

**MEDIA ALERT \* \* \* MEDIA ALERT \* \* \* MEDIA ALERT**  
**NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION'S THIRD ANNUAL NEW YORK GALA  
CELEBRATES ASPIRING YOUNG ARTISTS NATIONWIDE**

*Presented in collaboration with Max Mara*

*Honorary Co-Chairs Naeem Khan, Agnes Gund and Anna Deavere Smith  
Gala Co-Chairs Sarah Arison, Diana DiMenna and Sandra Tamer*

*Emceed by Broadway and TV star, Daniel J. Watts  
Festivities Kick Off April 24–29 at 2018 YoungArts New York,*

**APRIL 18, 2018 AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART**

**WHAT:**

On Wednesday, April 18, the [National YoungArts Foundation \(YoungArts\)](#) will welcome 290 of New York City's top cultural and community leaders, philanthropists, celebrities and art aficionados to the third annual **YoungArts New York Gala** at **The Metropolitan Museum of Art**. The festive evening will celebrate aspiring artists in the cultural capital of New York and across the nation, as well as this year's **757** YoungArts winners—more than 80 of whom hail from the greater New York area. Presented in collaboration with Italian luxury brand **Max Mara**, the event will be hosted by gala co-chairs Sarah Arison, Diana DiMenna and Sandra Tamer, as well as honorary co-chairs **Agnes Gund and Naeem Khan**.

The YoungArts New York Gala will be emceed by Daniel Watts and will feature an elegant reception and seated dinner by **Restaurant Associates**. Throughout the evening, a series of interdisciplinary performance vignettes, directed by YoungArts alumnus **Jake Goldbas** (2007 Winner in Jazz), will pay tribute to YoungArts master teachers **Mikhail Baryshnikov, Joshua Bell** and **Anna Deavere Smith**. The tributes will include an all-star lineup of performances by alumni **Stella Chen** (2010 Winner in Classical Music), **Micaela Diamond** (2017 Winner in Theater), **Marty Jaffe** (2012 Winner in Jazz), **Jay Julio** ((2016 Winner in Classical Music), **Derek Louie** (2016 Winner in Classical Music), **Samora Pinderhughes** (2009 Winner in Jazz), **Ben Ross** (2016 Winner in Theater & U.S. Presidential Schola in the Arts), **Daniel Watts** (2000 Winner in Dance) and **Angela Wee** (2015 Winner in Classical Music). Additional details will be announced in the coming weeks.

In addition to underscoring YoungArts' longstanding and ever-growing commitment to supporting emerging artists 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 **April 24–29** and feature performances at **Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC)** and an exhibition opening at **MoMA PS1**. Part of a series of regional programs also presented in Miami and Los Angeles—and modeled after the organization's signature program, National YoungArts Week—YoungArts New York provides 2018 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 performances directed by Tony Award nominee **Michael Arden** (2001 Winner in Theater & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) and saxophonist **Adam Larson** (2009 Winner in Jazz); and a classical music concert and writers' readings directed by acclaimed cellist **Jeffrey Zeigler** and author and award-winning journalist **Joan Morgan**.

- WHO:** Expected gala guests include: gala co-chairs **Sarah Arison, Diana Dimenna and Sandra Tamer**, honorary co-chairs **Naeem Khan and Agnes Gund**; and gala committee members **Derrick Adams, Noreen Ahmad, Kara Medoff Barnett, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Joshua Bell, Lisa Benson, Klaus Biesenbach, Josh Black, Gavin Brown, Racquel Chevremont and Mickalene Thomas, Dr. Kira and Mr. Neil Flanzraich, Jordan Flanzraich, Casey Fremont, Marina Kellen French, Gillian Hearst, Michi Jigarjian, Jill Kraus, Peter Kundhart, Jr., Maria Giulia Maramotti, Olivia Marciano, Michael Mercure, José Parlá, Anne Pasternak, Thor Shannon, Hank Wills Thomas and Rujeko Hockley, David Totah, Marlies Verhoeven, Debi Wisch and Terry Zucker.**
- WHERE:** The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
1000 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10028
- WHEN:** Wednesday, April 18, 2018  
Media check-in: 6:00 p.m.  
Red carpet arrivals: 6:15 p.m.  
Program: 6:30 p.m. (cocktails), 7:15 p.m. (dinner)  
*\*\*\*all media must be credentialed in advance*
- TICKETS:** Tickets start at \$1,500 and tables are available starting at \$15,000. Please contact Dee Dee Sides at [dsides@youngarts.org](mailto:dsides@youngarts.org) if interested.
- MORE INFO:** [youngarts.org/nygala](http://youngarts.org/nygala)

#### **About the National Young Arts 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, 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, 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 winners Doug Blush and Tarell Alvin McCraney.

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 Max Mara**

Max Mara, founded in 1951 by the late visionary, Achille Maramotti, is the premier collection within the Max Mara Fashion Group and 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 classic 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. Max Mara is available in 2,668 locations in more than 100 countries. Max Mara Fashion Group counts 9 different brands. The company remains privately held and managed by the Maramotti family.