

The 61st Annual Viennese Opera Ball at the Waldorf=Astoria, NY, USA



It was a magical evening of music and formal elegance at [The 61st Annual Viennese Opera Ball \(VOB\)](#) held at the **Waldorf=Astoria** in **New York City** on February 5, 2016 benefitting the **Ronald McDonald House New York** in partnership with **New York Rotary Foundation**, and honoring the 260th anniversary of the birth of the Austrian composer **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**.



West Point Cadets

The Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf=Astoria in New York City provided a sumptuous backdrop for an evening of elegance with beautifully attired guests, sparkling chandeliers, ivory linen draped tables impeccably dressed with candles, and large, ornate raised arrangements of white roses interspersed with silver leaves and hanging red ornaments to dazzle the eye, with music by Peter Duchin and his Orchestra.

The evening began with the entrance of the West Point Cadets, followed by hosts **Teen USA Katherine Haik** and **2016 Super Bowl Champion Steve Weatherford** who introduced the dignitaries that took their places on the red carpeted stage and in chairs in front of the stage.



Ms. Teen USA - Katherine Haik

2016 Super Bowl Champion - Steve Weatherford

Next, there was the presentation of the debutantes resplendent in their tiaras and white gowns with crimson rose bouquets entering on the arms of their escorts, who then performed a special dance choreographed by Vienna's **Heinz Heidenreich**. (Watch the video on www.Facebook.com/LuxuryExperience)



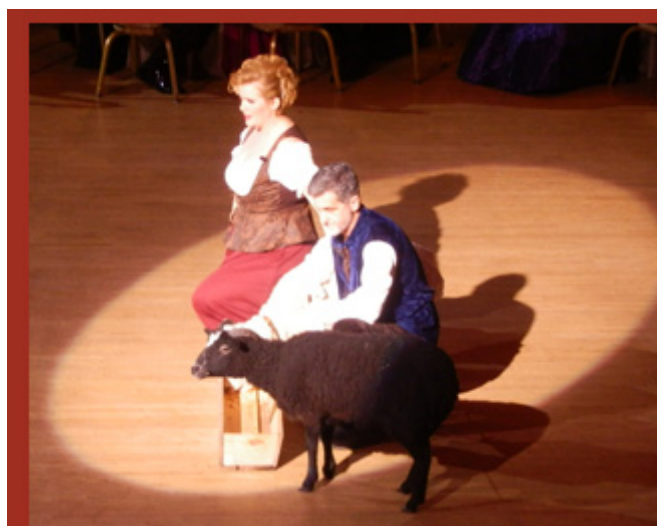
Debutantes with Escorts

Each year the VOB has a different theme, and for The 61st Annual Viennese Opera Ball, VOB's **Marcie Rudell** created a memorable evening celebrating the 260th anniversary of Austria's genius composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Fittingly, fellow composer "Antonio Salieri" (from the Metropolitan Opera) rode into the Grand Ballroom on horseback to the delight of the audience as he spoke about the life and genius of his friend, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, (January 27, 1756 -December 5, 1791), who died at the early age of 35.



"Antonio Salieri"

"Mozart" then took to the stage to direct the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra as Met stars including **Amy Shoreham-Obra** performed short selections from his many operas. During one opera snippet, celebrity animal trainer **Bill Berloni** appeared onstage with an adorable white sheep and a black goat wearing "diapers" that stole the hearts of the audience.



Amy Shoreham-Obra and Bill Berloni

from Metropolitan Opera

Of course, the ball was also about music and dancing, and the Waldorf=Astoria was filled with beautifully attired men and women whirling around the Grand Ballroom to the fast-paced Viennese Waltz. It was a most memorable and enchanting evening that also benefitted a very worthwhile cause.



Debra C. Argen and Edward F. Nesta

For more information about the Viennese Opera Ball, please visit the website: www.Vienneseoperaball.us



Viennese Opera Ball at Waldorf=Astoria

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