



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 19, 2016

**Share the Journey with L'Arche Portland!
October 15 Benefit Celebration to Feature Julianne Johnson, Michael Allen Harrison, Jeremy
Doney and United By Music North America**

Portland, OR, – [L'Arche Portland](http://www.larche-portland.org) is hosting its signature Benefit Celebration on Saturday, October 15th at the University of Portland. This fundraiser supports L'Arche Portland's efforts to transform the lives of people with and without intellectual disabilities.

We invite the greater Portland community to join us for a night of celebration, love, inspiration, community, and mission support. The Benefit Celebration features wonderful music, testimonials about L'Arche Portland's role as a sign of hope and model of compassionate care and mutual relationship, auctions, food and drink, and raffles. Renowned Northwest artists Julianne Johnson and Michael Allen Harrison headline a complement of performers with and without intellectual disabilities.

"Julianne is consistently amazing. Her singing is off the charts, but I'm even more amazed by her thoughtfulness and communications about the mission [of L'Arche Portland]." – 2015 Benefit Celebration attendee

Event Details:

L'Arche Portland Benefit Celebration

Saturday, October 15, 2016, 5:30-9:00 PM

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

Event tickets: \$40 general admission, \$60 preferred seating, \$20 for youth/students. Event tickets are available at www.larche-portland.org or by calling 503-251-6901.

Sponsors:

Thank you to our sponsors: Fire on the Mountain, Kell, Alterman & Runstein, LLP, University of Portland, Atlas Motors, Danco Sales and Promotions, OnPoint Community Credit Union, Pacific Continental Bank, and PrintSync.

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.

People With and Without Intellectual Disabilities Sharing Life Together

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[Michael Allen Harrison](#) is a highly acclaimed composer-pianist who touches his audience with his passionate renderings of jazz and classical piano. Michael is the founder and president of the Snowman Foundation, the Ten Grands concert series, and the beloved Christmas at the Old Church concert series.

[Jeremy Doney](#) is a gifted pianist, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and a vibrant young man who was born blind and with a developmental disability. He has performed and recorded with Michael Allen Harrison, and audiences are regularly left in awe of his talent.

[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. Featured artists will include Jessica Raz, Aaron Hobson, and Jordan Ackerson.

About L'Arche Portland:

L'Arche Portland transforms the lives of people with and without intellectual disabilities by working together to create home, share life, and build community. Those with intellectual disabilities (core members) form the heart of our community and invite others into relationship. We are a community that gives and receives compassionate care and friendship, fosters a deeper experience of being truly human, and welcomes people of all backgrounds in their spiritual journeys to find connection and belonging. The L'Arche Portland community is part of an international L'Arche federation, with 149 communities and 20 projects in 35 countries.

"Being in L'Arche has shown me that relationships are not formulaic, and we should just accept people as they are. I had to learn that we are not here to teach core members to "be normal" or make them more like us. It is to accept them as they are and open ourselves to them." -- Aaron Flores, former assistant

"L'Arche (Portland) is a place where they want you." -- Marilyn Pettruzelli, core member

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 the event, providing in-kind donation for our auction, sponsoring the event, or contacting us to volunteer.

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