

MEDIA ALERT * * * MEDIA ALERT * * * MEDIA ALERT

**NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
5th YOUNGARTS SALON AND PERFORMANCE WITH BEN FOLDS**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014, 6:30 PM
AT THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION CAMPUS IN MIAMI

WHAT

The [National YoungArts Foundation's](#) (YoungArts) fifth [YoungArts Salon](#) will feature a conversation and performance by singer-songwriter **Ben Folds** on the YoungArts Campus in Miami. The Salon will be moderated by **Shelly Berg**, Dean and Professor of Music at the Phillip and Patricia Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. YoungArts alumni **Kate Davis** (2009 YoungArts Winner in Jazz and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) and **Gabe Schneider** (2011 YoungArts Winner in Jazz) will perform during the Pre-Salon cocktail reception.

Folds first found mainstream success as the leader of the critically acclaimed, platinum selling band, Ben Folds Five. Since then, he has gone on to have an extremely successful solo career, recording multiple studio albums, compose music for film and TV, and collaborate with numerous artists from Sara Bareilles to William Shatner. Recently, he composed a highly-acclaimed three movement concerto for piano and orchestra which premiered in Nashville, Tennessee. He is currently on a global tour, performing with some of the world's most distinguished symphonies.

"I look forward to participating in this Salon, and the opportunity to share my experiences – and some of my songs - with YoungArts applicants, alumni and supporters," says Folds. "I am inspired by the promise of our next generation of singer-songwriters, and by YoungArts' commitment to supporting them as they begin their journey."

The YoungArts Salon series, which brings together creative art luminaries and offers audiences an opportunity to engage with internationally renowned artists, was launched in 2013 through a grant from **The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**. Previous Salons have featured **Marina Abramović** and **Matthu Placek**, **Sibylle Szaggars Redford** and **Robert Redford**, **Justin Peck** and **Sufjan Stevens**, and **Joshua Bell**. Each Salon is accompanied by related blog posts on the YoungArts and Knight Foundation websites, www.youngarts.org and www.KnightArts.org.

WHO

Ben Folds, singer-songwriter

WHEN

Wednesday, October 8, 2014
6:30 PM

WHERE

YoungArts Campus, 7th Floor Lounge
2100 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33137

TICKETS

Tickets available at <http://youngarts.org/salonseries>
\$35 general admission, \$28 for YoungArts members, \$20 for students

MORE INFO

www.youngarts.org/salonseries or (305) 377-1140

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. The foundation believes that democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged. For more, visit KnightFoundation.org.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION

The National YoungArts Foundation was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and support the next generation of artists, and to contribute to the cultural vitality of the nation by investing in the artistic development of talented young artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts. Each year, there are approximately 11,000 applications to YoungArts from 15-18 year old (or grades 10-12) artists, and from these, approximately 700 winners are selected.

YoungArts provides these emerging artists with life-changing experiences and validation by renowned mentors, access to significant scholarships, national recognition and other opportunities throughout their careers to help ensure that the nation's most outstanding emerging artists are encouraged to pursue careers in the arts. To date, YoungArts has honored more than 20,000 alumni, including Doug Aitken, Josh Groban, Jenji Kohan, Desmond Richardson and Kerry Washington, with over \$6 million in monetary awards; facilitated in excess of \$150 million in college scholarship opportunities; and enabled its participants to work with master teachers who are among the most distinguished artists in the world, such as Marina Abramović, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Plácido Domingo, Zaha Hadid, Robert Redford and Bruce Weber.

Some of YoungArts' work is featured in the Emmy-nominated HBO program *YoungArts MasterClass*, which chronicles the work of renowned artists sharing their art and life experiences with YoungArts Winners. *YoungArts MasterClass* specials have featured Edward Albee, Olafur Eliasson, Patti LuPone, Wynton Marsalis, Bobby McFerrin, Julian Schnabel, Kathleen Turner and more. Upcoming programs will feature Alan Alda and Joshua Bell. In addition, YoungArts is working with world-renowned architect and YoungArts Artistic Advisor Frank Gehry to transform the recently acquired former Bacardi Tower and Museum buildings and three-and-a-half acre campus into its national headquarters, which will support expanded local activities in Miami and across the country.

For more information, visit youngarts.org, facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation or twitter.com/YoungArts. To watch a brief video about YoungArts, [click here](#).

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