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The Miami Symphony Orchestra Closes Miami Social Scene on High Note

MIAMI (May XX, 2010) – More than 400 of Miami’s cultural, civic and fashion elite closed the Miami gala season on a high note this weekend at The Miami Symphony Orchestra’s haute Ice Palace gala. Dubbed the Past, Present and Future Gala, MISO Conductor and Music Director **Eduardo Marturet** and wife **Athina Klioumi** honored long-time supporters, including the evening’s conductor’s baton recipient **Carolina Herrera** and gala chairs **Anna Craft**, **Silvia Tcherassi**, **Donald** and **Lisa Pliner** and **Mariela Cisneros-Mestre**.

The evening began with hot arrivals on a red carpet leading into the Ice Palace where Maestro Marturet greeted guests and VIPs including Plácido Domingo, Jr., Ella Fontanals-Cisneros, Mark Rosenberg, Alfredo and Elizabeth Beracasa, Irene Sazingg, Luis Valenzuela, Shari Liu and Alejandro Grimaldi as they strolled inside for a cocktail reception amid popping flashbulbs from the national and international press that had gathered.

After cooling off inside with cocktails and an ultimate raw bar, guests were regaled by Marturet and the orchestra with renditions of Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, Bizet and Manuel de Falla, as well as film scores’ composers Nino Rota, Ennio Morricone and John Williams in the ‘ball of fire’ style for which the Maestro has become renowned. Following the special orchestral performance, guests remained in their seats to enjoy a dinner of sea bass and filet mignon, followed by warm chocolate cake.

During dinner, personal friend and fellow Venezuelan **Carolina Herrera** was recognized for her extraordinary support of the orchestra. The designer, a MISO Honorary Ambassador, was presented with the orchestra’s highest honor, the prestigious conductor’s baton.

“I am very honored tonight to receive the baton from the hand of this great Maestro,” said Herrera, who received the baton in a custom Romero Britto-designed case. “I wish I could make magic the way he does with this.”

Maestro Marturet and Rafael Diaz-Balart, chairman of MISO’s board, were also presented with a proclamation from Miami-Dade County, declaring May 22nd MISO Day. The proclamation was awarded to MISO for its outstanding contributions to enriching Miami-Dade communities’ quality of life through great music and its work with the Allapattah Children and Youth Symphony orchestra program.

Marturet thanked his friends “on both sides of the stage,” including wife Athina for touching his heart, Board Chairman Rafael Díaz-Balart, the musicians and gala chair Anna Craft, who he happily called his “boss” for the evening.

Marturet returned to the stage to treat guests to an encore performance, this time joined by DJ Irie, followed by rising musical sensation Linda Briceño. Guests were on their feet dancing to DJ Irie’s beats well into the night, truly closing the gala season and kicking off the summer on a sweet note.

About The Miami Symphony Orchestra

The Miami Symphony Orchestra (MISO) is a cornerstone of the South Florida cultural community. Founded in 1989 by Maestro Manuel Ochoa, MISO is Miami’s only professional classical orchestra. MISO is comprised of a diverse group of more than 80 talented musicians led by Music Director and Conductor Eduardo Marturet and is designated a Major Cultural Organization. The not-for-profit Symphony also conducts an in-school arts and education program for elementary school students in the Miami-Dade Public School System, and provides low-or no-cost tickets to students and senior citizens in the South Florida community. For more information about The Miami Symphony Orchestra or to purchase tickets for this season’s events, please visit www.themiso.org.