

*****POST EVENT MEDIA ALERT*** POST EVENT MEDIA ALERT*****

**NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION'S SECOND ANNUAL NEW YORK GALA RAISES
MORE THAN HALF A MILLION DOLLARS IN SUPPORT OF THE NATION'S MOST TALENTED
EMERGING ARTISTS**

*More than 270 of New York's Cultural and Community Leaders, Philanthropists, and Celebrities Joined
Honorary Co-Chairs Debbie Allen, Agnes Gund and Sir Salman Rushdie, with
Gala Co-Chairs Sarah Arison and Thomas Wilhelm, and
Gillian Hearst Simonds and Christian Simonds for Sold-Out Evening*

*Presented in Collaboration with Swarovski
and Max Mara*

Emceed by YoungArts Alumna Zuzanna Szadkowski

Festivities Kicked Off 2017 YoungArts New York, April 25–30



WHAT:

On Thursday, April 20, 2017, the [National YoungArts Foundation \(YoungArts\)](http://www.youngarts.org), along with honorary co-chairs **Debbie Allen**, **Agnes Gund** and **Sir Salman Rushdie**, and gala co-chairs **Sarah Arison** and **Thomas Wilhelm**, and **Gillian Hearst Simonds** and **Christian Simonds**, welcomed more than 270 of New York's top cultural and community leaders, philanthropists, celebrities and art aficionados to the second annual **YoungArts New York Gala**. The sold-out evening at the **Metropolitan Museum of Art's Temple of Dendur** raised more than half a million dollars and celebrated aspiring young artists across the nation, including this year's nearly 700 YoungArts Winners in ten arts disciplines. The YoungArts New York Gala was presented in collaboration with luxury brand **Swarovski**, with support from **Max Mara**, emceed by former *Gossip Girl* and *The Knick* actress **Zuzanna Szadkowski** (1997 Winner in Theater and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), and featured a series of dynamic cross-disciplinary performance vignettes directed by YoungArts alum **Jake Goldbas** (2007 Winner in Jazz). The elegant reception and seated dinner was catered by Restaurant Associates with décor by Raul Àvila.

During the cocktail hour, groups of YoungArts dance and music alumni performed throughout the crowd in the Great Hall, culminating in a joyous procession led by the performers to The Temple of Dendur. During dinner, soul singer and songwriter **Grace Weber** (2006 Winner in Voice and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) performed a beautiful rendition of "Happy Thoughts," followed by

a stirring performance by jazz singer, songwriter and bassist **Kate Davis** (2009 Winner in Jazz and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts). The evening concluded with a spectacular finale featuring R&B/pop singer-songwriter and *The Voice* Season 8 Top 5 contestant **India Carney** (2011 Winner in Theater, Voice and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), Weber and Davis. Vocal performances were accompanied by YoungArts dance alumni **Javon Jones** (2016 Winner in Dance and inaugural Max Mara Young Visionary Award recipient), **Kaylin Berg** (2016 Winner in Dance), **Jared Brown** (2016 Winner in Dance and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), **Austin Goodwin** (2010 Winner in Dance and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), **Sarah Pippin** (2015 Winner in Dance) and **Ida Saki** (2010 Winner in Dance and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), as well as a YoungArts band featuring **Patrick Bartley** (2012 Winner in Jazz), **Braxton Cook** (2010 Winner in Jazz), **Philip Dizack** (2003 Winner in Jazz) and **Dave Eggar** (1987 Winner in Classical Music and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts).

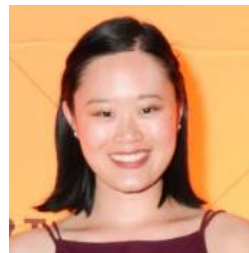
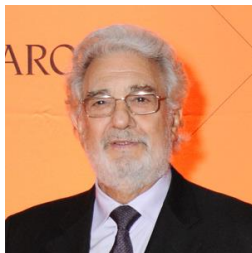


The event underscored YoungArts' longstanding and growing commitment to supporting emerging artists, alongside Swarovski's legacy of supporting creativity, culture and rising talent, and Max Mara's ongoing dedication to supporting the arts, especially through education. The evening kicked off YoungArts' annual regional program **YoungArts New York**, which will take place April 25–30 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 2017 YoungArts Winners with life-changing opportunities to participate in interdisciplinary workshops, seminars and master classes with renowned leaders in their fields, including an inaugural Swarovski fashion master class. This year, participants will showcase their talents to local audiences through performances directed by YoungArts alumnus and Grammy Award nominee **Michael McElroy** (1985 Winner in Theater); a jazz program directed by saxophonist **Adam Larson** (2009 Winner in Jazz); a classical music concert directed by acclaimed pianist **Elizabeth Joy Roe** (2000 Winner in Classical Music) and writers' readings led by author and award-winning journalist **Joan Morgan**.

