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Opening Night Gala

Carnegie Hall launched its 2016–2017 season on October 6, 2016 with a concert featuring the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela conducted by Gustavo Dudamel performing music by Ravel, Stravinsky, Brahms, Copland, Johann Strauss Jr., Ginastera, and Bernstein. The jubilant musical atmosphere carried over to the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria for a post-concert dinner and dancing. Carnegie Hall donors showed their support by raising over $4.6 million as part of the Opening Night celebration. We send our deepest gratitude to Gala Lead Chairmen Mercedes T. Bass and Hope and Robert F. Smith; Gala Chairmen Committee Len and Emily Blavatnik, Blavatnik Family Foundation, Bruce and Suzie Kovner, Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis, Annette de la Renta, Sana H. Sabbagh, Beatrice Santo Domingo, Margaret and Ian Smith, and Joan and Sanford I. Weill; Corporate Chairman Dennis M. Nally; and PwC for its generous sponsorship for the 13th consecutive season.

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When Adrienne Arsht was presented the 2017 Medal of Excellence by Carnegie Hall Chairman Robert F. Smith, she became the first woman to receive the honor. New York City luminaries from the business and social worlds gathered to honor Ms. Arsht, a remarkable businesswoman, philanthropist, and friend of the arts. Cocktails, dinner, the award ceremony, and performances by Liz Callaway, Storm Large, Daniela Liebman, Nova Y. Payton, Melissa Schott, and Bria Skonberg were held in the Grand Ballroom of The Plaza. We extend our endless gratitude to our Chairmen Committee Aisha and Gbenga Oyebode, Sana H. Sabbagh, and Hope and Robert F. Smith for their dedication to making this event so special. A wonderful $2 million in contributions were raised to support the education programs of Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute and the Hall's artistic programming.

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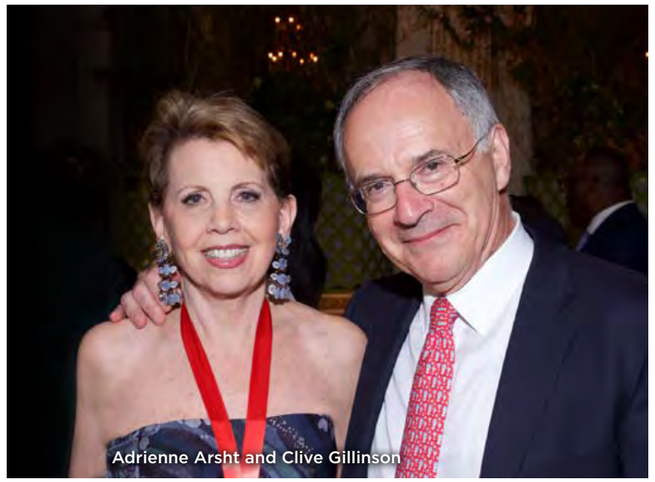
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Tuesday, June 20, 2017

Medal of Excellence Gala Honoring Adrienne Arsht

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Jonas Zweig
Anonymous (20)

As of June 30, 2017

Neil Westreich (right) and Michael O'Keefe (left) with members of Ensemble Connect

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Photos: Solomons, and Fleming and Smith by Chris Lee; Altmans by Julie Skarratt.

Notables

Brilliant music, cocktails, and food were in abundance when the sensational Sō Percussion, with special guests Steven Mackey and Bobby Previte, performed a private concert as a Notables Exclusive Event on December 15. Sō Percussion and the guest artists performed music by Andrea Mazzariello, Previte, Caroline Shaw, and Mackey for the Notables in Zankel Hall. The festivities then moved to the Weill Terrace Room and Weill Music Room atop Carnegie Hall, where musicians Brad Stanley and Nicole Zuraitis, along with Ikebana artist Yuki Tsuji and DJ Robin Sato, provided entertainment. The evening was generously underwritten by Linda and Stuart Nelson. Additional support was provided by Michael Bretholz, Alexander Goldberg, Lee Hallman, Adriana Herrera, Hinoki Co., Ltd., Matthew Holtzman, Grace Kim, Jinsoo Ro, Géraldine and Stephen Rutenberg, and Pia and Jimmy Zankel.

Notables Japan, Carnegie Hall's first-ever overseas membership and philanthropic group, enjoyed special events in Tokyo this year, including an exclusive performance by award-winning violinist Fumiaki Miura and a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception at Bulgari Ginza Tower. This marvelous gathering was graciously underwritten by Carnegie Hall Trustee Nicola Bulgari and Veronica Bulgari, Co-Chair of the Notables program.

Justin Turkat, Adriana Herrera, and Christine Parker

His Excellency Cui Tiankai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the US

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As of June 30, 2017

Blavatnik Family First Tier

Prior to the season's Opening Night concert, Carnegie Hall unveiled the newly named Blavatnik Family First Tier in recognition of a leading gift of $25 million to the Hall's 125th Anniversary Campaign from Len Blavatnik and the Blavatnik Family Foundation. The Hall's first-level seating tier in its historic main auditorium was named the Blavatnik Family First Tier from the start of the 2016–2017 season. The tier will hold this special name and designation for the next 50 years.