

Program for the Evening



FRIENDS *of* FLORENCE

SPIAGGIA | CHICAGO

OCTOBER 18, 2011

Friends of Florence extends special thanks to



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For its assistance in arranging this evening's performance, Friends of Florence thanks
The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, Dan Novak - Manager



FRIENDS *of* FLORENCE

*Celebration of the 2012 re-opening of
La Tribuna degli Uffizi*

RECEPTION

DINNER

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. William R. Cook

GUEST OF HONOR

Marchese Piero Antinori

OPERA SELECTIONS

Angela Mannino, Soprano

Paul Corona, Bass-Baritone

Laurann Gilley, Pianist

LIVE AUCTION

Steven J. Zick, Christie's

TRIBUTE

Contessa Simonetta Brandolini d'Adda

DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS

Menu

HORS D'OEUVRES

ARANCINI *with black truffles and parmigiano reggiano with brown butter*

CROSTINI *with mozzarella and olive oil cured pachino tomatoes*

BEEF CARPACCIO *with tuscan pecorino on crostini*

CROSTINI *with chicken liver mousse and fruit compote*

MONTENISA BRUT FRANCIACORTA D.O.C.G.
TORMARESCA 2010 CHARDONNAY PUGLIA I.G.T.



ANTIPASTI

SALMONE AL CORALLO ROSSO

Charred onion cured king salmon with Pugliese burrata cheese, pickled red okra, cherry tomato, and chickpea crisps

ANTINORI 2010 GUADO AL TASSO VERMENTINO BOLGHERI D.O.C.



PANE

ASSORTED ITALIAN BREADS AND ROLLS



LE PASTE

AGNOLOTTI DEL PLIN CON POLLINE DI FINOCCHIO

Veal filled pasta with fennel pollen and crispy veal breast

ANTINORI 2007 TIGNANELLO TOSCANA I.G.T.



PIATTI PRINCIPALI

GUANCIA DI MAIALE CON POLENTA E MOSTARDA DI MELE

Braised pork cheek with apple mostarda and creamy roasted polenta

ANTICA NAPA VALLEY 2008 CABERNET SAUVIGNON



DOLCI

MOUSSE DI RICOTTA CON UVA, PISTACCHIO, E MIELE DI GIRASOLE

Vanilla bean ricotta mousse with Mick Klug Farm grapes, anise, toasted pistachio, Mieli Thun sunflower honey and Concord grape sorbetto

ANTINORI 2007 MUFFATO DELLA SALA UMBRIA I.G.T.

Special Guests

Marchese Piero Antinori

President of Marchesi Antinori S.r.l.

Piero Antinori was born in Florence on July 15, 1938. He received a degree of classical High School, followed by a University degree in Economics. In 1957 he began working in various areas of the family business and in 1966 was appointed Managing Director of Marchesi Antinori S.r.l. In 1988 he was appointed President.

Within the group companies, Piero's responsibilities include: President of Palazzo Antinori S.r.l., P. Antinori S.r.l., Antinori Società Agricola a R.L., Antinori California, and Antinori International S.A., as well as Counsellor of the Meridiana Wine Estate Ltd., Colsolare Llp., and Antinori Matte S.A.

In addition to his family business responsibilities, over the years Piero has been actively involved in a number of roles across several associations including: President of Federvini (Italian Association of Producers, Exporters and Importers of Wine & Spirits) - 1987 to 1989; President of "Consorzio Vino Orvieto" - 1970 to 1981; Member of the Board of Directors of Unione Italiana Vini (Italy Wine Trade Organization); and Board Member of the "Unione Provinciale degli Agricoltori di Firenze".