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

WHEN: Thursday, April 20, 2017

IMAGES: Contact julia.an@finnpartners.com



ATTENDEES: Honorary gala co-chairs **Debbie Allen, Agnes Gund** and **Sir Salman Rushdie***; and gala co-chairs **Sarah Arison & Thomas Wilhelm** and **Gillian Hearst Simonds & Christian Simonds**; along with:

ARTISTS & CULTURAL LEADERS:

Carolina García Jayaram, President & CEO, National YoungArts Foundation * **Derrick Adams**, Artist and YoungArts Master Teacher * **Michele Selene Ang**, Actress and 2012 YoungArts Winner

in Theater and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts * **Klaus Biesenbach**, Director, MoMA PS1, and Chief Curator at Large, MoMA * **Fisher and Spencer Cherry**, Artist * **Talia Chetrit**, Artist * **Sophie Cohen** * **Plácido Domingo**, Opera Singer and YoungArts Master Teacher * **Peter Eleey**, Chief Curator, MoMA PS1 * **Naomi Fisher**, Artist, 1994 YoungArts Winner in Visual Arts and YoungArts Master Teacher * **Dr. Kira Flanzraich**, Chairman, MoCA North Miami * **Mr. Neil Flanzraich**, Executive Chairman, Cantex Pharmaceuticals * **Jordan Flanzraich**, CMBS and Real Estate Finance Analyst, Citi * **Anna Furney**, Partner, Venus Over Manhattan * **Max Heiges**, Artist * **Olivia Marciano**, Marciano Art Foundation * **Ella Montclare*** * **José Parlá**, Artist and YoungArts Master Teacher * **Georgiana Pickett**, Executive Director, Baryshnikov Arts Center * **Bettina Prentice**, Founder & Owner, Prentice Cultural Communications** * **Chiara Repetto**, Cofounder, Kaufmann Repetto * **Rajendra Roy**, The Celeste Bartos Chief Curator of Film, MoMA * **Thor Shannon**, Gallery Assistant, Gavin Brown's enterprise * **Gedi Sibony**, Artist * **Taryn Simon**, Artist * **Christian Slater** Actor and Producer and **Brittany Lopez Slater*** **Jamie Stevens**, Curator, Artists Space * **Caleb Teicher**, Dancer, Choreographer and 2011 YoungArts Winner in Dance * **Max Teicher**, Curator, Gagosian Gallery * **David Totah**, Gallerist * **Marlies Verhoeven Reijtenbagh**, Co-founder and CEO, The Cultivist * **Dustin Yellin**, Artist and YoungArts Master Teacher

FASHION & DESIGN LEADERS:

Maria Giulia Maramotti, US Director of Retail, Max Mara** * **Lisa Benson**, Senior Manager, IMG Models * **Edward Chapman**, CEO, Marchesa * **Khirma Eliazov**, Designer * **Shane Gabier and Christopher Peters**, Co-founders, Creatures of the Wind * **Gabriela Hearst**, Fashion Designer * **Dalia Oberlander**, Founder & CEO, Latest Revival** * **Debi Wisch**, Jewelry Designer

PHILANTHROPISTS & BUSINESS LEADERS:

Richard Kohan, Chair, AFO, LLC; YoungArts Chairman * **Anne Huntington**, Founder, AMH Industries and Director, Huntington Learning Center * **Peter Kunhardt Jr.**, Executive Director, Meserve-Kunhardt Foundation and Gordon Parks Foundation * **Martin Rozenblum**, Founder, Visibility.org * **Deborah & Brandon Shainfeld**, Philanthropist & CEO, Be Well by Dr. Frank Lipman * **Jamie Silverstein**, Manager, Special Projects, Vox Media * **Sandy and Tony Tamer**, Founder and Co-CEO, H.I.G. Capital * **Terry Zucker**

