



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 4, 2015

**Julianne Johnson and Michael Allen Harrison Headline
L'Arche Portland's Benefit Celebration
October 17, 2015**

Portland, OR, – [L'Arche Portland](http://www.larche-portland.org) is hosting its signature Benefit Celebration on Saturday, October 17th at the University of Portland. This fundraiser supports L'Arche Portland's efforts to transform the lives of people with and without intellectual disabilities.

About L'Arche Portland:

At L'Arche Portland, people with and without intellectual disabilities work together to create home and build community. Those with intellectual disabilities form the heart of our shared life and invite others into mutual relationships. We welcome each person's unique gifts and challenges, and offer opportunities for personal transformation. We trust in God and live as a sign that love, respect and interdependence are the path to a peaceful and just world. Our model of sharing daily life creates a culture of equality, founded on a belief in our need for one another and the importance of belonging. The L'Arche Portland community is part of an international L'Arche federation, with 147 communities in 35 countries.

"Patrick and I count our blessings for the L'Arche community. L'Arche accepts and magnifies the beauty and challenges of those with intellectual disabilities. We are forever changed by this amazing commitment."

-- Maureen Wheeler, parent of core member Erin Wheeler

"L'Arche Portland offers a way out of the poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for to every core member who experiences life in one of their homes, and for every extended community member, with or without intellectual disabilities, who comes to know the beauty of this simple model of sharing life together."

– Sara Szwarc, volunteer

About the Benefit Celebration:

We invite our greater Portland community to join us for a night of celebration, love, inspiration, community, and mission support. The Benefit Celebration features entertainment, heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, testimonials about L'Arche Portland's role as a sign of hope and model of compassionate care and mutual relationship, auctions and a raffle. Renowned Northwest artists [Julianne Johnson](#) and [Michael Allen Harrison](#) headline a complement of performers with and without intellectual disabilities including [United by Music](#) and [Grant Richards](#).

Event Details:

L'Arche Portland Benefit Celebration

Saturday, October 17, 2015, 5:30-9:00 PM

Bauccio Commons, University of Portland, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd, Portland, OR 97203

(continued)

People With and Without Intellectual Disabilities Sharing Life Together

435 SE 85th Ave • Portland, OR 97216 • (503) 251-6901 • info@larche-portland.org • www.larche-portland.org

Event tickets: \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door, \$50 for preferred seating, \$15 for youth/students. Event tickets are available at www.larche-portland.org or by calling 503-251-6901.

Raffle: \$25 raffle tickets for an Apple Watch may be purchased at the event or by calling 503-251-6901. Only 200 will be sold. Customers must be 18 or over and be in Oregon at the time of purchase.

About the Artists

Julianne R. Johnson has astonished Northwest audiences for more than 25 years. She performs a wide range of musical genres including jazz, R & B, Motown, Broadway, Gospel and Blues. What sets Johnson apart is not only her enormous talent, but also her ability to connect deeply with her audience.

Michael Allen Harrison is a prolific and highly acclaimed composer-pianist who touches his audience with his passionate renderings of jazz and classical piano. Harrison is the founder of The Snowman Foundation, which supports music education.

United by Music North America is a performance-based program for musically-talented people with developmental disabilities. Artists work with professional musicians to perform as a band for the general public at festivals and events.

Grant Richards is an award-winning performer, composer, and music educator with a distinct and genuine musical personality. Richards teaches in Portland and is producing his latest album Numinous, to be released in the fall of 2015.

For more information about L'Arche Portland and the Annual Benefit Celebration, please visit www.larche-portland.org. You can support our community by attending an event; providing in-kind donation; inviting us to present at a community group, church or school; volunteering; or becoming an assistant or substitute caregiver.

Contact: Amy Geoffroy, Director of Development, L'Arche-Portland
503.251.6901 | amy.geoffroy@larche-portland.org



Core member Rodney Gabriel and assistant Jonathan Landolfe at the 2015 Community Picnic.



Performers Julianne R. Johnson and Aaron Hobson at the 2014 Benefit Celebration.



Core member Marilyn Petruzzelli receives a community blessing on her 13th anniversary with L'Arche Portland.

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