

The 62nd Viennese Opera Ball Kick-Off Champagne Celebration

On October 24, The 62nd Viennese Opera Ball's co-chairs **Silvia Frieser** and **Michael Pecnik** and Ball Committee members **Eva Chickering** and **Laine Siklos** hosted a Private Champagne Reception at The Penn Club to celebrate the formation of the ball that will be held on February 10 at the Waldorf Astoria under the auspices of the U.S. Austrian Chamber of Commerce.

The Viennese Opera Ball is the oldest white tie charity ball in New York, and this year the Ball will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Austria's unofficial national anthem, Johann Strauss' Blue Danube Waltz. Guests will travel from around the world to attend the prestigious event, and dance the waltz in the Grand Ballroom, with a hope of seeing a white horse drawn carriage.

Attendees included: **Austrian Consul General Dr. Georg Heindl, Austrian Trade Commissioner Michael Friedl, Ullrich Metzler, Rachel Hickey, Elif Memet, Allison Lavine, Allison Ecung, Maja Sponring, Allie Sutherland, Raluca Gold-Fuchs, Sabine Riglos, Imke Gerdes, Steven Knobel, Maggie Norris, Nicole Noonan, Eva Trenker and Cole Rumbough.**

Led by a new generation of Austrians – Silvia Frieser, **Dr. Stefan Eder**, and Michael Pecnik, this year's ball will undergo a transformation, while staying true to its heritage. Silvia and Michael rose to thank attendees and speak about their excitement for the upcoming gala.

Link to images: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a259hqsagch7h49/AADzjy9qwHoIcAQA7WuK_3lBa?dl=0

Additional information

Since 1955, the Viennese Opera Ball in New York has been a representative of Vienna's cultural legacy, elegance, and glamour in the Big Apple. The Ball operates as a cultural platform and builds bridges to connect present day New York City with 19th Century Vienna, and people of varying heritages, continents and generations, to bring traditional glamour to the city that never sleeps.

Notable attendees of the gala have included - **Ban Ki-moon** - Secretary-General of the United Nations; **Samantha Power** - U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations; **Lauren Bush Lauren; David Lauren; Sharon Bush; Eunice Kennedy Shriver; Chuck Scarborough; Stephen Baldwin; Carol Alt; Ann Curry; Carmen Dell'Orefice; Stewart Lane, Bonnie Comley;** Debutante **Maksim Chmerkovskiy** and **Geza von Habsburg, Dominic von Habsburg-Lothringen, Princess Mariana Sturdza of Romania.**

Over 700 guests are expected to attend to watch 16 debutantes and their white-tie clad escorts. The Ball Committees and Ball Beneficiary will be announced in due course. Tickets start at \$600 and rise to \$25,000 for a Diamond Tier table. To purchase tickets, please click the following the link: <http://vienneseoperaball.us/>

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