

# Music of the Baroque gala honors icons in music and art

By Candace Jordan

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Credit: Elliot Mandel

Grammy-nominated countertenor Reginald Mobley performs for the crowd at the Music of Baroque gala.

Music of the Baroque hosted its annual gala at the Fairmont Chicago on Oct. 21, themed "A Musical Feast." The event attracted 365 attendees and marked the inaugural presentation of the Music of the Baroque Award. Joan Harris, arts advocate and philanthropist, received the award in celebration of the organization's 20-year tenure at the Harris Theater for Music & Dance.

Renowned sculptor and artist Richard Howard Hunt, who created the award, was also recognized for his enduring support.

The evening commenced with a reception followed by an hourlong concert led by Music of the Baroque Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer. Declan McGovern, Music of the Baroque's executive director, highlighted the record-breaking size of this year's chorus and emphasized the significance of this gathering as the sole annual fundraiser for Music of the Baroque. All performers and musicians donated their time and talent to participate in this event.

Renowned for their proficiency in performing 18th-century compositions, Music of the Baroque's professional chorus and orchestra presented a program that featured works by composers Antonio Vivaldi, George Frideric Handel, Johann Sebastian Bach and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The concert

showcased various accomplished soloists, including Grammy-nominated countertenor Reginald Mobley, flutist Mary Stolper, soprano Katelyn Lee and French horn player Oto Carrillo.



Credit: Elliot Mandel  
Declan McGovern, Angela McLaughlin, Constance Filling and Rob Hevey



Credit: Elliot Mandel  
Oto Carrillo and Music of the Baroque Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer

Following the concert, attendees enjoyed dinner, award presentations and dancing in the Imperial Ballroom. Robert Hevey Jr., Music of the Baroque's new board chair, expressed the organization's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion through initiatives such as Project Inclusion; collaborations with the Merit School of Music; free neighborhood concerts at venues such as the Kehrein Center for the Arts in Austin and through its Strong Voices programs at Chicago public high schools.



Credit: Elliot Mandel

Principal guest conductor Nicholas Kraemer presents the inaugural Music of the Baroque Award to Joan Harris.

Acknowledging Harris' significant contributions to the arts community, board member Leland Hutchinson praised her and her late husband Irving Harris' enduring impact through the Irving Harris Foundation and personal endowments. Harris has received numerous accolades and honors, including the National Medal of Arts from former President Barack Obama. When asked how the Harris Theater in Millennium Park came about, she said: "We looked everywhere, on the West Side, on the South Side, in Evanston and in the central part of the city. All we got was 'we can't do it.' We had limited funds, so all the money went into technology and not the chandeliers. It's a very workmanlike building."

In a video interview with Dame Jane Glover, Hunt spoke about the creation of the first Music of the Baroque Award and the concept behind the "Baroque Bow."

"This piece is an abstraction, but you can also see it as the bow of a boat. It's set up so that it's both static and active. These forms are about music, and they're also about spatial growth and placement," he said. Hunt is known for sculpting monumental pieces honoring influential figures in American history, including Martin Luther King Jr., Jesse Owens and Ida B. Wells.



Credit: Elliot Mandel

Marjorie Stinespring presents a vintage poster to Cecilia Hunt on behalf of her father, Richard Hunt

Conductor Kraemer presented the Music of the Baroque sculpture to Harris, while Cecilia Hunt accepted a framed vintage concert poster from board member Marjorie Stinespring on behalf of her father, who couldn't attend. Hunt has been a supporter of the nonprofit since its first performance in 1972. He has

hosted multiple concerts at his private studio as well as serving a lengthy term on the Music of the Baroque Advisory Board.

“A Musical Feast” raised more than \$480,000, which will support Music of the Baroque's community and education programs, as well as concerts.



Credit: Elliot Mandel

From left: Christy Frank, Jonathan Frank, Louise Frank, Joan Harris, Daniel Frank and Chana Zelig



Credit: Elliot Mandel

Morris Gearing, Jean Perkins, Cecilia Hunt and Lee Hutchinson



Credit: Candace Jordan

Amanda Koopman, Andrew Major and Yasmin Chaudhry



Credit: Candace Jordan  
At left: Maria Wynne and John Robak. At right: Oscar Tatosian.



Credit: Candace Jordan  
Bill Tedford, Phil Lumpkin, Helen Melchior and Ken Norgan

By Candace Jordan  
Candace Jordan, a longtime chronicler of the Chicago social scene, writes [the Candid Candace column](#).