of the most influential people in music on Debrett's 2017 '500 Influencers of The Year.'



Julie Swidler is the executive vice president of business affairs and general counsel for Sony Music Entertainment. Repeatedly featured on Billboard's Women in Music and Power 100 lists, Swidler was the first Label Executive (and first woman) to receive the Grammy Foundation's ELI Service Award in 2016 given to music attorneys for advancing and supporting the music community through service. Swidler oversees the company's legal, business affairs, and governmental matters on a global level.

Since becoming Head of Business Affairs and General Counsel at Sony Music in 2008, Swidler has advised the company's labels and operating units on wide variety of issues and deals including strategic negotiations, artist contracts, litigation, and joint venture operations. She's played a central role in such major undertakings as Sony Music's 2013 acquisition of Ultra (a dance label whose roster includes OMI and Steve Aoki) and in the launch of Astronauts Wanted: No Experience Necessary (a millennial-focused content brand and joint venture with former MTV Networks CEO Judy McGrath). Swidler also spent part of 2015 heading up Sony Music Nashville as it was transitioning between leadership. Additionally she sits on VEVO's board of directors.

Swidler began her music industry career at PolyGram Records eventually rising to Senior Vice President Business & Legal Affairs/Mercury Records — where highlights included serving as lead lawyer for Woodstock '94. Swidler left the company in 1999 to work for Clive Davis as head of business and legal affairs for Arista Records. The following year, she joined Davis and other Arista executives in launching J Records, a joint venture with BMG that had, among its first major releases, the multi-platinum-selling, Grammy Award-winning debut album from Alicia Keys. That endeavor ultimately led to the label's merging with RCA Records to form the RCA Music Group, where Swidler held the position of Executive Vice President of Business and Legal Affairs.

She has a strong philanthropic side that includes involvement in Rwanda's Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village (a residential community home to those orphaned during and after the 1994 genocide) and with the UJA-Federation of New York's Music for Youth initiative. A mother of three, Swidler also serves on the board of the T.J. Martell Foundation, which funds innovative medical research focused on finding cures for leukemia, cancer, and AIDS and in 2004 named Swidler a foundation honoree at its annual Family Day celebration. In addition, Swidler was recently elected to her alma mater Union College's Board of Trustees.

This year's Co-Chairs for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual New York Honors Gala are Joel Klaiman, Executive Vice President and General Manager, Columbia Records and Jennifer Justice, President of Corporate Development for Superfly.

Past honorees have included former President George W. Bush and former President William J. Clinton, the late Frances Williams Preston, Katie Couric, Matt Lauer, Anne Curry, Al Roker, Clive Davis, the late Arnold Palmer, Del Bryant, Scott Borchetta, Clarence Avant, Berry Gordy, Quincy Jones, Irving Azoff, Russell Simmons, Monte & Avery Lipman, the late Bruce Lundvall, John Esposito, Joel Katz, the late Ahmet Ertegun, John Amato, Bruce Bozzi, Wally Ganzi, Janice Min, Dinesh Paliwal, John Varvatos, Mitchell C. Benson, M.D., John Sykes, John Paul DeJoria, Carrie Underwood, Russell Wallach and Brett Yormark. For tickets, sponsorship or more information please go to [www.honorsgalanewyork.org](http://www.honorsgalanewyork.org)

#### **ABOUT THE T.J. MARTELL FOUNDATION**

The T.J. Martell Foundation is the music industry's leading foundation that funds innovative medical research focused on finding treatments and cures for cancer. The 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 \$280 million for research at seven flagship hospitals in the United States. For more information on the T.J. Martell Foundation visit [www.tjmartell.org](http://www.tjmartell.org).

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