

Tessanne Chin to be honoured in Toronto

Jamaica's powerhouse vocalist Tessanne Chin, who won season five of NBC's hit singing contest The Voice in December, will be honoured this month at The University of the West Indies Fifth Annual Toronto Benefit Gala.

The event, slated for March 29 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, pays tribute to leaders of Caribbean and Canadian heritage and will see the reggae-fusion songstress presented with a Luminary Award alongside reggae legend and "The Harder They Come" star Jimmy Cliff. Chin, who recently inked a deal with one of the world's largest talent agencies ICM Partners, will release her self-titled album later this year. The 28-year-old singer's father-in-law, Jamaican broadcaster Michael Anthony Cuffe Sr., will host the Toronto gala. The event's patron is Raymond Chang, former Ryerson University chancellor and philanthropist, who like Chin is of Chinese-Jamaican descent. The annual University of West Indies event raises funds for scholarships for outstanding students in the Caribbean. To date, nearly 150 scholarships have been awarded. The reigning Voice winner will return to Toronto on May 17 for a concert at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts with her Bread & Butter Band. Toronto's large Jamaican community rallied in support of Chin, who was a Voice frontrunner from the time she turned all four coaches' chairs with her blind audition to the sound of Pink's hit song "Try."