YOUNGARTS ALUMNI PERFORMERS:

Patrick Bartley, 2012 Winner in Jazz * **Kalyn Berg**, 2016 Winner in Dance * **Jared Brown**, 2016 Winner in Dance and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts * **India Carney**, 2011 Winner in Theater, Voice and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts * **Braxton Cook**, 2010 Winner in Jazz * **Kate Davis**, 2009 Winner in Jazz and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts * **Philip Dizack**, 2003 Winner in Jazz * **Dave Eggar**, 1987 Winner in Classical Music and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts * **Jake Goldbas**, 2007 Winner in Jazz * **Javon Jones**, 2016 Winner in Dance and inaugural Max Mara Young Visionary Award recipient * **Austin Goodwin**, 2010 Winner in Dance and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts * **Sarah Pippin**, 2015 Winner in Dance * **Ida Saki**, 2010 Winner in Dance and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts * **Zuzanna Szadkowski**, 1997 Winner in Theater and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts** * **Grace Weber**, 2006 Winner in Voice and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts *

**Wore Atelier Swarovski jewelry*

***Dressed by Max Mara*

MORE INFO: <http://www.youngarts.org/galas>

Image credits (L-R):

Row one: Ella Montclare, Sir Salman Rushdie, Agnes Gund, Carolina García Jayaram, Dr. Kira Flanzraich, Gillian Hearst Simonds, Sarah Arison, Dee Dee Sides, Jake Goldbas, Zuzanna Szadkowski, Debbie Allen

Row two: interdisciplinary procession, performance vignettes, finale

Row three: Christian Slater, Maria Giulia Maramotti, Plácido Domingo, Michele Selene Ang, Derrick Adams

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 through a blind adjudication process, YoungArts Winners receive valuable support, including financial awards of up to \$10,000, professional development and educational experiences working with renowned mentors—such as Debbie Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Rebecca Walker, Plácido Domingo, Frank Gehry, Jeff Koons, Wynton Marsalis, Salman Rushdie and Carrie Mae Weems—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 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 leading professionals 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, Jennifer Koh and Elizabeth Roe; choreographers Camille A. Brown and Desmond Richardson; visual artists Daniel Arsham and Hernan Bas; internationally acclaimed multimedia artist Doug Aitken; New York Times bestselling author Sam Lipsyte; and Academy Award-winning filmmaker Doug Blush.

For more information, visit youngarts.org, facebook.com/youngartsfoundation or twitter.com/youngarts. To watch a brief video about YoungArts, click [here](#).

About Swarovski

Swarovski delivers a diverse portfolio of unmatched quality, craftsmanship, and creativity.

Founded in 1895 in Austria, the company designs, manufactures and markets high-quality crystals, genuine gemstones and created stones as well as finished products such as jewelry, accessories and lighting. The Swarovski Crystal Business is run by the fifth generation of family members and has a global reach with approximately 2,800 stores in around 170 countries, more than 27,000 employees, and revenue of about 2.6 billion euros in 2016.

Together with its sister companies Swarovski Optik (optical devices) and Tyrolit (abrasives), Swarovski Crystal Business forms the Swarovski Group. In 2016, the Group generated revenue of about 3.37 billion euros and employed more than 32,000 people.

A responsible relationship with people and the planet is an integral part of Swarovski's heritage. The global Swarovski Waterschool education program has reached 461,000 children on the world's greatest rivers, and the Swarovski Foundation, set up in 2013, works to support culture and creativity, promote wellbeing, and conserve natural resources to achieve positive social impact. www.swarovskigroup.com

About Max Mara

Max Mara, the premier collection within the Max Mara Fashion Group and is the epitome of Italian luxury and style. As a contemporary collection for the confident woman, consisting of opulent fabrications with couture details applied to ready-to-wear, Max Mara pieces embody femininity and craftsmanship. Symbolic for impeccable silhouettes with a timeless sensibility and constructed from the most luxurious fabrics, Max Mara is revered for the classification of the coat, sharp suiting and elegant accessories. Founded in 1951 by the late visionary, Achille Maramotti, Max Mara is now available in 2,462 locations in more than 100 countries. Max Mara Fashion Group counts 19 different collections. The company remains privately held.