

SPRING 2018

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 Aurelie Dupont hosting a dinner for AFPOB Patrons at the Palais Garnier

September Season Gala and Patrons Trip to Paris

September 2018

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, Aurelie Dupont, in Mr. Lissner's stunning private office.

May 2 Lyric Gala

On May 2, AFPOB hosted a dazzling night of music featuring the French soprano Karine Deshayes at the French Consulate. Two young prodigies of L'Académie, a new training program at the Opera de Paris for young professionals destined to a lyric career, joined Deshayes to sing Bizet and Rossini. The baritone **Vladimir Kapshuk** and the tenor **Jean-François Marras** formed the Don Carlos / Rodrigue duet "Dio, che neall'alma infondere" from Verdi's *Don Carlo*.



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 Ballet Director of Dance Aurelie Dupont; Jad Ariss & Étoile Laëtitia Pujol; Nigel Redden, Joanna Fisher, Janna Bullock & Corice Arman; Marina Lott & J.C. Agid



From left to right: Étoile Mathias Heymann & Danielle Hirsch; Muna Rihani, Aurelie Dupont & Andrew Litton; Aurelie Dupont, Shen Wei & Consul General Anne-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; Janna Bullock & Fu-Rassinoux; Cecilia Torres, Pedro Torres & Maureen Footer

AFPOB Goes to Paris for the Ballet Season Opening Gala

September 27-30, 2018

From September 27 - 30, AFPOB will go to Paris to attend the season opening gala of the Paris Opera Ballet. Please contact Vicki Sun at afpob@afpob.org for details about our gala package and hotel accommodations. Only a few places left!