Currently, he remains involved with numerous companies and organizations including:

- Vice President of Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze S.p.A.
- Member of the Accademia dei Georgofili of Florence
- President of the Istituto del Vino Italiano di Qualità - Grandi Marchi
- Board Member of Friends of Florence
- Board Member of Salvatore Ferragamo Spa

In 1995, Piero was conferred the decoration of "Cavaliere del Lavoro," the highest decoration given by the President of the Italian Republic. Piero Antinori says that all three of his daughters have the two ingredients most necessary to produce fine wine: brains and passion. And the next generation is already deeply involved

in the business: Albiera Antinori (born December, 1966) took her first formal position with the company in 1986 and today is Vice President of Marchesi Antinori and President of the family's Piedmont company. Prunotto Allegra Antinori (born December, 1971) formally joined the company in 1990 and is now in charge of Antinori PR and special projects such as restaurants and hospitality. Alessia (born December, 1975) graduated with a degree in Viticulture and Oenology from the Department of Food Science and Technology at the Agrarian University of Milan, and since then has worked as an oenologist for the company, travelling mostly in Asia and the U.S. to represent the family.

Piero has 5 grandchildren: Vittorio (18 years) and Verdiana (16) from Albiera, Niccolò (11) and Vivia (8) from Allegra, and Giovanni Piero (10 months) from Alessia.

Contessa Simonetta Brandolini d'Adda

President and Co-Founder of Friends of Florence

Simonetta Brandolini d'Adda was born in the United States and lived both in Europe and the United States until attending Tufts University. In her third year, she studied in Florence with Smith College. After graduating with a degree in Art History, she settled permanently in Florence where she lives with her husband, Momi. They have three grown children, Ginevra, Emilio and Polissena.

In 1982, Simonetta and Momi launched their company, The Best in Italy, Inc., offering the most luxurious villas, palaces and country homes for rent and for purchase throughout Italy. The company also organizes unique travel itineraries, special events and business conferences and seminars.

In 1993, Simonetta joined the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO) and established the Florence chapter. She served on numerous YPO University committees and chaired the Rome University in 1999 and the Athens to Rome University in 2006. She served as Senior Vice President of Events on the International Board for the years 2001-2004 and Executive Chair in 2005 and was also honored with the Roy

Hickock Award. Simonetta is now also a member of CEO and has chaired various events including the CEO 2008 Florence University.

In 1998, Simonetta and her sister, Renée Gardner, established Friends of Florence, a not-for-profit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. and dedicated to the preservation of art in Florence and Tuscany.

Dr. William R. Cook

Distinguished Teaching Professor of History, SUNY Geneseo

Dr. William Cook graduated from Wabash College, and received his M.A. and PhD from Cornell University where he focused on medieval and Renaissance history. He has been teaching since 1970 to the present at SUNY Geneseo (Distinguished Teaching Professor of History since 1984) and has been an Adjunct at Siena College (1981) as well as an Adjunct at Genesee Community College program at Attica Correctional Facility (1981-1984). From 2008 to 2010, he was the Visiting Professor of Religion and History at Wabash College.

Dr. Cook has taught nine courses for The Teaching Company and has been a featured scholar in various special documentaries on The Learning Channel and The Hallmark Channel. He has also written numerous books and publications including *The Medieval World View* (1983, 2nd ed. 2004) and four books about St Francis of Assisi (1989, 1998, 1999).

He has been honored with election to Phi Beta Kappa, was named C.A.S.E. Professor of the Year for the State of New York, was the 1992 Director of 12 summer seminars for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and received the First Annual CARA Award for Excellence in Teaching Medieval Studies from the Medieval Academy of America (2003).

For the past ten years, Dr. Cook has been a regular resource for YPO, CEO and Friends of Florence educational programs. He is an active member of Friends of Florence's Council of Academic Advisors.

LA TRIBUNA DEGLI UFFIZI To celebrate its 10th Anniversary, Friends of Florence launched the restoration of the important *Tribuna* in the Uffizi Gallery, recognized as one of the very first museum collections in the world and one of the Uffizi's most admired rooms. Restoration work for this \$1.1 million undertaking has been underway since fall 2009.

