

Golden Anniversary Gala



Palm Beach Symphony's 50th Anniversary Gala literally lived up to the description Golden Anniversary with a glittering, shining evening enjoyed by more than 500 guests.

The event raised more than \$1 million which enables Palm Beach Symphony to continue to fulfill its mission and actively promote its growth in programming and music education for students throughout Palm Beach County.

"Tonight, we thank our generous sponsors who have elevated Palm Beach Symphony from a small group of local musicians to a leading orchestra on the national stage as evidenced by tonight's world premiere, the fifth new work commissioned for our anniversary," said Palm Beach Symphony CEO **David McClymont**. "Just as importantly, our members, underwriters and donors are committed to ensuring the Symphony's future and the continued impact we make on our community."

Chaired by **Cathie Black and Tom Harvey** with Gala Honorary Chairs **Patrick and Milly Park**, the black tie celebration began with cocktails in the Harris Pre-Function Hall of the Cohen Pavilion at the Kravis Center before guests moved into Dreyfoos Hall for a performance by the Symphony, under the baton of Music Director **Gerard Schwarz**.

The *Gala* guests were among the first to hear the world premiere of *Portraits and Diversions* by Pulitzer Prize winner **Aaron Jay Kernis**, which was sponsored by **Ambassador Bonnie McElveen-Hunter** in honor of **Judy and Leonard Lauder**. Guest artist **Emanuel Ax** brought the audience to its feet with his performance of one of Mozart's greatest concertos.

"Thanks to the vital efforts and support of many dedicated individuals, this *Gala* has raised more than any other event in the Symphony's history which demonstrates, along with the world premieres, that after 50 years, the Symphony still has many more firsts and milestones ahead as it continues its evolution into one of our nation's finest," said Ms. Black, who with Mr. Harvey also serves as a chair of the Symphony's 50th Anniversary Season.

The sound of applause was still ringing through the night as guests moved to the Gimelstob Ballroom to enjoy an elegant dinner and dancing which was generously underwritten by Maestro Grand Benefactor Sponsors **Findlay Galleries, Lugano Diamonds, Addison Hines Charitable Trust and Patrick and Milly Park/The Park Foundation**.

CONTINUED

FIRST ROW: David McClymont and Ari Rifkin; Adolfo Zaralegui and James Borynack; **SECOND ROW:** Cathie Black and Tom Harvey with Alison Harvey; Patrick Park, Maestro Gerard Schwarz and Emanuel Ax; **THIRD ROW:** Norma and Len Klorfine; Linda and Gary Lachman; **FOURTH ROW:** Craig Dickmann, Michele Dubois and Rebecca Kirsh; Kem and Bill Frick.

PHOTOS: CAPEHART



A highlight of the evening was the introduction of three seniors from the Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts that were recognized by the Symphony as its *Lisa Bruna B-Major Award* honorees. First-place winner **Kara Ravaschieri** enchanted guests with a performance on her flute outfitted with the brand-new Lafin Headjoint made entirely of 14K Rose Gold with Adler wings which she received as her prize.

"The Symphony's commitment to education and supporting young musicians speaks to its impact long after the music from a concert fades" said Mr. Harvey. "The *Lisa Bruna B-Major Award* and the professional level instruments bestowed each year can be truly life-changing for those wishing to pursue a musical career while the Symphony's many programs in the schools open the door for young students to a life-long appreciation of music."

After giving a standing ovation earlier during the concert, guests were soon once again on their feet vying for exclusive opportunities and luxurious items in a lively live auction.

Special thanks are extended to Concertmaster Grand Sponsors **Mrs. James N. Bay and Howard and Michele Kessler**, as well as Principal Sponsors **The Rocco A. and Mary Abessinio Foundation, Jon and Patricia Baker, The Grace Bender/Dorothy G. Bender Foundation, John D. Herrick, Lois Pope, and Steel Grove Capital Advisors**, along with Table Sponsors **Cathie Black and Tom Harvey, Amy and John Collins, Dr. Martha Rodriguez and Dr. Jesus Perez-Mendez, Magellan Jets, Marietta Muina McNulty and McNulty Charitable Foundation**, and Underwriters **Gary and Linda Lachman and the Lachman Family Foundation, NetJets, Sophia and Manny Burnichon/Private Cask Imports, Inc., Casa de Campo, Arthur and Mara Benjamin, Michael and Kathy Azeez, Thomas and Bonnie Strauss, Carol and Joseph Andrew Hays, Judy and Pat Woods, Ruth Ann and Michael McGuinnis, Kathy Lee Bickham and John Bickham, The Boca Raton, and Experience Epic Events**.

"Thanks to the generosity of those here this evening to help raise funds toward our 50th Anniversary Gala," Mr. McClymont said. "The annual gala is vital to the expansion of our mission."

The evening continued with guests dancing to the music of the **Danny Beck Band**.

For more information about Palm Beach Symphony visit palmbeachsymphony.org.

FIRST ROW: Marietta McNulty and Alfonso Camiñas; Sandra and Paul Goldner; **SECOND ROW:** Lois Pope and Bill Porter; Arturo Dekle, Kara Ravaschieri and Jose Aguilar; **THIRD ROW:** Claudio Jaffe and Leslie Blum; Dr. Bill and Nancy Schneider; **FOURTH ROW:** Alicia Dahill and Herbert Wertheim; Wendy Block and Grace Bender. PHOTOS: CAPEHART

