



150TH JUBILEE

Excitement filled the air as more than 450 Bardians and friends came together at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall in New York City to celebrate Bard College's 150th anniversary and 35 years of President Leon Botstein's inspired leadership. The 150th Jubilee in November was the largest single fund-raising event in Bard's history.

The Jubilee was cochaired by Roland J. and Kathleen Augustine, David C. and Constance Clapp, Mary and James H. Ottaway Jr., David E. Schwab II '52 and Ruth Schwartz Schwab '52, Martin T. and Toni Sosnoff, Charles P. Stevenson Jr. and Alex Kuczynski, and Walter Swett '96 and Rebecca Hall.

From the beginning, this very glitzy event caused a stir in the alumni/ae and Bard community. The evening began with a cocktail party in the atrium, where 15-foot-long red Bard banners hung from the ceiling and the archival photography exhibition *Bard in Black and White* lined the walls. Bard College Conservatory of Music alumnus Ming Aldrich-Gan '10 regaled attendees with festive piano music against the scenery of Central Park. Bardians' attire ranged from full-length evening gowns, to mini dresses and boots, to a full suit of tartan plaid.

As dinner guests were ushered into the Allen Room they saw for the first time the spectacular view that was the backdrop for the evening's program. A wall of glass 85 feet high gave the appearance that one was floating over Columbus Circle. Tables on tiers faced the stage and window beyond; each table was decorated with Hudson Valley anemones and multicolored, leather-bound classic books.

The program started with the premiere of a short film, *Education for the Common Good*, commissioned by Bard for the occasion. Huge screens hung from the ceiling so everyone had a front-row seat. The film title was taken from of a book about Bard's early history written by former president Reamer Kline. It was produced by alumni/ae and friends of the College to highlight Bard's journey over the last 150 years and its vision for the future. Focusing on the widening scope of Bard and its myriad programs, the film demonstrates how Bard takes risks as an institution and effects real change in society and education. To see the film, go to www.bard.edu/media/commongood/.

Charles P. Stevenson Jr., chair of the Board of Trustees, welcomed guests and noted that Bard has the courage to try things other colleges would not. He humorously described how he first met Leon Botstein and was persuaded that his support of Bard would be much more meaningful than supporting his own alma mater—Yale. Other speakers included Walter Swett '96, president of the Board of Governors, Roger Scotland '93, alumni/ae trustee, and Pia Carusone '03, member of the Board of Governors. Bard faculty and students were represented, respectively, by Felicia Keesing, associate professor of biology, and a performance by students from The Bard College Conservatory of Music.

The evening ended with George Soros, founder and chairman of Open Society Foundations, taking the stage to introduce Botstein, who thanked all who attended by saying: "We have much to be proud of in terms of what has been accomplished over the last 150 years. It is a joy to be in the presence of so many friends, colleagues, and alumni/ae, and I would like to thank everyone who came out to honor the College and who donated to this great institution and its unique and wide-ranging mission."

The Jubilee was an historic evening, raising over \$1.1 million. It was a celebration of both the past and the anticipated success of the 150th Anniversary Campaign for Bard College, which has already raised \$246 million of its \$594 million goal.

Speaking of looking to the future, the statement that really brought down the house, drawing applause and even a few tears, was Botstein's closing remark: "When I came to Bard I was known as the youngest college president. . . . Let me say that I now fully intend to be the oldest."



Photos: Cory Weaver