



Unforgettable: 'Nat King Cole Generation Hope Black and White Gala'

From Society Scene | A marketing publication of the Sun-Sentinel Company
December 24, 2008

Nat King Cole Generation Hope, Inc., a non-profit foundation to benefit music education in South Florida schools, kicked off with an elegant Gala at The Forge in Miami Beach on Nov. 29. The foundation was established by the Cole twins, Timolin and Casey of Boca Raton, the youngest daughters of music legend Nat King Cole.

The Nat King Cole Generation Hope Black and White Gala was chaired by philanthropist and international financier Al Malnik and his wife Nancy Malnik. The Forge, a Miami Beach restaurant and bar, has served as the institution of elegance and taste and was founded by Al Malnik in 1968. The historic landmark has been the home of great music events throughout the years including performances by Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr.

The Gala featured star-studded entertainment including performances by Grammy-winning, Oscar-nominated producer songwriter Siedah Garrett and 11 time Grammy-nominated songwriter and producer Dennis Lambert. Melanie Fiona, an artist with SRC Records, dazzled guests with "The Midnight Train to Georgia." Marie Petticar, a senior from Miramar High School, serenaded guests as well.

The event was emceed by Willard Shepard of NBC Miami. Celebrity guests included Kyle MacLachlan of "Desperate Housewives," and his wife Desiree Gruber, producer of "Project Runway," Niche Media CEO Jason Binn, and celebrity rappers Cool and Dre. The Cole twins were joined by their mother, Mrs. Nat King Cole, their husbands, Gary Augustus and Julian Hooker.

The Gala sponsors included Al and Nancy Malnik, Madelyn Savarick, UNUM, Goldman Sachs, USI, Excel Services, Lincoln Financial, United Healthcare, The Fountainbleau, Chocolit, designer Paul Rubin, Saks, Guava Media, Ellis and Lisa Jones, Guy and Lee Ann Mancini, and Denise and Jordan Zimmerman.

The evening kicked off with a silent auction in The Forge's famed wine room with a lively cocktail hour featuring entertainment by DJ Irie. Designer Rubin Singer showed his creations during an informal fashion show and he dressed the Cole twins in black and white Grecian-style gowns.

Following the cocktail party, guests proceeded into the black and white themed ballroom for dinner and an intimate concert. Guests then danced and continued the party at the Glass Bar at The Forge for the official after party.

The Cole twins launched the Foundation after learning of budget cuts in South Florida public schools. The Foundation was created to provide funding for music education to children of all ages, ethnic backgrounds and diversities, including music instrument instruction, music composition and songwriting, technical instruction in the recording arts, music instruments and equipment, and music related seminars and field trips.

"We were thrilled by the tremendous support from our friends and the South Florida community and the funds raised will help music programs in South Florida schools," said Timolin Cole. "By enriching students with the opportunity to enhance their musical talents and abilities, our father's legacy lives on."

For more information, visit www.natkingcolefoundation.org. •