



Music Industry Moves: T.J. Martell Gala Honoring Red Light Founder Coran Capshaw Raises Over \$3.2 Million for Cancer Research; Freddy Wexler Launches Label

September 18, 2026 | 12:10 PM PT | Jem Aswad

Gala coverage excerpt



Photo by Kevin Mazur/Getty Images for T.J. Martell Foundation

The T.J. Martell Foundation raised more than \$3.2 million for cancer research at its annual New York Honors Gala on Sept. 15 - the most the event has raised in more than

two decades. Red Light Management founder Coran Capshaw was presented with the Lifetime Music Industry Award by his longtime friend Dave Matthews, and the evening also featured captivating solo acoustic performances by Matthews, Trey Anastasio and Chris Stapleton in Capshaw's honor.

"Coran and his artists have an incredible spirit of philanthropy," said Steve Gawley, Chair of the Board of Trustees and EVP/ Head of Business & Legal Affairs for Republic Collective. "When we first asked Coran to help us, he didn't simply agree to be honored. He brought his team, his artists, his relationships and his whole heart - and look what happened. But tonight isn't just about the total. It's about what the money allows us to do: it lets brilliant scientists take risks, moves promising ideas forward, and gives people facing cancer what matters most - better treatments, more cures and more time with the people they love."

In accepting the honor from Matthews, Capshaw said, "I think what really unites this room, both the musicians and the business side alike, is our industry's inclination to do good and to give back. Without fail, we really are the go-to industry for fundraising and responding in times of need-whether it be a flood, a hurricane, fire relief, or helping our communities - musicians and the teams behind them, really step up."

The three musical performances all paid homage to Capshaw, with each artist sharing memories as well as personal experiences with the illness that inspired their support for the foundation. Matthews performed acoustic renditions of two DMB classics he said he thought were Capshaw favorites, "Save Me" and "Don't Drink the Water." Anastasio described Capshaw as someone who "cares about three things: music, giving back and raising money for things he cares about" and detailed his ability to motivate - he opened a sober retreat in Vermont after a conversation with him - and also his own experiences with cancer, having lost his sister and best friend to the illness. He then performed acoustic versions of "Waste," a song he collaborated on with Matthews, and "More." Closing the evening was Stapleton with "Where Rainbows Never Die," a track he recorded with his former bluegrass band the SteelDrivers, and the classic "Tennessee Whiskey."