



## Oscar Peterson International Jazz Festival Announces Winners of the 2018 Canadian Jazz Master Awards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO – The Oscar Peterson International Jazz Festival is pleased to announce the recipients of the first *Canadian Jazz Master Awards*. The decisions were voted on by a 15-person advisory panel of top-tier jazz musicians from across Canada, and the winners represent a lifetime of artistic excellence in jazz. “The legendary guitarist **Ed Bickert** will be presented the living master award, and the family of the trombonist, composer, and arranger **Rob McConnell**, will receive this year’s posthumous master award. For the event’s inaugural year, and only this year, an honorary Jazz Master Award will be presented posthumously in the name of **Oscar Peterson**,” said Artistic Director Renee Rosnes.

“The purpose of these awards is to celebrate and honour Canadian jazz musicians of the highest artistic excellence who are deserving of national recognition,” said Rosnes. “We believe it is time to recognize the great contributions Canadian artists have made to jazz music.”

The *Canadian Jazz Master Awards* will take place at Stratus Vineyards in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario on Sunday, **February 18, 2018 at 3pm**. The awards will be presented just prior to the *Canadian Jazz Lions* featuring Carol Welsman, Kevin Turcotte, Mike Murley, Robi Botos, Dave Young, and Jim Doxas in a Jazz at the Philharmonic-style concert.

The *Canadian Jazz Master Awards* will be presented annually, under the auspices of the Oscar Peterson International Jazz Festival. Each year two awards will be presented, to one living and one past legend of Canadian jazz.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

For tickets and the full festival lineup, visit [www.opjazzfest.org](http://www.opjazzfest.org).

Follow the Oscar Peterson International Jazz Festival on social media:

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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Oscar Peterson International Jazz Festival Presenting Sponsor: **TD Bank**

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**About the Oscar Peterson International Jazz Festival:**

The inaugural Oscar Peterson International Jazz Festival takes place during the weekend of February 16 -18, 2018 in the Niagara wine country of Ontario. As the world's first (and only!) jazz festival bearing the name of Canada's greatest jazz artist, it will honour and celebrate his legacy of excellence. The inaugural Festival features an all-star lineup of artists, including multiple GRAMMY and JUNO Award winners such as Cécile McLorin Salvant, Christian McBride, Renee Rosnes, Bill Charlap, and Robi Botos. The Festival is not intended to simply present concerts in tribute to Oscar Peterson, but rather to truly present jazz, showcasing the rich history and the future of the music Oscar loved. The 2018 Festival will be dedicated to Norman Granz, impresario, record producer, civil rights activist, and founder of Jazz at the Philharmonic, in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. The Festival is led by Artistic Director Renee Rosnes, Artistic Producer Kelly Peterson, and Executive Producer Bravo Niagara! Festival of the Arts.

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