

MARTELL Miami

For Immediate Release:

THE T.J. MARTELL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES ANNUAL *MARTELL IN MIAMI* DINNER HONORING LEILA COBO, VICE PRESIDENT LATIN INDUSTRY LEAD BILLBOARD AND IÑIGO ZABALA, PRESIDENT WARNER MUSIC LATIN AMERICA & IBERIA

Live Performance by Celia Cruz All Stars

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 – Estefan Kitchen Miami Design District

MIAMI, FLORIDA – (January 16, 2019) – The T.J. Martell Foundation for Cancer Research has announced the *Martell in Miami Dinner* to be held Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at Estefan Kitchen, 140 NE 39th Street in the Miami Design District.

Martell in Miami will honor **Leila Cobo, Vice President, Latin Industry Lead Billboard** with the Music Industry Trailblazer Award. **Iñigo Zabala, President, Warner Music Latin America & Iberia** will be honored with the Estefan Lifetime Achievement Award. Celia Cruz All Stars will perform.



Leila Cobo is considered one of the world's leading experts in Latin music and under her leadership Billboard has expanded its coverage of Latin Music to unprecedented levels both on its print and digital platforms, including the launch of Spanish-

language website Billboardenespanol.com. Billboard Latin content garners over 2 million unique visits per month on Billboard.com.

Leila also works closely with broadcast partner Telemundo on the Billboard Latin Music Awards and programs the yearly Billboard Latin Music Conference. Cobo was recently promoted to Vice President, Latin Industry Lead for Billboard.

She has published two award-winning novels with Grand Central Publishing/Hachette: “Tell Me Something True,” for which she won the National Latino Book Award and “The Second Time We Met,” which won the Latino Book Award for Best Popular Fiction. Ms. Cobo’s biography on Jenni Rivera, published by Penguin, topped Amazon’s Spanish language sales charts. Ms. Cobo also wrote a best-selling biography on Jenni Rivera (Penguin) and “Apunta A las Estrellas,” a practical and inspirational guide to people who seek a career in the music industry. In 2017, she co-wrote Ednita Nazario’s memoir, “Una Vida.” Also in 2017, Ms. Cobo was named “Leading Latin Lady” by the Latin Grammys in and Mujer Imagen by Imagen Magazine.

Iñigo Zabala, President of Warner Music Latin America and Iberia, was born in Madrid, Spain. He began his career in the music industry as a founding member and songwriter of the Spanish band “La Union.” In 1988 he joined Warner Music Spain as A&R manager and was named Marketing Manager in 1990. He quickly moved up the corporate ladder as Deputy Managing Director in 1993 and just one year later was appointed Managing Director Warner Music Spain. Zabala moved to become Managing Director Warner Music Mexico in 1998, took over as President of WMI’s Mexico and US Latin operations in January 2000, and moved to New York as Executive Vice President WMLA in August. Shortly after January 2001, he became President of Warner Music Latin America based out of Miami.

For over 25 years, Zabala has been at the helm of the professional careers of many of the Latin world’s biggest superstars including Mana, Miguel Bose, Luis Miguel, Ricardo Arjona, Alejandro Sanz, Jesse & Joy, Anitta, Laura Pausini, Piso21, Sofia Reyes, Danny Ocean, Zion & Lennox and Pablo Alboran, among many others. Today, Warner Music Latin America’s affiliates include WM Argentina, WM Brazil, WM Chile, WM Colombia, WM Mexico, WM Spain and WM Portugal, with additional license offices in Central America, Ecuador and Peru.

The Martell in Miami Awards have honored Emilio Estefan, Gloria Estefan, Edward Walson, Owner of The Royal Blues Hotel and Jesús López, Chairman and CEO of Universal Music Latin America & Iberian Peninsula. The Martell in Miami Awards event is attended by international television and music executives, T.J. Martell Foundation Board Members, donors, and partners.

The Martell in Miami Committee includes Frank Amadeo, Nicole Covar, Melissa Exposito, Lourdes Fernandez-Velasco, Bruno Del Granado, Debbie Gaelen, James R. Kelly III, Ruben Leyva, Laura McManus Mesia, Allan Mesia, Marya Meyer, Lori Meyers, Erica J. Moriera, Esq., Betsy Perez, Ruben Rodriguez, Andy Tavel and Mariette Warner.

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities visit www.martellinmiami.org or call 646-841-1394.

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 and his colleagues in loving memory of his son T.J., who died of leukemia. The Foundation has provided more than \$280 million dollars for research that supports flagship hospitals in the United States. For more information visit www.tjmartell.org, www.facebook.com/tjmartellfoundation, www.twitter.com/tjmartell, www.pinterest.com/tjmartellfndn, www.instagram.com/tjmartellfoundation

Photo credit for image of Leila Cobo is Natalia Aquilera

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