Established by the Medici when the Uffizi was constructed in the 1500s, this octagonal room with distinctive crimson ('cremisi') velvet covered walls was created to celebrate the eclectic interests of the great collector, Francesco I (1541-1587), the spirited Medici prince. It was designed by Francesco's friend, the architect Bernardo Buontalenti (1523-1608), who shared Francesco's dreams and love of knowledge. The room contains a unique treasure of extraordinary ancient sculptures, portraits, and other especially prized artworks. It also features precious mother of pearl decorations, marbles, silks, and shells symbolizing the four elements as well as ancient Greek sculptures including the *Medici Venus*, the *Apollino*, the *Wrestlers* and other figures.

In September 2009, the first preparations began in earnest for the restoration of the *Tribuna* with the creation of a twin octagonal space within the Uffizi. Here visitors can enjoy a replica of the *Tribuna* while the original space is being restored.

In October 2009, scaffolding was put in place and diagnostics began on the *Tribuna's* many artworks and architectural elements. Restoration of the Lantern and frescoes of the Lantern of the Winds then began, as did the meticulous analysis and cleaning of the Cupola. Some 6,000 exquisite shells comprise the cupola, brought to the Uffizi in the 1500s from the Indian Seas and encased in more than 140 square meters of gold leaf, azurite from Afghanistan and precious lacquer and mother of pearl.

Restoration of the *Tribuna's* three tapestries is complete and the cremisi silk velvet wall hangings have been recreated, woven by hand on historic looms of the Antico Setificio Fiorentino. The tapestries and wall hangings are currently in storage awaiting the completion of the project.

The restoration of the ancient statues began in May 2011, on site within protected areas inside the *Tribuna*. These ancient sculptures were amongst the most precious artworks that belonged to the Medici and most date to the 1st century B.C.

We are delighted you could join us for this special evening organized to benefit the completion of the restoration of the Uffizi's *Tribuna*. With approximately \$345,000 still needed to complete the restoration, we welcome your support so that the *Tribuna* may reopen in all its glory, on schedule, during the second half of 2012. Our guests will be offered the opportunity to help complete the funding of this unique project by contributing to the restoration of these elements of the *Tribuna*:

CUPOLA OF SHELLS - \$59,000*

PICTORIAL SECTIONS OF CUPOLA AND BASE - \$125,000

TAPESTRY #208 - MEDICI COAT OF ARMS - \$30,000

TAPESTRY #209 - MEDICI COAT OF ARMS - \$30,000

TAPESTRY #219 - MEDICI COAT OF ARMS - \$30,000

"THE DANCING FAUN" STATUE - \$30,000*

SCRIGNO - DECORATIVE CABINET - \$40,000

**Partial funding of this element has been received previously from other patrons*

Friends of Florence is planning a special unveiling and program in Italy surrounding the completion of the project. Please help us reach our goal and join us in Italy for what will be an extraordinary celebration.



CUPOLA OF SHELLS
\$59,000*



PICTORIAL SECTIONS OF CUPOLA AND BASE
\$125,000



"THE DANCING FAUN" STATUE
\$30,000*

SCRIGNO
DECORATIVE CABINET
\$40,000
(behind the Medici Venus)



TAPESTRY #208
MEDICI COAT OF ARMS
\$30,000



TAPESTRY #209
MEDICI COAT OF ARMS
\$30,000



TAPESTRY #219
MEDICI COAT OF ARMS
\$30,000



Opera Selections By

Angela Mannino

Soprano

New Orleans native, Soprano Angela Mannino, made her Metropolitan Opera debut as the *15 Year Old Girl* in Berg's *Lulu* after completing two years in Lyric Opera of Chicago's Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center. Earlier this summer she sang *Colombina* in *Le Donne Curiose* with Wolf Trap Opera. This past spring, she debuted the role of *Agrippa* in the world premier of John Musto's new opera, *The Inspector*, which was commissioned by the Wolf Trap Foundation. In Angela's first season at Lyric Opera of Chicago, she sang *Blonde* in *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, which included a last minute debut on opening night along with an additional performance. Other appearances at Lyric include the *Maid* in *Manon*, the *15 Year Old Girl* in *Lulu*, *Giannetta* in *L'Elisir d'Amore* and *Barbarina* in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Other past performances include *Gilda* in *Rigoletto* with Opera Grand Rapids, *Lauretta* in *Gianni Schicchi* with the New Philharmonic, *Fiorilla* in *Il Turco in Italia* with Wolf Trap Opera and *Zerlina* in *Don Giovanni* with Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. Angela is a graduate of Loyola University and Indiana University. She has received awards from the Sullivan Foundation, Shoshana Foundation, American Opera Society, Chicago Musician's Club of Women, Metropolitan Opera National Council Regional Auditions, Mobile Opera Vocal Competition and the Orpheus National Vocal Competition. This November she sings *Oscar* in *Un Ballo in Maschera* with New Orleans Opera and makes her Dallas Opera debut as *Papagena* in *The Magic Flute* in Spring 2012.

