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OPENING NIGHT AT THE JW MARRIOTT HOUSTON DOWNTOWN TAKES GUESTS ON A JOURNEY THROUGH THE SENSES

Houston, November 21, 2014 – on November 19, the JW Marriott luxury brand celebrated the grand opening of its newest hotel – the JW Marriott Houston Downtown. The celebration, designed by celebrity event planner, Colin Cowie, featured a performance by the NBC’s *The Sing-Off* Season 4 winners - [Home Free](#). The landmark hotel hosted 700 guests, including Bill Marriott Jr., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Marriott International; Mitzi Gaskins, VP & Global Brand Manager, JW Marriott Hotels & Resorts at Marriott International; Paul Cahill, Senior VP of Brand Management, Marriott International; Colin Cowie; Giorgio Milos, master barista at Illy Coffee; and Houston’s arts, business and media community.



Grand Opening Event Featured Performance by Home Free

Guests were taken on a journey through the senses, from sampling delectable bites from the hotel’s signature restaurant – Main Kitchen, and premium beverages from 806 Bar & Lounge, to experiencing mini-treatments at Spa by JW and being surrounded by interactive art performances, including body painters, contortionists and stilt-walkers.



[Pictured L to R: Jodie Beard, general manager, JW Marriott Houston Downtown; Colin Cowie; Bill Marriott, Jr. Chairman and CEO of Marriott International; Mitzi Gaskins, VP & Global Brand Manager, JW Marriott Hotels & Resorts at Marriott International; Paul Cahill, Senior VP of Brand Management, Marriott International.]

A live performance by teen cello sensations Emil and Dariel Liakhovetski wowed partiers with their electrifying renditions of pop and rock classics. The New York City-based brothers gained national fame on the popular NBC show – *America’s Got Talent*, reaching the competition’s finals this summer.

Home Free kept the party going with their high-energy performance, meshing country standards with pop hits and vocal acrobatics of Adam Rupp, whose beat-boxing solo received a standing ovation. The band’s success on NBC’s *The Sing-Off* has led to a record deal with Columbia Records, with their debut release, *Crazy Life*, launching in February 2015.



[Emil and Dariel Liakhovetski]

About JW Marriott Houston Downtown

Housed in the beautiful historic landmark Samuel F. Carter building, the JW Marriott Houston Downtown is the brand's first adaptive reuse project in Texas, celebrating the flavor of the city with refined design, intuitive service and thoughtful amenities that have become synonymous with the brand worldwide. Guests will enjoy a one-of-a-kind stay in an artfully crafted environment with their every need met graciously and authentically. Located at 806 Main St., the hotel features 328 guest rooms, more than 14,000 square feet of meeting space, a restaurant and full-service bar, a spa, health club, and an executive lounge. See www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/houdj.

About Pearl Hospitality

Founded in 2000, Pearl Hospitality is built on the belief that by investing in the growth of its people, it is investing in the future of the company. The focus on both personal and professional growth of the Pearl team results in a level of performance that far exceeds industry averages. Unlike many hotel companies, Pearl develops, constructs, and operates its properties to maintain the highest standards and dramatically increase the functionality and comfort of its hotels. See www.pearlhospitality.com for more information.

About JW Marriott Hotels & Resorts

JW Marriott is part of Marriott International's luxury portfolio and consists of beautiful properties in gateway cities and distinctive resort locations around the world. These elegant hotels cater to today's sophisticated, self-assured travelers, offering them the quiet luxury they seek in a warmly authentic, relaxed atmosphere lacking in pretense. JW Marriott properties artfully provide highly crafted, anticipatory experiences that are reflective of their locale so that their guests have the time to focus on what is most important to them. Currently, there are 68 JW Marriott hotels in 26 countries; by 2019 the portfolio is expected to encompass more than 100 hotels in over 30 countries. Visit us online at jwmarriott.com and on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#).

Visit [Marriott International, Inc.](#) (NYSE: MAR) for company information. For more information or reservations, please visit our web site at www.marriott.com, and for the latest company news, visit www.marriottnewscenter.com.

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