



## **Holland America Line Hosts Fundraiser Luncheon at Port Everglades on *ms Westerdam* for Symphony of the Americas Society**

February 11, 2016

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 11, 2016 —On Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016, at Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Holland America Line hosted a fundraiser luncheon aboard *ms Westerdam* for Symphony of the Americas Society, one of the company's community partners.

During the annual event, Symphony of the Americas guest vocal soloists from Italy, Australia, Poland and New York provided operatic selections for attendees in the ship's main show lounge. Following the luncheon, guests were invited to tour the ship before disembarking.

"Arts and entertainment are an integral part of Holland America Line's onboard experience, and Symphony of the Americas is at the heart of the local arts community in South Florida," said Orlando Ashford, president of Holland America Line. "We are proud to support a like-minded organization that puts on exceptional performances and also places great value in musical education and helping children."

Symphony of the Americas is the professional orchestra of Broward County in South Florida. Founded in 1987, the orchestra has experienced continuous growth, bringing the best of classical music to the multicultural population of South Florida. The Symphony has presented its International Guest Artist Series in its performance home at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts since 1991.

The Symphony is dedicated to improving the lives of children through the magic of musical investigations, both in South Florida and the Americas. The organization is proud of its partnerships to expose young at-risk students to the arts, architecture and environment, as exemplified by its continuing programs with the Bonnet House.

"Thank you to Holland America Line for showing generosity year after year and hosting our annual fundraiser luncheon in such a beautiful setting," said Anna Tranakas, president of the Symphony of the Americas Society. "Without dedicated partners like Holland America Line we would not be able to continue to grow and touch as many lives."

Learning programs, such as master classes with international guest artists and instrument workshops and open rehearsals for school-age and older students, offer a wide range of experiences to stretch growing minds and senses. Symphony educational and outreach programs have reached more than 35,000 people.

For more information about Symphony of the Americas, visit [symphonyoftheamericas.org](http://symphonyoftheamericas.org).

For more information about Holland America Line, consult a travel professional, call 1-877-SAIL HAL (877-724-5425) or visit [hollandamerica.com](http://hollandamerica.com).

**Editor's note:** Photos are available at [cruiseimagelibrary.com/c/ynpdrhco](http://cruiseimagelibrary.com/c/ynpdrhco).

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Holland America Line's fleet of 13 ships offers more than 500 cruises to more than 400 ports in 98 countries, territories or dependencies around the world. From shorter getaways to 115-day itineraries, the company's cruises visit all seven continents with highlights including Antarctica explorations, South America circumnavigations and exotic Australia/New Zealand and Asia voyages; four annual Grand Voyages; and popular sailings to the Caribbean, Alaska, Mexico, Canada/New England, Bermuda, Europe and the Panama Canal. The line currently has a new 2,650-guest ship, *ms Koningsdam*, on order for delivery in April 2016, as well as a second Pinnacle Class ship due for delivery in November 2018.

The company recently announced \$300 million in brand enhancements to secure its position at the leader in premium cruising. Fleetwide, the ships feature innovative initiatives and a diverse range of enriching experiences focused on destination immersion and personalized travel. Guests can expand their knowledge on board at the Culinary Arts Center, presented by Food & Wine magazine; Explorations Café, powered by The New York Times; and Digital Workshop powered by Windows. Outstanding entertainment fills each evening at venues including Lincoln Center Stage, Billboard Onboard and B.B. King's Blues Club. The dining experience can be savored at a variety of restaurants with menus that feature selections from Holland America Line's esteemed Culinary Council that comprises world-famous chefs who design dishes exclusively for our guests.

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