

Porthole Cruise

04.2016

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CRUISING



APRIL 2016

\$5.99



DISPLAY UNTIL 5/10/2016

Contributors



Suzanne Carmel

has covered luxury travel for a wide range of print and Internet media for almost two decades. Though travels take her across the globe, she most enjoys seeing the world through the eyes of her children, as she did during a recent trip to California's family attractions.



Judi Cuervo

is a New York City native whose cruise writing has appeared in regional, national, Canadian, U.K., and Australian publications. When she's not sailing, Cuervo may be found Monday through Friday at a major New York City book publishing company where she's Associate Director/ Client Services.



Matt Hochberg

is the author of Royal Caribbean Blog, an award-winning website that offers Royal Caribbean International news, trip advice, and other assistance. Matt has been cruising aboard Royal Caribbean ships for more than 10 years and when he's not at sea, he resides in Atlanta, Georgia.



Kim Foley MacKinnon

is a Boston-based editor, journalist, and travel writer. Her work has appeared in the *Boston Globe*, *AAA Horizons*, *Travel + Leisure*, and *USA Today*, among others. She is a member of the Society of American Travel Writers and has several guidebooks to her credit.



Kari Reinikainen

was born in Finland and made his first trip to sea at the age of 7, which triggered his interest in ships. He has worked as a journalist for 30 years, including three years at Reuters with the rest dedicated to shipping. He lives in the U.K. and writes mostly for *Cruise Business Review* and *IHS Fairplay*.



Theresa Russell

became an accidental cruiser after she hesitantly agreed to sail the South Pacific. She's been hooked ever since, and has sailed on big and small ships. She's contributed to various magazine and newspapers and has written and contributed to several destination guidebooks.

Porthole Cruise

PUBLISHER/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Bill Panoff
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER Linda Douthat
CREATIVE DIRECTOR Jodi OrNSTein
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR Grant Balfour, Phillip Crandall
MANAGING EDITORS Laura Roche, Caroline Geertz,
 James P. Karpinen
ART DIRECTORS Maria Baro
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR Tammy Robinson
PRODUCTION MANAGER Katie Coz
CREATIVE COORDINATOR Sara Linda
PROOFREADER Janice Wald Henderson, Johnny Jet
COLUMNISTS Fran Golden
CHIEF CONTRIBUTOR Suzanne Carmel, Jessica Chesler, Judi
 Cuervo, Matt Hochberg, Sharon Kenny,
 Kim Foley MacKinnon, Kari Reinikainen,
 Theresa Russell
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Alamy, Corbis, Getty Images, Superstock
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS Nathan Aaron
SENIOR WEB DEVELOPER Baseline Creative Group
DESIGN DIRECTION

SALES OFFICES

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS PPI Group
 6261 NW 6th Way, Suite 100,
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309, USA
 Phone: (954) 377-7777
 Fax: (954) 377-7000
 EMAIL bpanoff@ppigroup.com

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT William P. Jordan III
SALES AND MARKETING
VICE PRESIDENT, MARKETING & Sharon Cherry
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR OF SALES Brett Grady
AND DIGITAL MARKETING Richard Collins, Iris Rodriguez
REGIONAL SALES MANAGERS

DISTRIBUTION

Nationally distributed by
 Curtis Circulation Co.
 Newsstand Consultant: Ron Sklon



PRESIDENT/CEO Bill Panoff
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER Audrey Balbiers-Panoff
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER Jose I. Martin
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT Linda Douthat
PUBLISHING
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT William P. Jordan III
SALES AND MARKETING
VICE PRESIDENT, MARKETING & Sharon Cherry
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
VICE PRESIDENT, Anthony Heywood
BROADCAST OPERATIONS
DIRECTOR OF EDITORIAL CONTENT Jodi OrNSTein
& CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS Soren Domlesky
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY Patti Lankford
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CEO

PRINTED IN CANADA

Porthole ©2016 Porthole Magazine, Inc. ISSN: 1070-9479
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 469066, Escondido, CA 92046.
 All rights reserved. Reproduction, either in whole or in part, is forbidden without written permission from the publisher. The magazine assumes no responsibility for the safe-keeping or return of unsolicited manuscripts, photography, artwork, or other material. *Porthole Cruise Magazine* is published six times a year by Porthole Magazine, Inc. It is distributed on a paid basis to subscribers worldwide, including cruise-seekers and cruise industry executives. It also is distributed on a controlled-circulation basis. Porthole shall not be held liable for claims made in advertisements. Address for all editorial and advertising correspondence: *Porthole Cruise Magazine*, 6261 NW 6th Way, Suite 100, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309, USA. Phone: (954) 377-7777. Fax: (954) 377-7000. Email: bpanoff@ppigroup.com. Visit our website: porthole.com. To subscribe: Call toll-free (800) 776-PORT or (760) 291-1550 [International] 6 a.m.-5 p.m., Pacific time; Email us at porthole@pcspublink.com; fax us at (954) 377-7000; or write to *Porthole Cruise Magazine*, P.O. Box 469066, Escondido, CA 92046-9066, USA. Subscription rates: 1-year subscription (6 issues) USA: \$19.95; Canada: US\$24.95; all other countries: US\$59.95 (first class); 2-year subscription (12 issues) USA: \$29.95; Canada: US\$39.95; all other countries: US\$99.95 (first class). Florida residents, please add 6% sales tax.

For questions about your current subscription, call toll-free (800) 776-PORT or email porthole@pcspublink.com.

