

LES GRANDS BALLETS

OVER \$600,000 RAISED AT THE ANNUAL GRANDS BALLETS GALA Donors gave proof of great generosity once again this year

Montreal, May 1, 2018 – Last Saturday, April 28, the **annual Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal Benefit Gala** was held at IGA Stadium. The gala, which ranks with Montreal’s most beautiful, was an outstanding success and enabled the company to raise **over \$600,000** in support of the Grands Ballets.

The 500 guests were treated to a glamorous evening and then some! The theme of the event was “Hymne à l’amour,” and presented four choreographic creations inspired by the songs of the Little Sparrow, the great Édith Piaf. Guests were greeted by **Claude Gagnon, president, operations, BMO Financial Group, Québec, and Édéenne, high jeweler and president of Maison Édéenne** – the two honorary presidents for the evening – as well as by **Constance V. Pathy, Grands Ballets Chairman of the Board, Ivan Cavallari, artistic director, and Alain Dancyger, executive director** of the company.



The Gala kicked off with a cocktail reception that included an oyster bar offered by Belon, and that was followed by a gourmet dinner, concluding with coffee offered by Jura and candy floss from Europea. The evening program consisted of three works created for the occasion by dancers of the Grands Ballets, as well as a pas de deux by Marcia Haydée. Guests got to take part in the raffling off of numerous prizes, three grand prizes among them: a wardrobe for men with a value of \$7,500, courtesy of Finezza; airfare for two to Europe in business class offered by Air France and worth \$8,000; and the Arabesque ring created especially for the Grands Ballets by the prestige jeweler Édéenne, with a value of \$12,000.



The annual gala is a major fundraising activity that makes it possible for one of the greatest cultural institutions in the country to fulfill its mission and to underwrite the cost of its creations and its many projects. Creation and innovation are at the heart of the mandate of the Grands Ballets, a company renowned for its ground-breaking repertoire and its daring. Creation is therefore central to the mission of the Grands Ballets, whose objective is to promote dance and its benefits. Donations received by way of the annual campaigns serve to ensure the company’s



creation and ceaseless renewal, so that it can offer audiences here and elsewhere the very best of the Grands Ballets.

To ensure its continued prominence, the Grands Ballets relies on the support of donors and sponsors, which accounts for roughly 24 percent of its total budget. Since its creation more than 60 years ago, the company has established lasting ties with subscribers, donors, private foundations and members of the business community. The generous support of these partners is essential in maintaining its financial stability. See you in spring 2019 for our next gala!

- 30 -

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Grands Ballets thanks the sponsors of the evening:

BMO Financial Group Québec; Maison Édéenne; Belon Oyster Bar; Claudine Blanchet, floral design; Finezza – Au nom de l’homme; JB Skin Guru; Roche Bobois; SAQ; Solotech; Tenue de Soirée; Upperkut.

The company benefits from the support of the **Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec**, The **Canada Council for the Arts** and the **Conseil des arts de Montréal**.

The Grands Ballets also extend their warmest thanks to **Claude Gagnon**, president, operations, BMO Financial Group, Québec, and **Édéenne**, high jeweler and president of Maison Édéenne, as well as to the evening partners:

Premiere Circle (\$25,000 and up)

Anonymous (2)
National Bank
Bell
BMO
Desjardins
Desjardins Capital Markets
Sun Life Financial
TD Bank Group
RBC – Royal Bank

Production Circle (\$12,000 and up)

Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec
Fednav Limited
JB Skin Guru
SAQ
Upperkut

Choreography Circle (\$8,000 and up)

Accuracy
Scotiabank
BDO Canada LLP
BLG
BMW Mini Laval
CN
Cogeco
Dentons / Power Corporation of Canada
AGF Group Foundation
Holt Renfrew Ogilvy
Hydro-Québec
NATIONAL Public Relations
WCPD Foundation
Manulife
Stikeman Elliott
Tennis Canada



Media :

Natalie Dion
Chef, Relations publiques et médias
Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal
514 849-8681, poste 239
ndion@grandsballets.com

Photos on front page :

Sasha Onyschenko

Honourary photo :

Karine Kelfond