



For Immediate Release  
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**Multi-platinum recording artist Jason Derulo to Headline at Forty Carrots' 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Firefly Gala**

***Forty Carrots Family Center Announces Spring 2018 Fundraiser***

Sarasota, FL – (January 30, 2018) On Saturday, April 21, 2018, multi-platinum recording artist Jason Derulo will headline at the **Forty Carrots Family Center's Firefly Gala**, one of Sarasota's signature events. The event will be presented by the **Dart Foundation** at the **The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Sarasota**. This sparkling fundraising gala will feature a private, intimate concert, fabulous dinner, exciting live auction and an after party to dance the night away.

"Having lived here for over ten years, I am passionate about enhancing the lives of the families of Sarasota and Manatee Counties", said Ariane Dart, eight-time chairwoman and Firefly Gala creator (seen here with some of her committee members). "Our community is stronger because of the parenting education, mental health services and early childhood education that Forty Carrots provides to people at every economic level. I am so grateful to those new and returning sponsors who are joining me in sponsorship of the Firefly Gala. It has been very exciting to re-design the Firefly experience at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Sarasota for our eighth year to keep the event fresh and innovative."

Jason Derulo is a multi-platinum powerhouse whose stellar 2017 saw his hit song "Swalla" garner over 800 million YouTube views landing it in the top 10 YouTube videos of the year and in the Top 20 of all tracks streamed on Spotify worldwide with 500 million streams to date. With more than 102 million single equivalent sales worldwide, 77 million people on Spotify listening to his music to date and 53 million hours of his music consumed this year, his new infectious single "Tip Toe" is sure to be yet another Derulo hit to take the world by storm. His introductory breakout "Whatcha Say" and "Talk Dirty" (feat. 2 Chainz) reached quadruple-Platinum status, while "Want To Want Me" and "Ridin' Solo" went triple-Platinum and "Trumpets", "Wiggle" (feat. Snoop Dogg), and "In My Head" earned double-Platinum certifications. Platinum singles include "Marry Me", "The Other Side", and "it Girl". Cumulative streams exceed 6.3 billion and his music has impacted a total audience of more than 20 billion listeners at radio. Jason is also a featured performer for the Monday Night Football theme, his clothing line LVL XIII launched in Bloomingdale's this Fall, he has both a label and publishing deal with Warner Bros. Records, and he is currently an investor in both Catch L.A. and Rumble Boxing with Sylvester Stallone and Ashton Kutcher.

Firefly Gala, known for attracting great talent such as Flo Rida, Joan Jett & the Blackhearts, Bret Michaels and KC & The Sunshine Band, is one of the hottest tickets of the year and supports vital programs for children and families across Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Forty Carrots Family Center, in the past year alone, has served over 4,000 clients with 93% of services delivered for free.

**Group Photo:**

1<sup>st</sup> row from left: Alisa Craig, Silvana Medina, Michelle Kapreilian, Asa Thomas, Ariane Dart, Bianca Lawrence, Sandi Boyajian, Jamie Porto

Back row from left: Sarah Macrae, Lainey Dunn, Kim Hickerson, Ivana Rivolta, Inna Snyder, Tonya Getzen-Gowan, Jane Porto

Committee members not pictured: Kimberly Crippen, Ashley Derby, Tomeika Hunter-Koski, Sarah Monsalve- Roldan, Lorie Tiernay, Ana Varone

**About Forty Carrots**

For nearly 25 years, Forty Carrots Family Center has provided children with Good Beginnings That Last a Lifetime through its expertise in parenting education, early childhood education and mental health services. Rated 4-Stars by Charity Navigator, Forty Carrots fundraises to provide these services to families from all walks of life. To learn more: [www.fortycarrots.org](http://www.fortycarrots.org).

For more information about the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Firefly Gala or to learn how to be involved, email [events@fortycarrots.com](mailto:events@fortycarrots.com) or call (941) 365-7716. Visit [fireflygala.org](http://fireflygala.org) or [fortycarrots.org](http://fortycarrots.org). Follow

**The Firefly Gala** on Facebook. **We respectfully request coverage by our local print and digital media.**

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