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THE NATIONAL HELLENIC MUSEUM ANNOUNCES OFFICIAL HOST AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE PHILANTHROPIC 2018 ANNUAL GALA “CONNECTING GENERATIONS” MAY 12

Benefitting Hellenic Legacy with Special Guest and Host, WGN’s Dean Richards

CHICAGO (April 2018) – **The National Hellenic Museum** (NHM) will hold its Annual Gala “Connecting Generations” Saturday, May 12 from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. Hosted by WGN’s Very Own Dean Richards, the night will feature the musical stylings of the highly sought-after Chris Sarlas Orchestra, featuring George Dimas, Voula Karahaliou, and The Levendes, featuring Nikos Koutras in celebration and support of the Hellenic legacy. The “Connecting Generations” Gala allows guests to experience the best in Greek American entertainment and culture and socialize with other Greek descendants.

Each of these incredible musicians showcase the most talented Greek American musicians in Chicago. For the past fifteen years, **Chris Sarlas** has successfully established himself as one of the most popular, highly respected, and talented bandleaders in Chicago's special event industry. He and the select members of his Orchestra consistently provide exemplary performances, impressing guests of all ages. **The Levendes** have been together for over 20 years and took the U.S. Greek community by storm. They give a unique flair to traditional and contemporary Greek music with a vast repertoire of dimotika, nisiotika, rebetika and modern laika. The Levendes have performed with many Greek stars

ranging from the trio bel canto to Yiannis Parios and Makis Hristodouloupoulos. **Nikos Koutras** is a well-known Greek Singer in the New York City area. Niko has worked all over Greece and toured in many Greek places in Europe. In the course of his career, he has been fortunate enough to work with some of the biggest names in Greek music.

Philanthropic support from NHM Gala 2018 will benefit the tens of thousands of people - children and adults - who visit the National Hellenic Museum every year through field trips, tours and dynamic cultural and historical programs. Last year, the NHM achieved a 29 percent year-over-year increase in people served. Operationally, the NHM has been highly efficient with 81 cents of every dollar spent on programming, an excellent ratio among non-profit museums.

The Museum preserves the largest collection of artifacts and oral histories dedicated to the Greek American story anywhere in the world. Special events help to fund classes, field trips, tours, programs, and, as highlighted in this year's theme, the protection of the museum archives and the important memories preserved for all. The artifacts in the NHM Collections serve as a crucial component of NHM's educational outreach.

Individual NHM Gala tickets are \$350 and tables of 10 are \$3,200. To purchase tickets or inquire about sponsorship opportunities, visit www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/gala or call 312-655-1234 x28. Hotel reservations also can be made [online](#).

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About the National Hellenic Museum

The National Hellenic Museum (NHM) portrays and celebrates Greek heritage and the Hellenic legacy through educational classes, exhibits and programs. With a growing repository of over 20,000 artifacts, the Museum catalogs and highlights the contributions of Greeks and Greek Americans to the American mosaic and inspires curiosity about visitors' own family journeys through cultural expression, oral history and experiential education. Located in Chicago's Greektown, the NHM provides lifelong learning for the whole community using artifacts and stories to spark inquiry and discussion about the broader issues in our lives.

For more information, visit <http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org> or call 312-655-1234. Follow NHM on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).