



## PRESS RELEASE

### Maxi Priest to Headline at the AFJ's 2023 Gala After Party Soirée, NYC

**New York, NY, (September 20, 2023)** – On Friday, October 27th, the American Friends of Jamaica, Inc. (AFJ) will host its 2023 Hummingbird Gala at the iconic Plaza Hotel in New York City. The AFJ will host its After Party Soirée beginning at 9:00 pm which features a performance by internationally renowned Grammy nominee Maxi Priest, music selection by Max Glazer, and an open premium bar.

Maxi Priest is a British reggae artist of Jamaican descent best known for singing reggae with R&B influence, also known as reggae fusion. He was one of the first international artists to have success in the genre. In 1990, Priest charted number one on the US Billboard Top 100 with his song “Close to You”, becoming one of only two British reggae acts to do so. He’s collaborated with other artists such as Sly and Robbie, Shaggy, UB40 and more. In 2021, he was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album with his album *It All Comes Back to Love*.

For more than four decades, the AFJ has awarded over U\$20M in grants to provide well-needed support in education, healthcare, and economic development across the island. Funds raised during the Gala and After Party will go directly toward the AFJ Grant Program and specific programs which will be highlighted at the Gala.

This year the AFJ will present awards to Danny Wegman, Chairman of Wegmans Food Markets Inc., Paula Kerr-Jarrett Wegman, Social Entrepreneur, Sherrese Clarke Soares, Founder of HarbourView Equity Partners, and Janice Hart of Yale New Haven Hospital. The Gala begins with a cocktail reception at 6:30 pm, which leads to a premium four-course dinner and the award presentation before the After Party performance. Limited Gala After Party Soirée tickets are available on the AFJ website at [www.theafj.org](http://www.theafj.org). Tickets must be purchased in advance and are not available at the door. For more information please contact [events@theafj.org](mailto:events@theafj.org) or call 212-265-2550.

Corporate sponsors of the 2023 Hummingbird Gala include Wegmans Food Markets Inc., Sands Family Foundation, JetBlue, GraceKennedy Ltd., Cari-Med Group Ltd., Steuart Foundation, and Hegemon Capital.

#### **About the AFJ**

The AFJ is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit built on the principles of service and philanthropy. For over 40 years, the organization has been rendering assistance in the areas of Education, Healthcare, and Economic Development. The AFJ Grant Cycle begins at the end of each year and grants are disbursed in April of the following year. For information on how to purchase After Party Soirée tickets and support our pledge drive, email [info@theafj.org](mailto:info@theafj.org) or visit [www.theafj.org](http://www.theafj.org).