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Seva Canada celebrates World Sight Day by Dining in the Dark with live music by Jim Byrnes

Vancouver, BC – October 9, 2014: Seva Canada's second annual Dine in the Dark World Sight Day sold out celebration will feature live music by the legendary, Juno award-winning, Jim Byrnes. Guests will experience dinner, musical entertainment and conversation all without their sense of sight. Every ticket purchased for the event will provide a cataract surgery for someone who is needlessly blind in some of the poorest parts of the world.

"There is so much we take for granted in life. This is a great opportunity for me to perform and bring awareness to the importance of vision and the issue of avoidable blindness. I am passionate about what Seva does because there is nothing vague about restoring someone's sight. It has a clear and profound impact." – **Jim Byrnes** (<http://www.jamestbyrnes.com>)

Avoidable blindness, which is predominantly due to cataracts, is a solvable problem. The suffering is unnecessary. 80% of all visual impairment is avoidable through prevention, treatment or cure.

"It's a really fun and impactful way for our guests to get a sense of what it might be like to be blind while gaining awareness of this global issue. Most of the world's 39 million blind live in the developing world, and could have their sight restored if care was brought to them. A 15-minute cataract surgery costing just \$50 can transform a life forever.

We want to empower Canadians to join us in creating sustainable eye care programs that achieve long-term change and reach those most in need – women, children and people living in extreme poverty and isolation," said **Penny Lyons**, Seva Canada Executive Director.

Diners will join Seva for an evening of discovery at Vancouver's most unique restaurant, [Dark Table](http://darktable.ca) (<http://darktable.ca>). They'll experience dinner served by Dark Table's visually impaired staff, a special live performance by legendary blues artist [Jim Byrnes](#), and a blind auction featuring items from some of the countries where Seva works. Each item will be described to the guests but until they pick them up outside they won't know what they look like.

The event is being generously sponsored by [Assante Wealth Management](#) / [CI Investments](#).

About Seva Canada: Seva Canada (seva.ca) restores sight and prevents blindness in the developing world. Since 1982, Seva donors have given the power of sight to over 3.5 million people.

Seva works with local partners to create sustainable eye care programs that achieve long-term change, are culturally sensitive and reach those most in need – women, children and people living in extreme poverty and isolation. Seva Canada works in 13 of the poorest places in the world: Nepal, Tibetan Areas of China, India, Malawi, Madagascar, Zambia, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Guatemala, Cambodia and Egypt.

About World Sight Day (WSD): Established by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, World Sight Day is an international day of awareness, held annually on the second Thursday of October, to focus attention on the global issue of avoidable blindness and visual impairment. It is part of Vision 2020, which raises awareness of our goal to end avoidable blindness in the world by the year 2020.

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For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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Media kit available at <http://bit.ly/14Genix> Public Service Announcement http://youtu.be/VW_f5ioiqGc