

SUMMER 2017

Dear Friends,

During the first half of 2017, you helped us celebrate music, dance & cultural exchange!

Your passion and support not only strengthened French-American relations, but also contributed to the realization of exceptional programs in France and the U.S. - from the Palais Garnier to the David Koch Theater!

I would like to thank those who joined us this past April on our patrons trip to Paris, as well as those who participated in the events surrounding the "Jewels"

performance when the Paris Opera Ballet, New York City Ballet and the Bolshoi Ballet shared the stage at the Lincoln Center Festival.

We look forward to creating more memories with you and we hope you will join us again this Fall when we travel to Paris for the opening gala of the ballet season.

Warmest wishes,

Olivia Flatto,
Chairman

American Friends of the Paris Opera & Ballet



Opéra National de Paris Director Stéphane Lissner and Director of Dance Aurélie Dupont hosting a dinner for AFPOB Patrons at the Palais Garnier

Patrons Trip to Paris

April 2017

This past spring, AFPOB travelled to Paris, where we celebrated the life and work of Yvette Chauviré, one of the 20th century's most dazzling prima ballerinas. On the occasion of what would have been the illustrious étoile's 100th birthday, patrons attended a one-night-only honorary tribute, which included a specially performed grand défilé - usually reserved for season opening galas - as well as a black tie seated dinner and after party in the exquisite Grand Foyer of the Palais Garnier.

In the days leading up to this spectacular evening, we enjoyed an exciting array of special programs -from backstage tours of the Opéra Bastille & Palais Garnier, to private tours of the Palais de l'Élysée & The Senate. On one particularly memorable evening, we enjoyed an intimate dinner with the Director of the Paris Opera, Stéphane Lissner, and the Director of Dance, Aurélie Dupont, in Mr. Lissner's stunning private office.



AFPOB Patrons attend a gala at the Palais Garnier honoring former étoile Yvette Chauviré



AFPOB Patrons enjoying cultural excursions around Paris



AFPOB Patrons enjoying private tours of the Senate and the Palais de l'Élysée

AFPOB Patrons Celebrate "Jewels"

July 20 - 21, 2017



On July 20th, the Paris Opera Ballet shared the stage of the David Koch Theater with the New York City Ballet and the Bolshoi Ballet in an historic collaborative performance of George Balanchine's "Jewels." Emeralds, set to Fauré, evoked the mystery and grace of France, while Rubies, fueled by Stravinsky, crackled with jazz-inflected wit and sass, channeling the mid-century audacity of Manhattan. In the final act, Diamonds dazzled and amazed as the dancers conjured up the grandeur of Imperial Russia, set to Tchaikovsky's lush Third Symphony.

Following the final curtain-call, patrons joined the dancers at an international cast party at Tavern on the Green.

AFPOB members continued to celebrate the following day with a private luncheon at the French Consulate held in honor of Aurelie Dupont. The Dance Director spoke about Paris Opera Ballet's relationship with the United States, as well as the experience of sharing the stage with two other renowned international companies.



*From left to right: Judith Hoffman, Denise Sobel, Marina Couloucoundis & Jean-Yves Kaced; AFPOB Chairman Olivia Flatto & Paris Opera Ball
Aurelie Dupont; Jad Ariss & Étoile Laëtitia Pujol; Nigel Redden, Joanna Fisher, Janna Bullock & Corice Arman; Marina Lott & J.C.*



*From left to right: Étoile Mathias Heymann & Danielle Hirsch; Muna Rihani, Aurelie Dupont & Andrew Litton; Aurelie Dupont, Shen Wei & Co
Claire Legendre; Marie-France Kern & Olivia Flatto*



*From left to right: Maya Ahluwalia, Andrea Brodlieb & Ken Brodlieb; Denise Sobel, Hal J. Witt, Mary Sharp Cronson & Joanna Fisher; Jan
Rassinoux; Cecilia Torres, Pedro Torres & Maureen Footer*

AFPOB Goes to Paris for the Ballet Season Opening Gala

September 21-22, 2017

From September 21 - 22, AFPOB will go to Paris to attend the season opening gala of the Paris Opera Ballet. Please contact Ariana Muessel at afpob@afpob.org for details about our gala package and hotel accommodations. Only a few places left!

GALA OPENING OF THE PARIS OPERA BALLET SEASON



THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21

PARIS OPERA BALLET OPENING NIGHT GALA

A dazzling one-night-only program followed by dinner and dancing in the spectacular Palais Garnier.

7:30 pm Performance

Program

Défilé du Ballet de l'Opéra National de Paris
Music – Hector Berlioz

Trois Gnossiennes (Company Premiere)
Choreography – Hans van Manen
Music – Erik Satie

Faun (Company Premiere)
Choreography – Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui
Music – Claude Debussy

Diamants (Excerpt from *Jewels*)
Choreography – George Balanchine
Music – Piotr Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

Featuring the Étoiles, Premiers Danseurs and the Corps de Ballet with the participation of the Ballet School.

VIP Intermission Cocktail Reception

10:30 pm Dinner in the Foyers of the Palais Garnier

Followed by a festive After-Party with the dancers until late in the evening

Attire: Black Tie - Long Dress



FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22

12:30 pm Lunch hosted by Olivia Flatto, Chairman of the American Friends of the Paris Opera & Ballet, for French and American patrons of the arts, with special guest Aurélie Dupont, Director of Dance of the Paris Opera.

Attire: Jacket and Tie for Gentlemen

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our scholarship recipients, Milo Aveque and Samuel Bray, on their acceptance to the Paris Opera Ballet company! The pair will join the Corps de Ballet as Quadrilles this fall for the 2017/2018 season. Both are entering the company after years of training with the Paris Opera Ballet School, and were among the first French students to ever receive AFPOB scholarships to the San Francisco Ballet School summer intensives. Milo and Samuel participated in both our 2016 and 2017 programs, and we have been extremely proud to contribute to their development as artists. We look forward to seeing them on the stage soon and wish them the best of luck in their new home!



Adopt a Seat at the Palais Garnier

For the first time in its history, *L'Opéra National de Paris* is offering patrons the unique opportunity to adopt the Palais Garnier's iconic plush velvet chairs. In exchange for your generous contribution, your name and message will be engraved on the chair of your choice.

The funds raised by the "Adopt a Seat" campaign will go towards the *Opéra National de Paris'* "Avants-Premieres" program, which enables patrons under the age of 28 to attend special monthly performances at only €10 per seat.



Our Mission

The purpose of the American Friends of the Paris Opera & Ballet is to share the many treasures of the Opéra National de Paris directly with the American public and to foster artistic cooperation between this vital international cultural institution and the creative community in the United States. Since its inception in 1984, AFPOB has become a leading promoter of international cultural exchange and has organized or funded hundreds of tours, guest appearances, productions, exhibitions, and events.

Olivia Flatto, Chairman
Marina Couloucoundis, Vice Chairman
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Please visit our website at www.afpob.org