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Opera Atelier receives \$25,000 donation from philanthropists Dr. Rita Kilislian and Andy Curnew - Bieber family the guests of honour at private art show -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Toronto, ON (May 1, 2016) - **Opera Atelier** performed Saturday night at an exclusive VIP party in Toronto's Bridle Path neighbourhood. Attended by Canadian pop darling **Justin Bieber**, the event was a celebration of his father **Jeremy Bieber**'s engagement to **Chelsey Rebelo**, as well as a celebration of host **Andy Curnew**'s birthday. The event was a vibrant artistic mash-up cleverly curated by host **Andy Curnew**, featuring Toronto's **Opera Atelier**, **Rodin** sculptures, **Warhol** prints and the work of Montreal artist **Joanne Corno**, as well as acrobatic performances, fire juggling, and live graffiti art by **Nicholas Sinclair**. The cultural event was an incredible look at the face of modern arts philanthropy.

Andy Curnew and his wife **Dr. Rita Kilislian** are young Canadian entrepreneurs who have made it their mission to give back to the community. Having attended their first Opera Atelier production - Mozart's *Lucio Silla* - this April as guests of Opera Atelier season underwriter **Michael Wekerle**, they were moved to make a large contribution to support the non-profit company's international touring. Their generous donation was recognized by a cheque presentation to Opera Atelier co-artistic directors **Marshall Pynkoski** and **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg** Saturday night. The presentation was followed by performances from Opera Atelier singers **Meghan Lindsay**, **Christopher Enns** and **Olivier Laquerre** with pianist **Nicole Bellamy**.

Opera Atelier is North America's premier period opera/ballet company, producing the opera, ballet and drama of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. While drawing upon the aesthetics and ideals of the period, Opera Atelier goes beyond "reconstruction" and infuses each production with an inventive theatricality that resonates with modern audiences. Led by founding artistic directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg since 1985, Opera Atelier has garnered acclaim for its performances at home as well as in the United States, Europe and Asia.

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Images are available for download at operaatelier.com