

Symphony Tacoma Gala

On November 18, 2018, the Tacoma Chapter of The Links attended the Symphony Tacoma's annual gala. The Links were the guests of sister Link and Symphony Tacoma board member Jorge-Ayn Riley. Nine Links and one sister of a Link enjoyed this special evening with a performance by pianist Henry Kramer. Mr. Kramer, a world renowned pianist, performed *Symphonie Fantastique* by composer Hector Berlioz. The evening also included a gourmet dinner followed by a silent and live auction. The evening concluded with a paddle raising segment. Proceeds from the evening were used to benefit the symphony's numerous educational programs.

Several of the educational experiences enjoyed by parents, children, and schools include the mini Maestros program. This program allows children and grown-ups to engage in a symphonic instrumental petting zoo where children are given the opportunity to try out and play different instruments before a concert. This unique program begins in January. Another educational program that is the symphony flagship is Simply Symphonic. This award winning program is for 5th graders. Teachers are provided with a curriculum guide that includes a CD of musical excerpts for students to listen to. Participating educators use the curriculum to integrate musical activities into the standard core curriculum to enhance learning. These activities also prepare students to attend the symphony. Finally, the Link-Up program provides students with musical skills developed in the classroom the opportunity to perform with the professional orchestra.

As part of the Link's mission as stated on the Links Tacoma (WA) website, we are committed to establishing partnerships with museums, symphonies, art councils, educational institutions, and corporations to support art programs, especially where there is a focus on artists of color. Links are creating and supporting opportunities for educating minority youth in the arts and presenting and supporting performances by youth as well as accomplished professional artists in a variety of disciplines. The Tacoma Links and Symphony Tacoma are looking forward to partnering as we provide music programs to children and adults in Tacoma Washington.

Bravo Link Sisters!