

OPERA ATELIER
Versailles Gala 2016
30 YEARS OF RAVISHING THE SENSES

Opera Atelier's 2016 Versailles Gala Nets \$140,000
Funds raised support the company's return to the Palace of Versailles and free education and outreach programming

High-resolution photos are available for download at: operaatelier.com/media/photos/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Toronto, ON (May 11, 2016) - **Opera Atelier's** founding co-artistic directors **Marshall Pynkoski** and **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg** announced today that the company's annual fundraising gala has netted \$140,000. Taking place **May 5, 2016** at Toronto's **Shangri-La Hotel**, this year's **Versailles Gala** was a celebration of Opera Atelier's 30th Anniversary Season. **Anne-Marie Mediwake** (former CBC news anchor) was the evening's master of ceremonies, guiding Toronto's cultural movers-and-shakers through the evening of performances, dinner, and live and silent auctions. Guests in attendance included designer **Harry Rosen**, *Dragons'* *Den* stars **Michael Wekerle** and **Arlene Dickinson**, Emmy Award-winning costume designer **Christine Toye**, and comedian **Naomi Snieckus**.

The evening featured performances by mezzo-soprano **Allyson McHardy** and tenor **Christopher Enns**, as well as artists of **Atelier Ballet** and students from the **School of Atelier Ballet** performing period dances in costume. The Gala Committee was chaired by photographer **Racheal McCaig**.

Funds raised will be used to support Opera Atelier's **international touring, particularly the company's upcoming return to Versailles, France** (*Medea*, May 19-21, 2017), as well as Opera Atelier's **education and outreach programs**, which have been offered free of charge since the company's inception.

Versailles Gala Media Sponsor: Toronto Life

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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Media Contact:

Bronwen Bradley
416-703-3767 x224

Bronwen.Bradley@operaatelier.com