



**THIRD ANNUAL WDAS WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE  
LUNCHEON HONORING SUSAN TAYLOR AND FIVE OTHERS  
TO FEATURE LIVE PERFORMANCES BY JOE, ERIC BENET,  
LEELA JAMES AND YUNA**

*105.3 WDAS FM to Also Honor Four Local Remarkable Women in the Community  
Through Listener Nominations*

*Presenting Sponsors Include Gwynedd Mercy University and PhillyJustice.com*

**Philadelphia, Pa – February 17, 2017** – 105.3 WDAS FM, Philly's Best R&B and Throwbacks, has announced that recording artists Joe, Eric Benet, Leela James and Yuna will perform live at the third annual *WDAS Women of Excellence Luncheon*, a celebration of local women and their achievements in the community. The luncheon will take place on Saturday, April 1 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Sheraton Downtown Philadelphia Hotel.

The Women of Excellence Luncheon will honor Trailblazing Woman of Excellence Susan L. Taylor, Editor in Chief Emeritus of Essence Magazine, and Founder and CEO of the National Cares Mentoring Movement. The luncheon will also honor Sue Serio, Fox 29 Reporter and Weather Anchor; Jacqueline Grace, Vice President and Assistant General Manager at Harrah's Philadelphia; Dr. Ellyn Jo Waller, First Lady of the ENON Tabernacle Baptist Church; Philadelphia City Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell; and Julie Coker Graham, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau, for their contributions to improving the Philadelphia community. 105.3 WDAS FM's on-air personalities Patty Jackson, Frankie Darcell, Mimi Brown and Loraine Ballard Morrill will host the event.

“105.3 WDAS FM is committed to empowering and celebrating the women in the Tristate area,” said Loraine Ballard Morrill, Director of news and community affairs for iHeartMedia Philadelphia. “We look forward to an afternoon of great music, while recognizing the achievements of the most prominent women in our community.”

In addition, 105.3 WDAS FM will honor four remarkable women nominated by 105.3 WDAS listeners, one of which will receive the Mary J. Blige Award for Perseverance and Courage. Listeners can vote at [wdasfm.com](http://wdasfm.com) until Sunday, February 19 at 11:59 p.m.

Joe is a multi-platinum recording artist who is also a seven time Grammy Nominee. He just released his 12<sup>th</sup> studio album “#MyNameIsJoeThomas” last November, and his current single “So I Can Have You Back” is the No. 2 record in the country on the Mediabase Urban AC Chart. Joe is one of the most in demand R&B artists in the world and is scheduled to go on tour later this summer.

Eric Benet is an accomplished, singer, songwriter, actor who is also a four time Grammy Nominee and NAACP Image Award Winner. His self-titled eighth album was released in October of 2016, and his current single “Insane” is flying into the Mediabase Urban AC Top 10. Eric has also been a regular on the hit BET Television Show “The Real Husbands of Hollywood.”

Leela James is a vocal Powerhouse whose raspy tone is a throwback to the R&B and soul singers of the late 60’s & 70’s. Her new album “Did It For Love” will be available online and in stores on March 31, 2017, and will be her sixth title as a solo artist. Her current single “Don’t Want You Back” is her second release to crack the R&B Top 10 on the Mediabase Urban AC Charts.

Yuna is an R&B/Pop singer-songwriter of Malaysian descent who has worked with Pharrell Williams, Usher and others. She has been a fixture on the European music scene for years, but broke through in the States in 2016 with her debut album “Chapters” which featured her debut U.S. single “Crush” with Usher. Her latest single “Best Love” is closing in on Top 5 on the Mediabase Urban AC Charts.

*WDAS Women of Excellence Luncheon* is presented by Gwynedd Mercy University and PhillyJustice.Com, a law firm in the Philadelphia area. Barbera's Autoland will be the exclusive driving partner of the event. Other sponsors include Cedar Woods Care Management, Lourdes Health System, Always Best Care Philly & Delaware, Gift of Life, Philadelphia Gas Works, Platinum Productions and The Mother’s Day Music Festival.

*WDAS Women of Excellence* has been recognizing women in the Philadelphia community since 2015. Previous honorees include Mary J. Blige and Patti LaBelle. General admission tickets are currently on sale for \$90 at [wdasfm.com](http://wdasfm.com). Stay up-to-date on *WDAS Women of Excellence Luncheon* by following 105.3 WDAS FM on Facebook at [facebook.com/wdasfm](https://facebook.com/wdasfm), on Twitter @wdasfm, or on Instagram at [instagram.com/wdasfm](https://instagram.com/wdasfm).

105.3 WDAS FM is a leading media outlet in the Philadelphia market and its content is available across multiple platforms, including its broadcast station; online via its branded digital site;

mobile; and social, with nationwide listening through iHeartRadio, the all-in-one streaming music and live radio service – with its more than a billion downloads and 95 million registered users.

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**About iHeartMedia Philadelphia:**

iHeartMedia Philadelphia owns and operates WDAS-FM; WDAS-AM; WIQQ-FM; WISX-FM; WRRF-FM; WUSL-FM and is part of iHeartMedia. With over a quarter of a billion monthly listeners in the U.S. and over 85 million social followers, iHeartMedia has the largest national reach of any radio or television outlet in America. As the leader in multiplatform connections, it also serves over 150 local markets through 858 owned radio stations, and the company’s radio stations and content can be heard on AM/FM, HD digital radio, satellite radio, on the Internet at [iHeartRadio.com](http://iHeartRadio.com) and on the company’s radio station websites, on the iHeartRadio mobile app, in enhanced auto dashes, on tablets, wearables and smartphones, and on gaming consoles.

iHeartRadio, iHeartMedia’s digital radio platform, is the fastest growing digital audio service in the U.S. and offers users thousands of live radio stations, personalized custom artist stations created by just one song or seed artist and the top podcasts and personalities. With over a billion downloads, iHeartRadio reached 95 million registered users faster than any other radio or digital music service and even faster than Facebook.

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