

The League's WSO 35th Anniversary Gala Raises \$40k



The fantastic support from The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra's (WSO) strongest and most steadfast supporters provided a record setting \$40,000 plus for the WSO educational and performance programs at the WSO 35th Anniversary Gala on Saturday 27 April 2019 at the Kingsmill Resort. While the 140+ attending was not the largest we have had for our annual galas, the attendees provided over 50 bidders and donors to give us the most we have raised in the last four gala fundraisers.

Beginning the evening reception with lovely background music provided by Jack Wagner at the piano, attendees reviewed seven posters showing the history of the WSO from 1984 to the present. During the evening, WSO League President, Ken Mitchell, introduced one of the founders of the League (then called Symphonia Obbligato), Georgianna Avioli, who continues to support the WSOL as Chair of our Encore Affairs Committee.

Our Principal Sponsor for the evening was Lions Bridge Financial Services who, along with 13 Primary and Major Sponsors, contributed a significant amount of base funding support for this event and the WSO. Nearly 20 Supporting and In-Kind Sponsors also contributed to make the evening a very special event. See www.williamsburgsymphony.org/league for the full list of our generous sponsors.

The Gala Committee (Shown above with Gracie & Lacy), chaired by Paul Try, was composed of Ken Mitchell, Cecie Adolphi, Marie Mamikonian, Eloise Branden, Joan Brockenbrough, Doug Wood and Roy Femenella. While everyone on the committee assisted in all planning areas, Eloise led the graphics and fantastic decoration efforts with Marie handling the detailed registration activities and Ken organizing the banking support. Our auctioneer for the night was Aaron Williams, CEO of Williams Landscape & Design, who expertly handled raising funds with the live auction and paddle raise.

Introducing the paddle raise was Jaysen Kang, student violinist, who told the audience about his experience and benefit he received from the WSO Masterclass followed by a very nice brief violin performance. During the evening, local professional photographers Audra Simsic and Jean Wines roamed the area collecting photos of guests that are posted at <https://jgwstudios.shootproof.com/gallery/9186530/> for viewing and downloading by all (use "password" as a PW).

A highlight of the evening was the terrific entertainment provided by the Charleston, SC sister act of Gracie and Lacy. They captivated the audience with their show called "Lady Legends", singing, dancing and showing off

their many sequined costumes with the songs of Liza Minnelli, Barbara Streisand, Whitney Houston and others. Finishing with a standing ovation, they provided a rousing end to the evening of celebration for 35 years of contributions by the WSO to the Williamsburg area.