

# PITTSBURGH OPERA

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Pittsburgh Opera Hosts 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Maecenas Gala**

**Pittsburgh, PA...** [Pittsburgh Opera](#) hosts its annual [Maecenas](#) gala in grand style, on the stage of the Benedum Center in downtown Pittsburgh, at 6:00 PM on Saturday, May 16. Hailed as one of Pittsburgh "Top Ten" parties, this year's Maecenas will be the social event not to miss. Celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Maecenas gala and Pittsburgh Opera's 70<sup>th</sup> season, this year's gala will be an evening of classic glamour as well as a night to honor those who have shown themselves to be friends and munificent patrons of the arts in Pittsburgh.

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Everything  
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Created by beloved General Director Emeritus Tito Capobianco and named for Gaius Cilnius Maecenas, the wealthy Roman statesman whose name has become a byword for patrons of the arts, Pittsburgh Opera's Maecenas gala has developed a reputation for excitement, wonderment and surprise. The night will be made even more memorable as Mr. Capobianco and his wife Gigi will be joining guests on stage to commemorate this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The evening will begin with a grand cocktail reception in the fabulous Benedum Center lobby where guests will enjoy a tantalizing array of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres by Chef Jason Capps of Bella Sera. Guests will then be ushered onto the Benedum stage, which will be draped in fabulous 25<sup>th</sup>-anniversary black and silver grandeur, for a sumptuous dinner by the Duquesne Club.

After dinner, Pittsburgh Opera will honor the exemplary contributions of Mrs. Nadine E. Bognar with a Lifetime Achievement Award. As a past President and longtime Board Member of Pittsburgh Opera, Mrs. Bognar has dedicated her passion, commitment and tireless energy to making opera a vibrant part of life in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Her lifelong love for opera combined with strong business expertise and determined leadership have been an invaluable resource in raising the artistic profile of Pittsburgh Opera, developing strategies for financial stability and raising commitment to education and outreach programming. Ms. Bognar's efforts have been a considerable help in securing Pittsburgh Opera's position as a cultural leader in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

*(more)*

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Also being honored at this year's gala, internationally-renowned mezzo-soprano Marianne Cornetti will receive the Pittsburgh Opera Renaissance Award. An alumna of the [Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Program](#) and a native of Western Pennsylvania, Ms. Cornetti has performed in most of the major opera houses around the globe and is considered one of the top dramatic Verdi mezzos in the world today. Since her operatic and professional debut with Pittsburgh Opera 20 years ago, Ms. Cornetti has sung numerous roles with Pittsburgh Opera, most recently in 2008 when she flew in from Amsterdam on a day's notice to rescue Pittsburgh Opera's production of *Aida* by stepping in to sing the role of Amneris. She is being recognized for her efforts in advancing opera as an art form and her long-time advocacy for young artists.

Following the awards, guests will dance the night away on the Benedum stage to the rocking soul sounds of Pittsburgh's hottest variety band GARY RACAN & the studio e band. Racan, former lead singer of national recording group The Vogues, and his band have performed with major rock and roll acts such as Bruce Springsteen and Jon Bon Jovi's Band as well as at Hollywood movie premier parties and lavish galas.

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To make a tribute gift, purchase a table or to make single reservations, contact Tim Richart, Director of Special Events at (412) 281-0912 ext. 225 or [trichart@pittsburghopera.org](mailto:trichart@pittsburghopera.org).

## **Maecenas XXV Committee**

### **Chairs**

Dr. Sandra and Mr. William Stout

### **Silver Anniversary Chair**

Mrs. Nadine E. Bognar

### **Advisory Chairs**

Dr. John and Mrs. Bonnie Levine Kristofic

### **Sub-Committee Chairs**

Dr. Lisa Cibik

Mr. Steve Mosites and Ms. Gail Novak

Mr. David M. Savard

Mr. and Mrs. H. Woodruff Turner

*(more)*

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*[Pittsburgh Opera](#), now celebrating its 70th season, is one of America's leading opera companies. It produces a range of programs, from mainstage productions to free community concerts to intimate cabarets. Pittsburgh Opera's internationally renowned resident artist program is among the country's top five training centers for rising opera stars. More than 20,000 students, families and educators participate in Pittsburgh Opera educational events annually. The company's newly designed administrative and rehearsal space is housed in a 140-year-old air brake factory in the city's Strip District.*

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*Subscriptions for as little as \$41. Single tickets for as little as \$16. For ticket information visit our website [www.pittsburghopera.org](http://www.pittsburghopera.org) or call (412) 281-0912*

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