

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Diana Ross lights up OCPAC concert

Nearly \$1.4 million was netted for the Center's arts-in-education programs.

By **DONNA BUNCE**

Register columnist

She came, she saw, she conquered! **Diana Ross** owned the stage Friday night at the Orange County Performing Arts Center's 35th annual Candlelight Concert. Looking every bit the diva, Ross took the 500 guests on a Motown journey through her Supreme days with "Baby Love" and "Stop! in the Name of Love" and continued by performing Top 10 hits like "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and "Touch Me in the Morning."

The dance floor was packed, and Segerstrom Hall, transformed into a 1970s Las Vegas supper club that covered the entire orchestra level seating with terraced platforms for the performance and dining, was the perfect setting.

"We thought retro Vegas was the perfect theme with Diana Ross as our artist," event chairwoman **Marta Bhathal** said. Event chairwoman **Pat Poss** agreed for another reason: " **Charlie** and I were married in Las Vegas 50 years ago last August," she said, smiling. New OCPAC board Chairman **Tom McKernan** acknowledged the dynamic duo and their extensive committee, the center's board of directors, and board President **Terry Dwyer** and the center staff for, he said, "putting great art on our stages and really making a difference in classrooms around the region."

The Patina-catered four-course repast, with a Colorado rack of lamb and braised lamb shank entrée, was well-received as were the rectangular dinner tables featuring either red taffeta or mirrored tops with red suede and tufted bases adorned with round topiaries of Black Magic roses and burgundy carnations on silver pedestals, tall votive pillars with a gold patina and scattered faux rubies. Metal draperies lined the entire room, which featured huge Asian-inspired gold lampshade chandeliers with hanging tassels. **Guy Genis** and **Bryan Wark** of Eventmakers were credited with the transformation.

Event favors, courtesy of major sponsor Lugano Diamonds and Moti and Edit Ferder, included men's and women's Barton Perreira sunglasses by Lugano Diamonds with hand-

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The advertisement features a sunset scene with silhouettes of people walking on a pier. The text "only in crocs™ shoes." is overlaid on the image. To the right, there is a QR code labeled "Neo", a pair of pink Crocs shoes, and the "cities by foot" logo with the word "crocs" below it. The website "www.citiesbyfoot.com" is listed at the bottom.

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set black and white diamonds, designed specifically for the event.

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Event highlight: Enthusiastic Ross fan **Bill Peters** jumping on the stage and dancing with the star.

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The Fashionable Women of Chapman welcomed the holidays in grand style Saturday with its 22nd annual "Christmas at The Ritz" holiday luncheon at The Ritz Restaurant and Garden in Newport Beach. The sold-out event attracted 350 guests.

Event chairwoman **Kathy Hamilton** and president **Charlene Prager** were on the red carpet welcoming everyone along with Chapman University President **Jim Doti** and his wife, **Lynne** ; Saks Fifth Avenue Vice President/GM **Gretchen Pace** and her husband, **Mark** ; and none other than Santa Claus himself (aka **Garland Maciel**).

Red cosmo and green apple martinis, thanks to **Jon Ratter** and Marani Premium Vodka, were served from trays as guests gathered on the garden terrace to visit and purchase tickets for the event's famous opportunity prize drawing. The delicious three-course lunch inside the holiday-festooned

restaurant included the informal modeling of men's and women's fashions and jewelry from South Coast Plaza's Saks Fifth Avenue before the 21-item drawing.

Winners included **Valerie Cope** (the \$3,453 Volare candy apple-red motor scooter from South County Scooters), **Joan Stevens** (the incredible \$1,600 wine country package), **Diane Osgood** (the \$3,850 Resort at Pelican Hill package), and **Carole Follman** (the \$11,000 Grand Prize diamond necklace from Traditional Jewelers in Fashion Island).

Major event underwriters included **S. Paul** and **Marybelle Musco** , **Larry** and **Deborah Bridges** , **Shelly Wankier Hupp** , **Don** and **Dorothy Kennedy** , Wells Fargo Bank, represented by Senior Vice President **Noel Hamilton** , **Zee Allred** , **Sandra Brodie** , **Donna** and **Dave Janes** , **Donna Calvert** , **Leslie** and **Dino Cancellieri** , **Carol** and **Marshall Lee** , **Anne** and **Dan Manassero** , **Charlene Prager** , **Deedee** and **Don Sodaro** , and **Bob Waltos** of Northwestern Mutual Financial Network. Net proceeds of more than \$167,000 will support a \$1 million pledge to establish The Fashionable Women of Chapman Student Filmmaker Endowment at Chapman's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts.

Contact the writer: donna@coastmagazine.com

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