Paul Corona

Bass-Baritone

Bass-Baritone Paul Corona, a native of Chicago, was a 2006 Grand Prize Winner in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Paul made his Metropolitan Opera debut in Debussy's *Pelleas et Melisande* and Strauss's *Capriccio*. He is a recent alum of the Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago. His many roles at Lyric include *Jake Wallace* in *La Fanciulla del West*, *Dr. Grenvil* in *La Traviata*, *Pistol* in *Falstaff*, the *Bonze* in *Madama Butterfly* and *Sciarrone* in *Tosca*. Paul has performed extensively with Chicago Opera Theater singing roles such as *Osmín* in *The Abduction from the Seraglio* and *Somarone* in *Beatrice et Benedict*. Other local performances include the title role in *The Mikado* with Chicago Light Opera Works, *Marullo* in *Rigoletto* at Ravinia and the *Messiah* with the Apollo Chorus and Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Paul is a graduate of Northwestern University and has received awards from the Sullivan Foundation, Opera Index, Monastero Bel Canto Competition, Union League Civic and Arts Foundation, American Opera Society, Gerda Lissner Foundation and the Lotte Lenya Competition for Singers. Upcoming performances include *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Kentucky Opera, *Khovanshchina* with the Metropolitan Opera and *Moscow Cheryomushki* with Chicago Opera Theater.

Laurann Gilley

Pianist

Laurann Gilley has been a pianist and coach with the Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago for the past five years. She served in the same capacity with Glimmerglass Opera for 15 seasons, having prepared several operas, including 3 world premieres. Other companies she has worked with include San Francisco Opera, Seattle Opera, San Diego Opera, Vancouver Opera, Opera Omaha, Tulsa Opera, Kentucky Opera, Sacramento Opera, Mississippi Opera, and the American Symphony Orchestra, with whom she has also recorded. Conductors she has worked with include Richard Bonyngne, Edoardo Müller, Andrew Davis, and Stewart Robertson. Ms. Gilley has accompanied recitals at Weill Recital Hall, the Chicago Cultural Center, on the San Francisco Opera Schwabacher Series, and in other venues throughout the U.S. and Canada. Ms. Gilley holds degrees from The Eastman School of Music and Manhattan School of Music, where she also worked as a vocal coach and accompanist. She currently serves on the opera faculty of Northwestern University.



FRIENDS *of* FLORENCE

FRIENDS OF FLORENCE IS A U.S. NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION SUPPORTED BY INDIVIDUALS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WHO ARE DEDICATED TO PRESERVING AND ENHANCING THE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL INTEGRITY OF THE ARTS LOCATED IN THE CITY AND REGION OF FLORENCE, ITALY, AND TO INCREASING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION THROUGH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS.

FRIENDS OF FLORENCE PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT DIRECTLY TO THE CITY'S RESTORATION LABORATORIES TO REFURBISH, SAFEGUARD, AND MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC A BROAD RANGE OF ART FROM PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURES TO ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS AND COLLECTIONS OF SMALLER OBJECTS. A COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONALLY RESPECTED ART EXPERTS AND HISTORIANS SERVE AS RESOURCES IN THE CAREFUL SELECTION OF PROJECTS THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM FRIENDS OF FLORENCE'S EFFORTS.

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