

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

**NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION'S THIRD ANNUAL NEW YORK GALA RAISES MORE THAN \$700,000 IN SUPPORT OF THE NATION'S MOST PROMISING EMERGING ARTISTS**

*New York's Cultural and Community Leaders, Philanthropists, and Celebrities Joined Honorary Co-Chairs Agnes Gund, Naeem Khan and Anna Deavere Smith Gala Co-Chairs Sarah Arison, Diana DiMenna and Sandra Tamer for Sold-Out Evening*

*Presented in Collaboration with Max Mara*

*Emceed by Broadway and TV star Daniel J. Watts*

*Festivities Kick Off April 24-29 at 2018 YoungArts New York*



**WHAT:**

On Wednesday, April 18, 2018, the [National YoungArts Foundation \(YoungArts\)](#), along with honorary co-chairs **Agnes Gund**, **Naeem Khan** and **Anna Deavere Smith**, and gala co-chairs **Sarah Arison**, **Diana DiMenna** and **Sandra Tamer**, welcomed more than 220 of New York's top cultural and community leaders, philanthropists, celebrities and art aficionados to the third annual **YoungArts New York Gala**. The sold-out evening at **The Metropolitan Museum of Art** raised over \$700,000 and celebrated aspiring young artists across the nation, including this year's 757 YoungArts winners. The YoungArts New York Gala was presented in collaboration with Italian luxury brand **Max Mara**, emceed by Broadway and TV star **Daniel J. Watts** (2000 Winner in Dance), and featured a series of dynamic interdisciplinary performance vignettes directed by YoungArts alumnus **Jake Goldbas** (2007 Winner in Jazz), paying tribute to YoungArts master teachers, including **Mikhail Baryshnikov**, **Joshua Bell** and **Anna Deavere Smith**. The elegant reception and seated dinner was catered by Restaurant Associates.

Guests were greeted with a four-piece jazz band of YoungArts alumni during the cocktail reception, as well as an impromptu tap performance by emcee and *Hamilton* actor Daniel J. Watts, accompanied by Jake Goldbas on drums, to kick off the dinner portion of the evening. During remarks, Sarah Arison, who was nominated as Chair of the Board in January, spoke passionately about how YoungArts has expanded to nurture artists throughout their careers and beyond their post-secondary education. New York-based partners **Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC)**, **MoMA PS1**, **The Metropolitan Museum of Art** and **American Ballet Theatre** were among the organizations named for their work with YoungArts artists in their high school years and beyond as they become professional working artists.

A group of outstanding YoungArts alumni paid tribute to **Mikhail Baryshnikov** and **Joshua Bell**, performing one of Bell's favorite movements from Astor Piazzolla's Four Seasons titled "Primavera." The performance featured **Stella Chen** (2010 Winner in Classical Music) as the violin soloist, **Angela Wee** (2015 Winner in Classical Music), **Yaegy Park** (2015 Winner in Classical Music), **Jay Julio** (2016 Winner in Classical Music), **Derek Louie** (2016 Winner in Classical Music) and **Marty Jaffe** (2012 Winner in Jazz), as well as **Mason Manning** (2014 Winner in Dance) and **My'Kal Stromile** (2014 Winner in Dance & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) who choreographed and performed the dance component of the collaborative tribute.

**Samora Pinderhughes** (2009 Winner in Jazz) designed and produced a tribute to **Anna Deavere Smith**, playing a mix of solo piano pieces, outtakes from "Notes in the Field", and an excerpt of one of Deavere Smith's monologues, powerfully delivered by emcee Daniel J. Watts.

The closing performance was a moving tribute to YoungArts musical and theatrical master teachers, featuring Broadway alumni **Ben Ross** (2016 Winner in Theater & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), currently in *Dear Evan Hansen*, **Micaela Diamond** (2017 Winner in Theater), soon to be starring in *The Cher Show*, and pianist Ted Arthur. The first song performed was "Move On" from *Sunday in the Park*, arranged by award-winning composer and YoungArts alumnus **Jonathan Ragonese** (2008 Winner in Jazz) and the finale was an unforgettable duet of *Dear Evan Hansen's* "You Will be Found."



The event underscored YoungArts' longstanding and growing commitment to supporting emerging artists, alongside **Max Mara's** ongoing dedication to supporting the arts through education with initiatives such as the Max Mara Young Visionary Award. The 2018 recipient, **Emily Damasco** (2018 Winner in Voice) attended the event alongside Maria Giulia Maramotti, both dressed in Max Mara. This year's theme of mentors, masters and those who pave the way honors the leading artists who have shared their expertise with YoungArts winners and who continue to be a foundational part of the organization's core programs for young artists, including YoungArts' annual regional program **YoungArts New York**, which will take place April 24–29 and feature performances at **BAC** and an exhibition 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. 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**.

