

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**KRAVIS CENTER GALA SUPPORTERS STEP INTO THE LIMELIGHT DURING “NIGHT OF STARS” A BROADWAY CELEBRATION!**

***Annual benefit treated guests to over-the-top performances and a black-tie dinner dance***

***(West Palm Beach, Fla.)*** The bright lights of Broadway transformed the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, January 12, for its Gala “Night of Stars” A Broadway Celebration! More than 350 Gala guests were treated to a red-carpet welcome, a pre-show cocktail reception, a collaborative performance in Dreyfoos Hall by some of Broadway’s biggest stars complete with a spectacular marquee entrance to the post-performance dinner dance. Kathryn Vecellio and Monika Preston chaired the annual benefit, which this year was a special tribute to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the acclaimed *Kravis on Broadway* series of performances. Gala Vice Chair was Irene Karp, Honorary Gala Grand Broadway Chairs were Sondra and David Mack and Honorary Gala Chair was Kravis Center Board Chairman Michael Bracci.

The incredible 90-minute ensemble show was co-hosted by two-time Tony Award winners Brian Stokes Mitchell and Chita Rivera, who also both performed. One of the show’s highlights included a video montage of Oscar and Tony Award-winning artist Angela Lansbury, who was awarded the Kravis Center’s “Legend in the Arts” award. Highly respected entertainers kept the crowd singing and clapping throughout the night with some of Broadway’s biggest show tunes. Artists included ten-time Tony Award winner Tommy Tune, Claybourne Elder from Broadway’s *Sunday in the Park With George*, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Kate Davis, Helen Hayes Award recipient Nova Y. Payton, singer and trumpeter Bria Skonberg, Kravis Center Pops Orchestra, Conductor Luke Frazier, Director Kelly Crandall D’Amboise and Executive Producer Robert Pullen, Nouveau Productions.

After the performance, Gala guests made their way into the exquisitely decorated Gimelstob Ballroom, which had been turned into an evening on Broadway in Times Square. Marquees, theatre signs and moving “opening night” lights swirled around the room while Marcia Mitchell Music filled the ballroom with upbeat melodies.

“The Kravis Center is a place for people to come together to enjoy and support the performing arts,” said Gala Chair Monika Preston addressing the guests. “We are most grateful to each of you for the role you play in helping the Kravis Center continue to serve our community. This evening is possible only with the support from our very loyal and generous sponsors. We want to thank and recognize Honorary Gala Grand Broadway Chairs Sondra and David Mack in addition to all the generous sponsors and Gala committee members that helped make tonight a success.”

Treated to world-class service and enviable cuisine by Catering by The Breakers at the Kravis Center, the evening’s dinner began with a seafood trio of jumbo lump crab, lime and coconut lobster salad and a chilled rock shrimp tower. The main act consisted of pan seared filet mignon tower layered with grilled Portobello mushrooms, creamed spinach and foie gras. Guests enjoyed decadent ice cream sundaes for the evening’s finale.

“The Kravis Center has truly changed the cultural climate of Palm Beach County,” said Kathryn Vecellio, Gala Chair. “Today, this outstanding arts and educational institution is a source of tremendous pride for residents and visitors to Palm Beach County and is one of the premier performing arts centers in the

Southeast. It has been an honor for us to serve as your Gala Chairs for this incredible evening. What a celebration! I also want to thank Gala Vice Chair, Irene Karp, and Honorary Gala Chair, Michael Bracci, our current Board Chairman, for their leadership and guidance.”

“From the red-carpet welcome, to the lovely reception, to the incredible performances in Dreyfoos Hall – this is what the Kravis Center is all about –artistic and educational excellence that continues to exceed expectations in fulfilling its mission to enhance the quality of life in Palm Beach County,” Mr. Bracci said after thanking Mrs. Vecellio and Mrs. Preston for chairing this year’s Gala. “Thank you to our CEO Judy Mitchell. Her 28 years of extraordinary leadership and service have not gone unnoticed and we applaud you tonight for conducting 121 full-time employees, half of whom have been on staff for a decade or more.”

Bracci also acknowledged Alexander Dreyfoos, Founding Chairman; William Meyer, Past Chairman; Jane Mitchell, Immediate Past Chair; and the Board members and Life Trustees in attendance that evening. Bracci continued “As we look to the future, we will continue to build on the progress of the past 25 years and exceed patron expectations. We will inspire and entertain residents and visitors at our world-class facility and remain a vibrant cultural and economic leader in Palm Beach County. Enjoy the evening and thank you for your continued support.”

Gala sponsors included Sondra and David S. Mack; NetJets, Inc.; Stephen Brown and Jamie Stern, Marjorie and Stephen Fiverson, Sharyn and Stuart Frankel, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Irene and Jim Karp, Henni and John Kessler, Dorothy and Sidney Kohl, Jane M. Mitchell, Monika and John Preston, SBA Communications Corporation, Susan and Dom Telesco, Kathryn and Leo Vecellio; The Breakers Palm Beach, Laurie Silvers and Mitchell Rubenstein; Dr. Nettie Birnbach, The Miriam and Alec Flamm Charitable Fund, Ingrid and David Kosowsky; Tom and Sherry Barrat, Kay and Peter Bernon, Braman Motorcars, Sherry and Ken Endelson, Lori and Bruce Gendelman, Harless & Associates, Jack and Goldie Wolfe Miller Fund, Publix Super Markets Charities, Martin and Toni Sosnoff, Christine and Robert Stiller and Lois Silverman Yashar and Dr. James Yashar. Special support provided by Tiffany & Co. and media support provided by *Palm Beach Illustrated*.

The Kravis Center is a not-for-profit performing arts center whose mission is to enhance the quality of life in Palm Beach County by presenting a diverse schedule of national and international artists and companies of the highest quality, by offering comprehensive arts education programs, by providing a Palm Beach County home for local and regional arts organizations to showcase their work and by providing an economic catalyst and community leadership in West Palm Beach, supporting efforts to increase travel and tourism to Palm Beach County.

This year, the Kravis Center is celebrating the 10th Anniversary of *Kravis On Broadway*, the series of Broadway hits presented each season. For 2017-2018, the line-up comprises seven Broadway shows including Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The King and I*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Finding Neverland*, *Cabaret*, *The Illusionists*, *The Bodyguard* and *Something Rotten!*.

The Kravis Center is located at 701 Okeechobee Blvd. in West Palm Beach, FL.

For general information about the Kravis Center’s performances, please visit the Center’s official website at [kravis.org](http://kravis.org) or call the box office at 561.832.7469 (561.832.SHOW). For information about the Kravis Center’s special events, contact the Development Office at 561.651.4320. Follow the Kravis Center on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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