



Dear Friend,

The Women's Guild of the New Orleans Opera Association is thrilled to announce that their annual Mad Hatter's luncheon will be held on Friday, March 13, 2026. Our 41st year will celebrate 'The Mad Hatter Goes to Paris! - La Vie en Rose' at the charming Higgins Hotel. Celebrated local couturier and milliner, Yvonne LaFleur, will share some of her elegant designs in the fashion show with gorgeous jewelry accessories from Ella Bartlow. The always fashionable man about town, Bryan Batt, has agreed to don the Mad Hat as the Master of Ceremonies, ensuring a good time will be held by all. Attendees can show off their own style in the Hat Contest, where the keen eye of the Honorable Rodolphe Sambou, Consul General of the French Republic to New Orleans, will make sure they are a la Mode! Joining Mr. Sambou on the Judge's panel, will be renowned New Orleans artist, Terrence Osborne, and local businesswoman and philanthropist, Christine LeBlanc, who are both long standing supporters of the Opera. Rounding out our Parisian program is a silent auction and a special raffle, the très chic Mad Hatter's Luncheon is not to be missed!

This charity event is not simply celebrating French flair, it raises extremely necessary funds for the upcoming production of the New Orleans Opera's 2026-2027 season. The Opera is one of the largest employers of artists in Louisiana and hires, on average, 300-400 individuals for each production, including principal and choral artists, LPO musicians, dancers, set designers, lighting designers, costume designers, and stage crew. The New Orleans Opera serves the public by offering community enrichment and school education programs, with patrons from 24 parishes purchasing tickets last season. The New Orleans Opera performed the first opera in America and in spring 2026 will celebrate its 230th anniversary by introducing a new Opera festival bringing together international opera stars and amazing local talent.

Your support would directly benefit this cultural cornerstone of our city, ensuring that opera remains a vital and living art form in New Orleans. Your generous donation will be recognized by the luncheon attendees, regular season Opera audiences, and Guild members. Our event sponsors will be promoted on our invitation, the online auction catalog, as well as the opera festival playbook.

We look forward to your participation in this milestone event, please let us know if we may provide additional information to secure your sponsorship. We appreciate your consideration and contribution to our local performing arts community. The enclosed sponsor sheet may be emailed to womensguildevents@gmail.com.

Merci Beaucoup,

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