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**Center Gala Takes Guests Around the World in One Night**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – It really is a small world after all, and for one night only it will be in the new Knoxville Convention Center.

**“World’s Fare Under the Stars: A Gala Evening of Dancing, International Cuisine and Adventure,”** will be the signature event of **“Celebrating at the Center,”** grand opening weekend, Oct. 18 and 19. This magical evening will transport guests around the world through music, international cuisine and an all-around global adventure.

“We have created a dazzling array of international cuisine with flavors from around the world that will tempt every palate,” said Scott Tallon, Executive Chef.

Gala guests will “depart” the city of Knoxville at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 19 for their around-the-world dining adventure. Thrilling stops will include everything from sushi to salsa dancing and from wasabe to the waltz. The affair will have all of the sights, sounds and tastes of an international voyage. Accompanying guests on the escapade will be the hottest party band out of Atlanta, Kid Brothers with female vocalist Robin Gallo, the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra and themed musical entertainment throughout the evening.

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The evening will be topped off with an incredible display of delectable desserts, a champagne toast and spectacular fireworks. Guests will “disembark” at 11:30 p.m.

Benefits of the gala evening will go to Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Friends of the Smokies assist the National Park Service in its mission to preserve and protect Great Smoky Mountains National Park by raising funds and public awareness and by providing volunteers for needed projects.

“The Friends of the Smokies are delighted to be a part of the convention center’s grand opening festivities and to be selected as the beneficiary of the gala,” said Jim Hart, Executive Director of the Friends organization.

Cost of the worldwide trip is \$100 per person, and tickets can be ordered from the Knoxville Convention Center by calling (865) 522-5669.

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