**WHERE:** The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
1000 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10028

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 18, 2018



**ATTENDEES:**

Honorary Co-Chairs: **Agnes Gund** and **Naeem Khan**

Gala Co-Chairs: YoungArts Board Chair **Sarah Arison**, **Diana DiMenna** and **Sandra Tamer**; along with:

**ARTISTS & CULTURAL LEADERS:**

**Carolina García Jayaram**, President & CEO, National YoungArts Foundation \* **Derrick Adams**, Artist and YoungArts Master Teacher \* **Noreen Ahmad**, Director at Sutton \* **Michele Selene Ang**, (2012 Winner in Theater and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), Actress \* **Mikhail Baryshnikov** \* **Joshua Bell** \* **Klaus Biesenbach**, Director, MoMA PS1, and Chief Curator at Large, MoMA \* **Zoe Buckman**, Artist \* **Racquel Chevremont**, Arts Collector and Consultant \* **Plácido Domingo**, Opera Singer and YoungArts Master Teacher \* **Craig Dykers**, Architect \* **Diana Eliazov**, Cinematographer \* **Naomi Fisher** (1994 Winner in Visual Arts), Artist and YoungArts Master Teacher \* **Casey Fremont**, Art Production Fund \* **Marina Kellen French**, Trustee of The Metropolitan Museum of Art \* **Anna Furney**, Partner, Venus Over Manhattan \* **Max Heiges**, Artist \* **Michi Jigarjian**, Baxter Street \* **KAWS**, Artist \* **Arielle Tepper Madover**, Chair, The Public \* **Michael McElroy**, Actor and YoungArts Master Teacher \* **Kara Medoff Barnett**, Director American Ballet Theater \* **Michel Mercure**, MoMA \* **Ella Montclare** \* **José Parlá**, Artist and YoungArts Master Teacher \* **Anne Pasternak**, Director Brooklyn Museum \* **Georgiana Pickett**, Executive Director, Baryshnikov Arts Center \* **Bettina Prentice**, Founder & Owner, Prentice Cultural Communications \* **Chiara Repetto**, Cofounder, Kaufmann Repetto \* **Thor Shannon**, Gallery Assistant, Gavin Brown's enterprise \* **Gedi Sibony**, Artist \* **Taryn Simon**, Artist \* **Jamie Stevens**, Curator, Artists Space \* **Caleb Teicher**, Dancer, Choreographer and 2011 YoungArts Winner in Dance \* **Zuzanna Szadkowski** (1997 Winner in Theater & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), Actress and YoungArts Master Teacher \* **Max Teicher**, Gagosian Gallery \* **Mickalene Thomas**, Artist and YoungArts Master Teacher \* **David Totah**, Gallerist \* **Marlies Verhoeven Reijtenbagh**, Co-founder and CEO, The Cultivist \* **Wendy Whelan**, Dancer

**FASHION & DESIGN LEADERS:**

**Maria Giulia Maramotti**, US Director of Retail, Max Mara \* **Lisa Benson**, Senior Manager, IMG Models \* **Khirma Eliazov**, Designer \* **Naeem Khan**, Fashion Designer and YoungArts Master Teacher \* **Dalia Oberlander**, Founder & CEO Latest Revival \* **Marysia Reeves**, Founder, MARYSIA \* **Debi Wisch**, Jewelry Designer

**PHILANTHROPISTS & BUSINESS LEADERS:**

**Richard Kohan**, YoungArts Vice Chair, AFO, LLC \* **Anne & Joel Ehrenkranz**, Senior Partner, Ehrenkranz Partners L.P. and Ehrenkranz & Ehrenkranz LLP \* **Shari Loeffler** \* **Christy & John Mack**, Former CEO & Chairman of the Board, Morgan Stanley \* **Kara Moore**, Bloomberg \* **Sandra & Tony Tamer**, Founder and Co-CEO, H.I.G. Capital \* **Terry Zucker**

**YOUNGARTS ALUMNI PERFORMERS:**

**Michael Arden** (2001 Winner in Theater & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), **Stella Chen** (2010 Winner in Classical Music), **Micaela Diamond** (2017 Winner in Theater), **Jake Goldbas** (2007 Winner in Jazz), **Marty Jaffe** (2012 Winner in Jazz), **Jay Julio** (2016 Winner in Classical Music), **Adam Larson** (2009 Winner in Jazz), **Derek Louie** (2016 Winner in Classical Music), **Mason Manning** (2014 Winner in Dance) and **My'Kal Stromile** (2014 Winner in Dance & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), **Yaegy Park** (2015 Winner in Classical Music), **Samora Pinderhughes** (2009 Winner in Jazz), **Ben Ross** (2016 Winner in Theater & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), **Daniel J. Watts** (2000 Winner in Dance) and **Angela Wee** (2015 Winner in Classical Music).



**MORE INFO:**      [youngarts.org/nygala](http://youngarts.org/nygala)

Image credits (L-R):

Row one: Sandra Tamer, Diana DiMenna and Sarah Arison / Naeem Khan and Carolina García Jayaram / Emily Damasco and Maria Giulia Maramotti / Derrick Adams

Row two: YoungArts alumni performances

Row three: Agnes Gund, Naeem Khan, Sarah Arison, Diana DiMenna, Sandra Tamer

### **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, 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-winning filmmaker Doug Blush.

For more information, visit [youngarts.org](http://youngarts.org), [facebook.com/youngartsfoundation](https://facebook.com/youngartsfoundation), [instagram.com/youngarts](https://instagram.com/youngarts) or [twitter.com/youngarts](https://twitter.com/youngarts).

To watch a brief video about YoungArts, click [here](#).

### **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 2,378 locations in more than 100 countries. Max Mara Fashion Group counts 9 different collections. The company remains privately held.