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MEDIA ALERT * * * MEDIA ALERT * * * MEDIA ALERT

**National YoungArts Foundation Announces
Inaugural New York Gala in collaboration with Swarovski
April 6, 2016 at The Metropolitan Museum of Art**

*Honorary Co-Chairs Mikhail Baryshnikov and Plácido Domingo
Gala Co-Chairs Agnes Gund and Sarah Arison
Emceed by YoungArts alumni Zuzanna Szadkowski and Desmond Richardson*

Festivities Kick Off 2016 YoungArts New York, April 12 – 17

WHAT:

On Wednesday, April 6, 2016 the **National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts)** will welcome 200 of New York City's top cultural and community leaders, philanthropists, celebrities and art aficionados to the **YoungArts New York Inaugural Gala at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's The Temple of Dendur in the Sackler Wing**. The festive evening will celebrate 35 years of the organization's profound support and lasting impact on young talent in the cultural capital of New York and across the nation, as well as this year's 819 YoungArts Winners, selected out of a record-breaking 12,000 applications—100 of whom hail from the greater New York area. Presented in collaboration with luxury brand **Swarovski**, the event will be hosted by honorary co-chairs and YoungArts artistic advisors **Mikhail Baryshnikov**, Artistic Director of the Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC) and renowned opera singer **Plácido Domingo**, as well as gala co-chairs **Sarah Arison** and **Agnes Gund**.

The YoungArts New York Inaugural Gala will be emceed by former *Gossip Girl* and *The Knick* actress **Zuzanna Szadkowski** (1997 Winner in Theater and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) and renowned choreographer and performer **Desmond Richardson** (1986 Winner in Dance and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), and will feature an elegant reception and seated dinner by Restaurant Associates. Throughout the evening, a series of interdisciplinary performance vignettes will be presented by YoungArts alumni, including **Julia Easterlin** (2008 Winner in Voice), **Jake Goldbas** (2007 Winner in Jazz), **Jeff Picker** (2007 Winner in Jazz and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), **Demi Remick** (2013 Winner in Dance), **Julius Rodriguez** (2014 Winner in Jazz) and more. Additional details will be announced in the coming weeks.

In addition to underscoring YoungArts' longstanding and still-growing commitment to supporting emerging New York artists, and highlighting Swarovski's legacy of supporting creativity, culture and rising talent, the event will kick off the organization's annual regional program **YoungArts New York**, which will take place from **April 12 – 17** and feature performances at **Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC)** and an exhibition at **Sotheby's New York**. Part of a series of regional programs also presented in Los Angeles and Miami—and modeled after the organization's signature program National YoungArts Week—YoungArts New York provides 2016 YoungArts Winners with life-changing opportunities to participate in interdisciplinary workshops, seminars and master classes with renowned leaders in their fields. This year, participants will showcase their talents to local audiences through public exhibitions, readings, and a series of performances directed by **Mikhail Baryshnikov**, alongside BAC's Artistic Administrator **Pedja Muzijevic** (Thursday, April 14) and Grammy Award-winning violinist **Christian Hebel** (Saturday, April 16).

The YoungArts New York Inaugural Gala is also supported by **Max Mara**, a partner of YoungArts, as part of their commitment to supporting arts education and fostering young talent.

WHO: Expected gala guests include: gala co-chairs **Sarah Arison** and **Agnes Gund**, honorary co-chairs **Mikhail Baryshnikov** and **Plácido Domingo**, and Gala Committee members **Lisa Benson, Fabiola Beracasa-Beckman, Benjamin Bronfman, Fisher & Spencer Cherry, Colleen Collins, Diana DiMenna, Laura Gomez Eastwood, Khirma Eliazov, Wendy Fisher, Kira Flanzraich, Casey Fremont, Kevin Glaser, RoseLee Goldberg, Zani Gugelmann, Anne Huntington, Peter Kunhardt Jr., Samantha Leder, Maria Giulia Maramotti, Olivia Marciano, Dalia Oberlander, Bettina Prentice, Martin Rozenblum, Deborah & Brandon Shainfeld, Gillian Hearst Simonds & Christian Simonds, Nadja Swarovski, Max Teicher, David Totah** and **Terry Zucker**, among others.

WHERE: The Metropolitan Museum of Art
The Temple of Dendur in The Sackler Wing
1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028

WHEN: Wednesday, April 6, 2016
Media check-in: 6:00 PM
Red carpet arrivals begin: 6:30 PM
Program begins: 6:30 PM (cocktails), 7:15 PM (dinner)
****all media must be credentialed in advance*

TICKETS: Tickets start at \$1,000 and tables are available starting at \$10,000. Please contact Dee Dee Sides at dsides@youngarts.org if interested.

MORE INFO: <http://www.youngarts.org/new-york-gala>

About the National YoungArts Foundation

The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and nurture the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts, and assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development. Through a wide range of annual programs, regular performances, and partnerships with some of the nation's leading cultural institutions, YoungArts aspires to create a strong community of alumni and a platform for a lifetime of encouragement, opportunity and support.

YoungArts' signature program is an application-based award for emerging artists ages 15 – 18 or in grades 10 – 12 from across the United States. Selected from a pool of more than an average of 11,000 applications (in 2015, the organization received a record-breaking number of more than 12,000 applications), YoungArts Winners receive valuable support, including financial awards of up to \$10,000, professional development and educational experiences working with renowned mentors—such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Plácido Domingo, Frank Gehry, Jeff Koons, Wynton Marsalis, Robert Redford, Rebecca Walker and Bruce Weber—and performance and exhibition opportunities at some of the nation's leading cultural institutions, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, D.C.), The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), The Museum of Modern Art (New York) and New World Center (Miami). Additionally, YoungArts Winners are eligible for nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students who exemplify academic and artistic excellence.

YoungArts Winners also become part of a thousands-strong alumni network of artists, which offers them additional professional opportunities throughout their careers. YoungArts alumni who have gone on to become leaders in their fields include actresses Viola Davis, Anna Gunn, Zuzanna Szadkowski and Kerry Washington; Broadway stars Raúl Esparza, Billy Porter, Andrew Rannells and Tony Yazbeck; recording artists Josh Groban, Judith Hill and Chris Young; Metropolitan Opera star Eric Owens; musicians Terence Blanchard, Gerald Clayton and Jennifer Koh; choreographer Desmond Richardson; visual artists Daniel Arsham and Hernan Bas; internationally acclaimed multimedia artist Doug Aitken; television writer, producer, and director Jenji Kohan; New York Times bestselling author Sam Lipsyte; and Academy Award winning filmmaker Doug Blush. www.youngarts.org

About Swarovski

Swarovski delivers a diverse portfolio of unmatched quality, craftsmanship, and creativity. Founded in 1895 in Austria, Swarovski designs, manufactures and markets high-quality crystals, genuine gemstones and created stones as well as finished products such as jewelry, accessories and lighting. Now run by the fifth generation of family members, Swarovski Crystal Business has a global reach with approximately 2,560 stores in around 170 countries, more than 25,000 employees, and revenue of about 2.33 billion euros in 2014. Together with its sister companies Swarovski Optik (optical devices) and Tyrolit (abrasives), Swarovski Crystal Business forms the Swarovski Group. In 2014, the Group generated revenue of about 3.05 billion euros and employed more than 30,000 people. The Swarovski Foundation was set up in 2012 to honor the philanthropic spirit of founder Daniel Swarovski. Its mission is to support creativity and culture, promote wellbeing, and conserve natural resources. www.swarovskigroup.com