

Abigail anything but un-bear-able



CAROLINE PHILLIPS
AROUND TOWN

The prime minister stole the show at the NAC Gala concert but it was his sidekick, **Yo-Yo Ma**, or, rather, a teddy bear version of the great musician, who basked in the spotlight at **An Evening with Abigail**.

The cello-playing, auto-graphed bruin sold for \$4,000 at the glamorous gala's live auction held Wednesday at the Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre in support of research and treatment of women's cancers. The exciting three-way bidding war over the bear was won by **Barbara Crook** with husband **Dan Greenberg** at her side.

She also bought for \$1,700 an NAC concert followed by a gourmet dinner with famous classical music pair **Pinchas Zukerman** and **Amanda Forsyth**. Crook later told *Around Town* she and Dan bought the Ma bear thinking they'd give it to Dan's aunt, **Carol Greenberg**, who, as it turned out, won **Chris and Erin Phillips'** Sens teddy to give to Dan.

The gala raised more than \$150,000 for the **Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation**, with a portion of the proceeds going to **The Great Canadian Theatre Company**. Some 300 attendees were tinkled pink by the Thyme & Again pink food, Empire Grill pink martinis and such pink decor as paper umbrellas and lanterns suspended from the ceilings. The gala's mascot, the teddy bear, was everywhere to be seen.

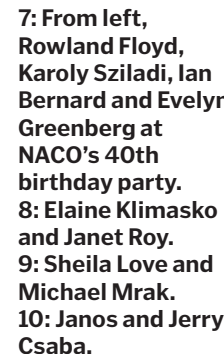
The celebrity auctioneer was **Stuntman Stu**. His boundless energy left an impression on special guest **Laureen Harper**, who reminded him she's from southern Alberta and has attended many cattle auctions. "You are very good," she added. He then informed Harper he could also sing, and gave her a tiny taste of his own *With A Little Help from My Friends*.

On hand were **Rochelle and David Greenberg**, who co-founded the gala in 2000, as well as honorary chairwoman **Janet Yale** and the honorary patron, former figure skating champ **Elizabeth Manley-Theobald**, who lost her mother to ovarian cancer. **Robert Gould**, a huge supporter of the cancer foundation and of theatre, headed up the event committee. An oil portrait to be done by **Bernard Poulin** sold for \$4,000. Tax and philanthropic planner **Peter Nicholson** bought an 11-person dinner with the British high commissioner and his wife, **Anthony and Clare Cary**, for \$3,700 while **Jason Shinder** offered \$3,500 to cheer on the Sens with 17 guests in a suite. That item had been donated by Barbara and Dan, the latter of whom outbid Rochelle and David's son, **Jared**, on a pair of Malen-famed Karen Kain ballet slippers at \$1,600, plus designer ballerina bear. Dan's mom, **Shirley Greenberg**, donated some big-ticket items while his sister, **Marti Bergeron**, bought David's priceless "Irma Bearlin" pink piano-playing teddy for \$1,100.

LOOKING GOOD AT 40
A cake-cutting knife became a conductor's baton in the hands of violinist **Karoly Sziladi**. He and fellow founding musicians of



1: From left, Rochelle Greenberg, Laureen Harper and Elizabeth Manley-Theobald at *An Evening with Abigail* in support of the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation. **2:** Catherine Clark and Carrie Cuhaci. **3:** Amanda Forsyth and Pinchas Zukerman. **4:** Nancy Oakley. **5:** Marti Bergeron, Larry O'Brien and Colleen McBride-O'Brien. **6:** Teresa Donovan, auctioneer Stuntman Stu and Bibbi Alfredsson.



at their Rockcliffe Park home each year. The night involves hundreds of guests, multiple party tents, dancing, games and welcomed donations to a specified charity. No word yet on how Zed plans to match his kitschy 1970s Elvis costume from last year.

BON APPETIT, INDEED

Despite what the event title "Final Helping" suggests, the reception at **Lago's** hosted by **Bon Appetit Ottawa** on Tuesday was less about eating and more about giving back. Organizers of the giant cocktail party distributed the \$130,000-plus raised to 23 local charities.

Each May, hundreds head to the Aberdeen Pavilion to sample the food and drinks offered by 90-plus restaurants, caterers, wineries and breweries. "This is the hospitality industry coming forward and doing something positive for the community," said **Bon Appetit** board member **Jantine Van Kregten** from Ottawa Tourism. The cheque-presentation event included board chairwoman **Geneviève Rochon** from the Courtyard Restaurant and its owner, founding board member **Phil Waserman**. Also on scene were vice-chairwoman **Carolyn Eaves** from Banfield-Seguin and **Anna Hadden** from St. Joseph Media.

VIENNA IN OTTAWA

A slice of apple strudel enjoyed with chocolate flakes and fresh whipped cream-topped coffee was a stellar way to end an evening of classical music Monday. Attendees of the **Ottawa Symphony Orchestra's** post-concert reception arrived to the NAC's Salon to find a Viennese-themed café awaiting them. Present were maestro **David Currie**, concertmaster **David Stewart** and one of their music-teaching University of Ottawa colleagues, **Christopher Moore**, who had given a pre-concert chat to a packed crowd.

Fraser Thom of the reception sponsor, Doherty & Associates, was there. So were Dr. **Norman** and **Myrna Barwin** and **Vernon and Beryl Turner**. Numerous OSO board members attended, including past president **Susan Annis**, **Bill Allen** from Telus and president **Martha Hynna**.

11: From left, Teri Kirk, Michelle Bégin and Christine Charette at the Savour the Tulips culinary celebration and auction. **12:** Gary Zed, Jeff Hooper. **13:** Martha Markowsky, who donated one of her prints.



14: From left, Christopher Moore, David Currie and David Stewart at the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra post-concert reception. **15:** Fraser Thom, Martha Hynna and Bill Allen.

the NAC Orchestra sang *Happy Birthday* at a reception that followed Thursday's special **40th anniversary concert** at the NAC.

The group gathered on the foyer stage and positioned itself around a large cake. Sziladi should've taken one baby step back, though, because he accidentally smeared icing on his tux. Pianist **Evelyn Greenberg** wiped some of it off his jacket with her finger and then stuck the frosted finger into her mouth to dispose of the icing in the yummiest way possible.

On hand were NAC president and CEO **Peter Herrndorf**, chairwoman **Julia Foster**, **Sheila Love** of the Bostonian Executive Suites Hotel, **Michael Mrak** of Mark Motors and **Josie Finestone** of Friends of the NACO. There was also a big spread of fresh cupcakes



17: From left, Anna Hadden, Jantine Van Kregten, Phil Waserman and Carolyn Eaves at *Bon Appetit Ottawa's* 'Final Helping' cheque-presentation reception.

plus coffee for the public. Among the many founding musicians were violist **Janos Csaba** and his wife, violinist **Jerry**, and violinists **Janet Roy** and **Elaine Klimasko**, who's still with the NACO and, she joked, worth two gold watches. The conspicuous Man in the Red Suit was founding former principal oboeist **Rowland Floyd**, who searched high and low to buy his *Façonnable* de-

signer duds after first spotting the red corduroy suit in the pages of *Vanity Fair*.

A TASTE OF TULIPS

It was mighty fine — from the food to wine — at the Cartier Square Drill Hall as hundreds headed there for the Canadian Tulip Festival's **Savour the Tulips** fundraiser Wednesday.

There were 180 lots of wines to buy as well as tasty

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