

DERBY OF DREAMS: RACING FOR ARTS AND ACADEMICS

A Night to Remember

The *Derby of Dreams: Racing for Arts and Academics*, held at the Polo Club at the USPA National Polo Center in Wellington, was an unforgettable evening of elegance, excitement, and philanthropy. The event brought together community leaders, arts supporters, and friends of the **Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts** for an extraordinary night in celebration of public arts education.

Guests arrived in their finest race-day attire to enjoy the live broadcast of the *Kentucky Derby*, compete in the fan-favorite Derby Hat and Bowtie Contest, and experience an evening filled with gourmet dining, handcrafted cocktails, and signature mint juleps.

The entertainment lineup included unforgettable performances by Grammy and Tony Award-winning artist **John Lloyd Young**; Grammy Award-winning trumpeter **Charlie Porter**, a 1996 graduate of the Palm Beach County School of the Arts; **Tara Simon**, a 2002 graduate of Dreyfoos School of the Arts, Broadway veteran, *X Factor* finalist, and celebrity vocal coach; and **Govanny Brown**, a 2021 Dreyfoos music graduate currently studying at the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings.

Attendees participated in a vibrant silent auction featuring exclusive packages such as rounds of golf at Emerald Dunes, Admirals Cove, Trump International, and Apogee; a "Jockey for a Day" experience with Hall of Fame Jockey Mike E. Smith; a private polo lesson; and a one-of-a-kind experience at the National Croquet Center. Additional auction highlights included luxury pieces and original works by Dreyfoos alumni and professional artists, including Karina Brez Jewelry, Kyle Lucks, Nava Lundy, Michelle Sherman, and Olivia Hollaus of Protect My Shoes.

The Foundation was proud to honor **J. Michael Prince**, President and CEO of USPA Global, the company that oversees the global U.S. Polo Assn. brand, and philanthropist and art collector **Kimberly Bluhm**, for their outstanding contributions to the arts and education.

The event was Chaired by **Nancy Hart, Karen Swanson, Francine Walker, and Alix Troast**, whose thoughtful planning and leadership helped deliver an unforgettable and impactful evening.

All proceeds from the *Derby of Dreams* benefit the **Dreyfoos School of the Arts Foundation**, which supports the school's award-winning programs and resources, including testing and college prep, classroom enhancements, private lessons, musical instruments, and scholarships for students in grades 9th through 12th.

Under the leadership of Principal **Blake Bennett**, the Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts has risen in national rankings from #111 to #91 in just three years out of nearly 25,000 public high schools, earning the distinction as the #1 Public High School in Palm Beach County and the #25 Magnet School in the Nation.

Founded in 1990, Dreyfoos continues to lead in public arts education, now serving over 1,300 students across six arts disciplines: Communications, Dance, Digital Media, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts.

The success of this year's *Derby of Dreams* would not have been possible without the generosity of their sponsors: Derby Dream-Maker: **The Bluhm Family Foundation**; Triple Crown Sponsor: **Kimberly Bluhm**; Run for the Roses Sponsor: **Dr. Robert and Mrs. Julie Herzig Desnick**; Churchill Downs Sponsors: **Josephine Bayard, and Sonja Pockriss**; Invitation Sponsor: **ARH Medical Group LLC**; Silver Cup Sponsors: **Nancy and Joel Hart, Mitch and Bonnie Rudin, Don and Linda Silpe**; Decor Sponsor: **FPL**; Valet Sponsor: **The McMackin Family**; In-Kind Sponsors: **Karina Brez Jewelry, John Lloyd Young, Kyle Lucks, Nava Lundy, National Polo Center, Charlie Porter, Protect My Shoes, James Purse, Michelle Sherman, The Scout Guide Wellington, Tara Simon, U.S. Polo Assn., and WRMF**

To learn more about how to support the Dreyfoos School of the Arts Foundation and make a lasting impact on the next generation of artists and scholars visit soafi.org.

FIRST ROW: Alix Troast, Francine Walker, Karen Swanson and Nancy Hart; Dr. Chris Snyder, John Lloyd Young and Danielle Snyder; George Elmore and Marti LaTour; **SECOND ROW:** J. Michael and Amanda Prince; Kimberly Bluhm and Martin Stein; Dreyfoos School of the Arts Students: Kentrell Taylor, Tristan Dominguez, Kayla Leger, John Lloyd Young, Devin Jackson, Sofia Carbone, Kayla Brown and Dreyfoos School of the Arts Principal Blake Bennett; **THIRD ROW:** Dr. Robert and Julie Desnick; Jeffrey and Frances Fisher; Paul Gervais, Rosalind Clarke and Gil Cohen; Kyle Lucks and Sally Kimble; Holly Meyer Lucas and Ed Lucas; **FOURTH ROW:** Stephanie Dorr and Isabella Diaz; Heather Chong and Althea Ceasor.

PHOTOS: CAPEHART

