



News Release

JESS MILTON APPOINTED NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS FOUNDATION

Ms. Milton brings 20 years of experience in the performing arts to the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards

January 8, 2025 – OTTAWA – The Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation (the Awards) today announce the appointment of Jess Milton as the next Executive Director of the Awards, effective January 6, 2025. She succeeds Whitney Taylor, who stepped down December 31, 2024, after 24 years with the Awards.

Jess is a seasoned producer with experience in building shows, working with artists and performers, organizing and producing live events and managing expansive projects.

Jess was the long-time producer of *The Vinyl Cafe*, overseeing all aspects of the weekly radio broadcast, podcast and extensive touring show across Canada. In the past two decades she has produced radio shows, developed, written, recorded and produced podcasts and produced over 1,000 live concerts in every province and territory in Canada. She hosts the popular podcast *Backstage at the Vinyl Cafe*.

"While we are very sorry to be saying goodbye to Whitney Taylor, who has been an outstanding Executive Director of the Awards Foundation for so many years, we are delighted to welcome Jess Milton, who brings a passion for the performing arts and deep experience in working with and celebrating Canadian artists from coast to coast to coast," said Douglas Knight C.M., Chair & CEO of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards.

"I am honoured to join the Governor General Performing Arts Awards as the new Executive Director," said Ms. Milton. "Our artists help us understand who we are. Their work helps us make sense of our past and inspires our future. The Awards honour and celebrate our outstanding performing artists, build bridges between

the regional and linguistic islands in our archipelago, and inspire future performing artists.”

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards are Canada’s highest honour in the performing arts. The awards recognize a stellar array of artists and arts volunteers for their outstanding contribution to culture in Canada and abroad.

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