

July 18, 2021

## RAVINIA RAISES NEARLY \$750,000 FOR REACH TEACH PLAY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### ANNUAL WOMEN'S BOARD GALA FEATURED POWERFUL PERFORMANCE BY CYNTHIA ERIVO

**HIGHLAND PARK, IL**—On Sunday, July 18, Ravinia Festival held its annual fundraising gala, hosted by the Ravinia Women's Board and raising nearly \$750,000 for the festival's REACH TEACH PLAY education programs. REACH TEACH PLAY serves more than 75,000 people throughout Chicagoland each year, ensuring that many area schools and communities receive equitable access to music. These programs include starting and maintaining elementary school orchestras in Chicago Public Schools and Lake County schools, with Ravinia supplying teachers, instruments, and other needs.

The evening began with a cocktail reception on the North Lawn sponsored by BMO; followed by a concert by the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**, sponsored by The Dancing Skies Foundation; and an elegant garden party-themed post-concert dinner in a tent on the Ravinia grounds sponsored by Allstate. The performance, led by Ravinia's Chief Conductor and Curator **Marin Alsop**, featured Emmy, Tony, and GRAMMY® award-winning singer **Cynthia Erivo** as soloist in a program of her design—called *Legendary Women's Voices*—that spotlighted music made famous by such renowned artists as Aretha Franklin, Nina Simone, Billie Holiday, Etta James, and Gladys Knight.

More than 500 guests attended the festive event, including new Ravinia President and CEO **Jeffrey P. Haydon**, Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rodkin Rotering, Ravinia Chief Conductor **Marin Alsop**, Ravinia Board Chair Don Civgin, and Ravinia Women's Board Chair Marilyn Vender.

The 2021 Gala Benefit was overseen by a Ravinia Women’s Board committee headed by gala co-chairmen **Mindy Meade DeStefano, Ellen Falkof, and Onnie Scheyer.**

At dinner, guests dined on a first course of Vine Ripened Summer Tomatoes & Torn Herbs with Pickled Baby Cucumbers, Marinated Fresh Mozzarella Pearls, and Chickpea “Croutons” with Red Wine & Oregano Vinaigrette, followed by an entrée of Roasted Beef Tenderloin & Pan Roasted Atlantic Salmon (served at picnic temperature) accompanied by Local Sweet Corn, Runner Beans & Tear Drop Tomatoes, Cracked Wheat and Herb Salad, Wild Arugula Pesto, and a Shaved Fennel and Micro Herb Salad. Terlato wines generously provided a 2018 Iconoclast Chardonnay and a 2018 Rutherford Hill Merlot. A Green Tea Lemon Tart with Lemon Curd, Tahitian Vanilla Bean Whipped Cream, and Raspberry Coulis completed the dinner service catered by Food for Thought.

The Flower Firm designed the décor for the evening, including florals and lighting.

### [ABOUT CYNTHIA ERIVO](#)

### [ABOUT RAVINIA](#)

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## **#Ravinia**

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