

Town Talk: Vancouver Art Gallery celebration raises \$700,000

The money will fund exhibitions, education and public programs

MALCOLM PARRY Updated: June 21, 2019

TURNOVER TIME: Vancouver Art Gallery board chair David Calabrigo and interim director Daina Augaitis welcomed guests to a gala co-chaired by Megan Martin and trustee Rosy Shang. The event reportedly raised \$750,000 to fund exhibitions, education and public programs.



Past Vancouver Symphony Society chair Art Willms' fiscal efforts and Bramwell Tovey's conducting helped develop the orchestra through rough patches. *MALCOLM PARRY / PNG*

HOW I LOVE YA: So went George Gershwin and Irving Caesar's 1919 hit song, Swanee. It's also how an Orpheum Theatre audience responded recently when music director Otto Tausk conducted the Vancouver Symphony in a 100th-anniversary concert hosted by tenor Ben Heppner. As with other love affairs, the orchestra has survived spats and money problems, not least a 1988 bankruptcy bid and suspension of activities.



Centenarian Gordon Smith was a mere 91 when a car emblazoned with one of his paintings was auctioned to benefit North Van's Artists For Kids program. *MALCOLM PARRY / PNG*

Some \$750,000 from Gerald and Sheahan McGavin's million-dollar donation to the Vancouver Arts Stabilization Trust helped the VSO in 1996. Further dire fiscal difficulties were eased in 2002 when \$500,000 from board chair Art Willms' inspired others to "invest," too. Through that period and until his 2018 retirement, 18-year music director Bramwell Tovey and musicians solidified the VSO's domestic and global reputation. Seeking a smooth future, Willms and Vancouver Symphony Society chair Fred Withers co-chair a \$30-million anniversary fundraising campaign.



At the VAG gala, Fairchild Group principal Thomas Fung and wife Amy disclosed that son Joseph and his wife Michelle are expecting a second child. *MALCOLM PARRY / PNG*

ANOTHER FUNG: Fairchild Group founder-head Thomas Fung and wife Amy just learned that son Joseph and wife Michelle, who were wed spectacularly in 2014, expect a sibling for 18-month-old daughter Eleanore. As managing partner of Saltgen Ventures, a corporate partner of UBC Sauder's innovation-encouraging Creative Destruction Lab West, Joseph administers a US\$400-million development and investment portfolio. He recently addressed Albertans regarding high-tech and startup opportunities there.



It was 2013's wedding of the year when Michelle Tam wed Joseph Fung who now administers a US\$400-million development-investment portfolio. *MALCOLM PARRY / PNG*

DOWN PARRYSCOPE: Following Ottawa's Trans Mountain Pipeline go-ahead, emailed messages arrived immediately from action-funding organizations in San Francisco and Washington, DC.