

**MEDIA ALERT \* \* \* MEDIA ALERT \* \* \* MEDIA ALERT**

**NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION'S SECOND ANNUAL NEW YORK GALA  
CELEBRATES ASPIRING YOUNG ARTISTS NATIONWIDE**

*Presented in collaboration with Swarovski*

*Honorary Co-Chairs Debbie Allen, Agnes Gund and Sir Salman Rushdie  
Gala Co-Chairs Sarah Arison and Thomas Wilhelm, and  
Gillian Hearst Simonds and Christian Simonds*

*Emceed by YoungArts Alumna Zuzanna Szadkowski*

*Festivities Kick Off 2017 YoungArts New York, April 25 – 30*

**APRIL 20, 2017 AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART**

**WHAT:** On Thursday, April 20, the [National YoungArts Foundation \(YoungArts\)](#) will welcome 280 of New York City's top cultural and community leaders, philanthropists, celebrities and art aficionados to the second annual **YoungArts New York Gala at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Temple of Dendur in the Sackler Wing**. The festive evening will celebrate aspiring young talent in the cultural capital of New York and across the nation, as well as this year's 691 YoungArts Winners, selected from the largest pool of applicants to date—more than 100 of whom hail from the greater New York area. Presented in collaboration with luxury brand **Swarovski**, with support from **Max Mara**, the event will be hosted by honorary co-chairs **Debbie Allen, Agnes Gund** and **Sir Salman Rushdie**, as well as gala co-chairs **Sarah Arison** and **Thomas Wilhelm**, and **Gillian Hearst Simonds** and **Christian Simonds**.

The YoungArts New York 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 will feature an elegant reception and seated dinner by **Restaurant Associates**. Throughout the evening, a series of interdisciplinary performance vignettes will be directed by YoungArts alumni **Jake Goldbas** (2007 Winner in Jazz), and featuring soul singer and songwriter **Grace Weber** (2006 Winner in Voice), jazz singer, songwriter and bassist **Kate Davis** (2009 Winner in Jazz and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), R&B/pop singer and songwriter and *The Voice* Season 8 Top 5 contestant **India Carney** (2011 Winner in Theater, Voice and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), modern dancer **Javon Jones** (2016 Winner in Dance and inaugural Max Mara Young Visionary Award recipient) alongside four recent YoungArts dance alumni, and more. Additional details will be announced in the coming weeks.

In addition to underscoring YoungArts' longstanding and still-growing commitment to supporting emerging artists, alongside Swarovski's legacy of supporting creativity, culture and rising talent, and Max Mara's ongoing commitment to supporting the arts, especially through education, the event will kick off the organization's annual regional program **YoungArts New York**, which will take place from **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 Musical 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**.

**WHO:** Expected gala guests include: gala co-chairs **Sarah Arison & Thomas Wilhelm and Gillian Hearst Simonds & Christian Simonds**; honorary co-chairs **Debbie Allen, Agnes Gund and Sir Salman Rushdie**; and gala committee members **Lisa Benson, Benjamin Bronfman, Fisher & Spencer Cherry, Diana DiMenna, Laura Gomez Eastwood, Khirma Eliazov, Dr. Kira and Neil Flanzraich, Jordan Flanzraich, Casey Fremont, Zani Gugelmann, Anne Huntington, Peter Kunhardt Jr., Maria Giulia Maramotti, Olivia Marciano, Dalia Oberlander, Bettina Prentice, Martin Rozenblum, Katy Schell and Edward Chapman, Deborah & Brandon Shainfeld, Nadja Swarovski, Sandy and Tony Tamer, Max Teicher, David Totah, Marlies Verhoeven, Debi Wisch 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:** Thursday, April 20, 2017  
Media check-in: 6:00 PM  
Red carpet arrivals: 6:15 PM  
Program: 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](mailto:dsides@youngarts.org) if interested.

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

#### **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](http://youngarts.org), [facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation) or [twitter.com/YoungArts](https://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](http://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.