

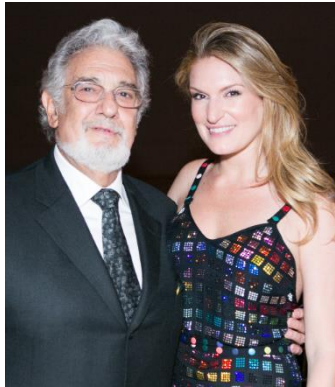
*****POST EVENT MEDIA ALERT *** POST EVENT MEDIA ALERT *****

National YoungArts Foundation Inaugural New York Gala Raises Nearly Half a Million Dollars in Support of America's Most Talented Young Artists

*Mikhail Baryshnikov, Plácido Domingo, Agnes Gund and Sarah Arison Welcomed More Than 250
Cultural and Community Leaders, Philanthropists, and Celebrities*

*Sold-Out Evening Presented in Collaboration with Swarovski and 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)** welcomed more than 250 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 Temple of Dendur in the Sackler Wing**. The sold-out evening raised nearly half a million dollars and celebrated the organization's 35 years of support and lasting impact on young talent in the cultural capital of New York and across the nation. Presented in collaboration with luxury brand **Swarovski**, the event was 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 was 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 featured an elegant reception and seated dinner by Restaurant Associates. A series of dynamic interdisciplinary performance vignettes presented throughout the evening by YoungArts alumni—including **Marcus Canty** (2009 Winner in Voice), **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), and **Julius Rodriguez** (2014 Winner in Jazz)—received a standing ovation from the packed house.



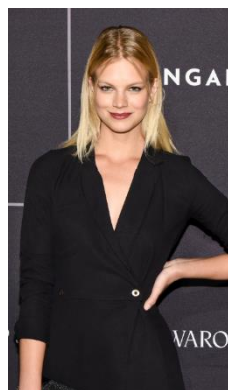
In addition to underscoring YoungArts’ longstanding and still-growing commitment to supporting emerging New York artists, and highlighting Swarovski’s legacy of supporting creativity, culture and rising talent, the event kicked off the organization’s annual regional program **YoungArts New York**, which will take place from **April 12 – 17**. 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 events with a series of performances at **Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC)** curated by **Mikhail Baryshnikov**, alongside BAC’s Artistic Administrator **Pedja Muzijevic** (Thursday, April 14) and Grammy Award-winning violinist **Christian Hebel** (Saturday, April 16), an exhibition, reading and screening at **Sotheby’s New York** (Friday, April 15), and performance at **National Sawdust**, directed by YoungArts alumni **Emmet Cohen** and **Marika Hughes** (Sunday, April 16).