Grooving Across the Atlantic

Enjoy the sounds of Jazz at Sea
aboard *Queen Mary 2*.

By KIM FOLEY MACKINNON

Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter Gregory Porter has signed on to headline the Jazz at Sea cruise in October.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY CUNARD LINE



“
Each one of the
musicians is at the
top of their game
alone, but put
them all together
and it's magical.”

ONCE IN A WHILE SOMETHING COMES ALONG that seems so obvious, people wonder, “Why didn't anyone think of that before?” At least, that's what I was thinking as I sailed on the inaugural Jazz at Sea Transatlantic Crossing aboard *Queen Mary 2* this past fall. The cruise, the first of three scheduled so far, is a partnership between Cunard Line and the jazz label Blue Note Records, both of which recently celebrated milestones — Cunard celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2015, while Blue Note turned 75 in 2014.

Both companies have a long history of legendary accomplishments. Cunard was the first in the cruise industry to offer regularly scheduled transatlantic service and its high level of luxury and service set the bar for those who followed. Jazz has long been appreciated on Cunard ships and Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, and a score

of other jazz singers and musicians have sailed and performed on its ocean liners over the years.

Blue Note Records is the most esteemed and longest-running jazz label in the world, with countless legends on its rosters, including Thelonious Monk, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Horace Silver, Herbie Hancock, Norah Jones, and Van Morrison. Teaming up seems like the most obvious thing in the world for the two brands.

Star-Studded Lineup

Don Was, the president of Blue Note Records and a celebrated musician and producer in his own right, was on board to make sure everything ran smoothly, as well as to emcee events and lead question-and-answer sessions. He launched the debut of the partnership with a who's who of top musicians from the Blue Note



Don Was with Blue Note musicians (left), Gregory Porter with the 75th Anniversary All Star Band, (below), and Lionel Loueke (right)

MORE BLUE NOTE

Cunard Line is offering two more Jazz at Sea Transatlantic Crossings with Blue Note Records: one scheduled to leave Southampton on August 1, 2016, and another leaving New York on October 25, 2016. Herbie Hancock is scheduled to headline the August crossing and Gregory Porter and Dee Dee Bridgewater have signed on to co-headline the October cruise. More musicians and acts will be announced as they sign on.

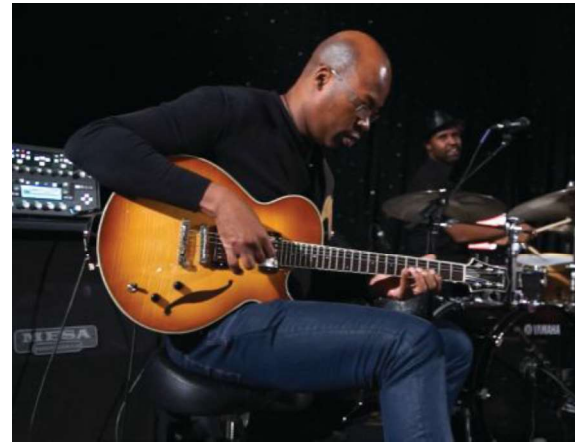
label, including the Blue Note 75th Anniversary All Star Band, as well as other performers from the label.

Members of the Anniversary Band include Grammy Award-winning jazz pianist and record producer Robert Glasper, trumpeter Keyon Harrold, tenor saxophonist Marcus Strickland, guitarist Lionel Loueke, bassist Derrick Hodge, and drummer Kendrick Scott. In addition, Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter Gregory Porter was the special guest star. Each one of the musicians is at the top of their game alone, but put them all together and, as Was said during one session, “It’s magical.”

Nonstop Entertainment

No time was wasted getting the party started. Instead of a traditional welcome aboard show with the ship’s performers, the Blue Note musicians kicked things off the very first night – and they never really slowed down. Every night that followed, musicians performed in multiple venues around the ship, making it tough to decide where to go. Lounges and public spaces were transformed into mini jazz clubs, often with standing-room-only space. Three ticketed shows with Porter and the Anniversary Band were scheduled to accommodate all passengers on board.

It was easy to tell who was on the ship for the jazz and who was surprised to find out that *Queen Mary 2* even had theme cruises. The jazz fans were at every performance and many had even brought



their own instruments in hopes of getting a chance to play with the stars at a jam session. Ollie Flood, a 17-year-old from Dublin, Ireland, who plays jazz guitar, was one such person.

“Mom, we need to go on this,” Flood had said to his mother when he learned about the cruise. She was more than happy to oblige. “He’s having a ball,” she said. By the end of the trip, Flood got his wish, as did a couple of other passengers, at a rousing late-night free-for-all in the Chart Room lounge.

Another passenger, Nano Nolan from London, England, said she never had any interest in jazz music, calling herself a “jazz virgin,” but said the cruise had converted her. “It was really special, she said. “I hope they keep it going.”

At three public question-and-answer events, passengers got to hear about the artists, their influences, and their backgrounds in the ship’s Royal Court Theatre, but even beyond those structured, scheduled events, the musicians were surprisingly accessible throughout the entire cruise. You could chat with Gregory Porter in the glass elevator in the atrium or ask Don Was a question in the hallway and they’d happily talk to you like old friends. And every other musician was equally approachable. The day before the cruise ended, the musicians sat for hours signing autographs and posing for pictures with fans, making sure everyone in the long line was accommodated.

“The whole thing exceeded my expectations and hopes,” Was said, who stressed that having this many high-caliber musicians perform together for one night, let alone for an entire week, was unprecedented. “People will be talking about this for years to come.” ●

