

# Beacon On The Scene

## Over 1,000 guests attend New York Philharmonic Opening Gala

By Audrey J. Bernard  
Lifestyles/Society Editor

The New York Philharmonic opened its 166th season with an impressive Opening Night Gala complete with an elaborate concert on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center attracting over 1,000 guests and raising \$2.7 million.

The ritzy evening began with a cocktail reception followed by the concert that featured a remarkable performance by special guest artist Yo-Yo Ma, who, along with the New York Philharmonic under the expert direction of Music Director Lorin Maazel, performed Dvorak's Carnival Overture cello concerto, symphony no.7 giving guests lots to talk about at the lavish candlelight dinner that fol-

lowed. Mr. & Mrs. Evan G. Greenberg served as Gala Chairmen. Co-chairmen included Mr. J. Christopher Flowers and Dr. Mary H. White, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald L. Hassell, and Mr. & Mrs. Karlheinz Muhr.

Credit Suisse was the global sponsor.

Well-heeled guests in attendance included Mr. & Mrs. Paul B. Guenther, Chairman, New York Philharmonic; Mr. & Mrs. Zarin Mehta, President and Executive Director, New York Philharmonic; Mr. & Mrs. Yo-Yo Ma and daughter Emily Ma. Also Mr. & Mrs. Lorin Maazel, Mr. & Mrs. Paul B. Guenther, Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Ax, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Duchin, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Kissinger, Mr. & Mrs. Richard S. LeFrak, The Honorable Frank N. Newman & Mrs. Newman, and Mr. & Mrs. Itzhak Perlman.



Carmen & Zarin Mehta



Yo-Yo Ma with his wife Jill Horner and daughter Emily Ma



Diane & Paul Guenther



Nancy & Henry Kissinger



Adora Ofodile

(Photos: Julie Skarratt)

## Opera diva Jessye Norman celebrates birthday

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Opera diva Jessye Norman sat down to dine with 20 of her closest and dearest friends for an intimate birthday celebration dinner at the always divine Chez Josephine. While dining on delectable French cuisine, Norman was surprisingly serenaded with the birthday song courtesy of "Three Mo' Tenors" – James N. Berger, Jr., Victor Robertson and Duane A. Moody – who shook the place with their spontaneous performance. Norman was so

moved by their performance that she joined them and did something she's used to – bring down the house! Diners leaving the restaurant were seen going next door to pick up tickets to the "Three Mo' Tenors" show playing at the Little Shubert Theatre. Chez Josephine's owner, Jean-Claude Baker, was thrilled over all the excitement and shared with his good friend, Norman, his great news that his top notch restaurant was a 2007 Concierge Choice Award winner for its superior services. Bravo! Champagne all around!



Jean-Claude Baker, Three Mo' Tenors – James N. Berger, Jr., Victor Robertson and Duane A. Moore — Jessye Norman  
(Photo courtesy Keith Sherman & Associates)