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

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

IMAGES & B-ROLL: Contact julia.an@finnpartners.com



ATTENDEES: **Mikhail Baryshnikov**, Honorary co-chair, Artistic Director of the Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC)
Plácido Domingo, Honorary co-chair and renowned opera singer and National YoungArts Foundation Board Member
Agnes Gund, Gala co-chair, founding trustee of the Agnes Gund Foundation, President Emerita of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), Chairman of MoMA PS1 and National YoungArts Foundation Board Member
Sarah Arison, Gala co-chair, President of Arison Arts Foundation and National YoungArts Foundation Board Member*
Zuzanna Szadkowski, Co-Emcee, former *Gossip Girl* and *The Knick* actress (1997 Winner in Theater and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) and National YoungArts Foundation Board Member***
Desmond Richardson, Co-Emcee and renowned choreographer and performer (1986 Winner in Dance and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) and National YoungArts Foundation Board Member
Maria Giulia Maramotti, Max Mara US Director of Retail**
Cristian Notari, Max Mara US CEO
Anatoly and Maya Bekkerman, art collectors
Lisa Benson, Senior Manager, IMG Models
Ashley Boudier, principal dancer, New York City Ballet
Benjamin Bronfman, environmentalist, entrepreneur, and musician
Marcus Canty, YoungArts alumnus (2009 Winner in Voice)
Fischer & Spencer Cherry**, artist
Colleen Collins, Former CFO of Alexander Wang and DVF
John Dempsey, Executive Group President, The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.
Diana DiMenna, philanthropist**
Julia Easterlin, YoungArts alumna (2008 Winner in Voice)
Khirma Eliazov, fashion designer**
Katie Ermilio, fashion designer
Teresita Fernández, artist
Kira Flanzraich, Chairman, Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami
Casey Fremont, Executive Director, Art Production Fund**
Fernando Garcia, Founder & Designer, Monse
Carolina García Jayaram, President & CEO, United States Artists
Alex Gartenfeld, Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, Deputy Director & Chief Curator
Kevin Glaser, CEO of Glaser Construction Management
Laura Gomez Eastwood, model
Jake Goldbas, YoungArts alumnus (2007 Winner in Jazz)
RoseLee Goldberg, Founder of Performa and art historian, author, critic and curator
Zani Gugelmann, jewelry designer
Hallie Hobson, Director of Institutional Advancement, Studio Museum in Harlem
Anne Huntington, Founder of AMH Industries and Director of Huntington Learning Center
Mark & Suzanne Johnson, actress and model
Javon Jones, 2016 YoungArts Winner in Dance and recipient of Max Mara Young Visionary Award
Sarah Jones, actress
Laura Kim, designer, Monse
Peter Kunhardt Jr., Executive Director, Meserve-Kunhardt Foundation and the Gordon Parks Foundation
Elizabeth Kurpis, lawyer
Samantha Leder, style advisor
Nadine Leopold, model
Eva LeWitt, artist
Damian & Zoya Loeb, artist and model
Olivia Marciano, gallery assistant, Luxembourg & Dayan
Dalia Oberlander, Founder & CEO, Latest Revival**

Jeff Picker, YoungArts alumnus (2007 Winner in Jazz and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts)

Georgiana Pickett, Executive Director, Baryshnikov Arts Center

Bettina Prentice, Founder & Owner, Prentice Art Communications

Demi Remick, YoungArts alumna (2013 Winner in Dance)

Julius Rodriguez, YoungArts alumnus (2014 Winner in Jazz)

Elizabeth Roe, classical pianist and YoungArts alumna (2000 Winner in Music)

Martin Rozenblum, Founder of Visibility.org

Sir Salman Rushdie, internationally acclaimed author

Adam Schlesinger, Emmy and Grammy award winning songwriter and composer

Deborah & Brandon Shainfeld, philanthropist & CEO, Be Well by Dr. Frank Lipman

Gillian Hearst Simonds, Contributing editor, Town & Country

Christian Simonds, lawyer

Max Teicher, curator, Gagosian Gallery

David Totah, gallerist and Founder of TOTAH

Ike Ude, photographer, performance artist, author, publisher

Daniel Ulbricht, principal dancer, New York City Ballet

Consuelo Vanderbilt Costin, singer

Hilary Vartanian, Senior Vice President Corporate Development, Empire Entertainment

William Wegman, photographer

Damian Woetzel, Director, Aspen Institute Arts Program and former New York City Ballet principal dancer

Terry Zucker, philanthropist***

*Dressed in Rosie Assoulin with crystals from Swarovski; jewelry by Atelier Swarovski

**Dressed by Max Mara

*** Jewelry by Atelier Swarovski; dressed by Max Mara

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

Image credits (L-R):

Zuzanna Szadkowski and Desmond Richardson; Plácido Domingo and Sarah Arison; Lisa Rinehart and Mikhail Baryshnikov
Javon Jones, Maria Giulia Maramotti, Cristian Notari; Temple of Dendur; Marcus Canty

Benjamin Bronfman; Elizabeth Kurpis; Nadine Leopold; Kalu Kalu Ugwuomo Jr. and Ike Ude; Fischer Cherry

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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