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## **HOPE FOR HEARTS' NOV. 9TH CHARITY GALA TO FEATURE SINGERS ALYSON CAMBRIDGE & JOSE CONDE**

*Acclaimed opera singer and award-winning singer-songwriter headline entertainment  
for Latin-themed fundraising event at SoHo's Porsche Design*



**NEW YORK, NY** – November 5, 2012 – The Eric De La Cruz Hope For Hearts Foundation announced today that acclaimed operatic soprano Alyson Cambridge and Cuban roots recording artist Jose Conde will both be performing at the organization's upcoming Autumn Gala at SoHo's Porsche Design on Friday, November 9. A portion of the ticket sales for the event will go to the American Red Cross to support Hurricane Sandy relief efforts.

"We are so fortunate to have both Alyson and Jose join us at this special event," noted Hope For Hearts founder Veronica De La Cruz. "Their musical talents are incredible and their generosity in sharing their exceptional gifts with our guests will help make this a memorable evening."

Set to a Latin-theme, the Hope For Hearts Autumn Gala is the Foundation's major fundraising event of the year, featuring a cocktail hour, followed by a buffet dinner, entertainment, and a silent auction. Noted health care advocate and former insurance industry executive Wendell Potter will also keynote the event, and items scheduled to be auctioned off at the event range from a one-week stay at a Thailand resort to anchor-led tours of NBC studios. Recent heart transplant recipient Colby Salerno, whom the Foundation has supported throughout his ordeal, will also be on hand to address attendees. Doors will open at 7:00 pm.

Alyson Cambridge will be kicking off the event by performing Spanish arias befitting the Latin-themed evening. Cambridge has been hailed by critics as "radiant, vocally assured, dramatically subtle and compelling, and artistically imaginative." Her rich, warm soprano combined with her strikingly beautiful stage presence and her affecting musical and dramatic interpretation have brought her success on the opera stages of leading theatres in the United States as well as recent debuts in Paris, Berlin, Vienna and other musical capitals around Europe and Asia. Her lyric soprano repertoire includes the roles of Mimi, Violetta, Donna Elvira, Marguerite, Liu, Micaela, amongst others, as well as forays into the crossover repertoire.

Breaking far and away from the "Latin" stereotype, Jose Conde has made 3 exciting and different, very widely acclaimed albums that are globally eclectic, lyrically eccentric, and unpredictable. As a songwriter and bandleader for his big band Ola Fresca, Conde developed a striking instinct for merging his Miami upbringing, Cuban roots, and New York's Latin underground. With diverse influences and colors from South Africa to Brazil to Peru, Conde favors rootsy rhythms and humor undeniably and soulfully Cuban. The NY Post has called him, "One of New York's most important Afro-Cuban voices."

"Both Alyson and Jose bring a truly global flavor to the event through their musical styles," added De La Cruz. "I cannot imagine two better talents to complement our efforts at the Gala and I know those who are lucky enough to join us will be amazed by their performances."

Tickets for Hope For Hearts' First Autumn Gala are available for \$100 to \$250 through the official event webpage at <http://www.hopeforheartsfoundation.org/wordpress1/gala>. The Foundation will donate a portion of all ticket sales to the American Red Cross to help support those who have been affected by the recent storm.

### **About the Eric De La Cruz Hope For Hearts Foundation**

The Eric De La Cruz Hope for Hearts Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides financial assistance, educational resources and advocacy for heart transplant patients. Founded by TV journalist Veronica De La Cruz in honor of her brother Eric, the Foundation exists to fulfill his wish that no heart transplant patient would ever again have to suffer because of a lack of insurance or the inability to pay for life-saving medical treatment.

If you would like to learn more about the Eric De La Cruz Hope For Hearts Foundation, please visit the organization's website at [www.hopeforheartsfoundation.org](http://www.hopeforheartsfoundation.org).

