



NEWS FOR RELEASE

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Billy Joel To Be Honored in 30th Anniversary Season *Philharmonic Will Celebrate Long Island's Leading Living Singer/Songwriter*

The Long Island Philharmonic has announced that legendary musician Billy Joel will be honored at its annual Gala in 2009 as part of the Philharmonic's 30th Anniversary Celebration Season. The Grammy-award winning singer/songwriter has been a long time supporter of Long Island's only professional resident Orchestra. Billy Joel has been a strong advocate for music education among children and has contributed to many of the nation's major music conservatories among the many causes that he and his wife, Katie Lee Joel, support.

Two years ago, Mr. Joel joined the Philharmonic's largest contributors to match a major gift and fundraising effort initiated by UBS Financial Services.

"I am honored and delighted to be recognized by the Philharmonic," said Billy Joel. "We share a common vision that music and the arts belong at the center of life. Without music education and appreciation, our children would grow up missing a vital and fundamental component to their learning experiences, something we all need to be complete human beings.

Larry Austin, Chairman of the Philharmonic stated, "Honoring Billy Joel in the Philharmonic's 30th Anniversary Season is both fitting and appropriate. Like our founder, Harry Chapin, Billy has demonstrated that he really cares about the future of Long Island. He grew up here, he lives here and he gives back to the community the successes he has earned. He is truly a role model that Islanders can look up to."

Having sold more than 100 million records over the past quarter century, Billy Joel ranks as one of most popular recording artists and respected entertainers in the world. In January, 2006, Billy Joel broke the record for "Longest Run of a Single Artist" at Madison Square Garden by performing shows at the legendary venue. "Movin' Out," a Broadway musical based on Joel's music choreographed and directed by Twyla Tharp, garnered Joel his first Tony Award for Best Orchestrations. Billy Joel has had 33 Top 40 hits and 23 Grammy nominations since signing his first solo recording contract in 1972. In 1990, he was presented with a Grammy Legend Award. Inducted into the

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Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1992, Joel was presented with the Johnny Mercer Award, the organization's highest honor, in 2001. In 1999 he was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and has received the Recording Industry Association of America Diamond Award, presented for albums that have sold over 10 million copies. Joel has donated his time and resources to a variety of charitable causes outside the realm of his musical career and has recently launched an ongoing educational initiative to provide seed money, musical scholarships, and endowments to a variety of East Coast colleges, universities and music schools. For his accomplishments as a musician and as a humanitarian, Billy Joel was honored as the 2002 *MusiCares Person Of The Year* by the MusiCares Foundation and the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences. On September 20, 2004, Billy Joel received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, adding another milestone to his extraordinary career.

For more information on Billy Joel, please contact Claire Mercuri, claire.mercuri@gmail.com, 917-940-2499

The Philharmonic has not yet set the date for its 2009 30th Anniversary Gala.

