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Pittsburgh Opera to honor Gov. Wolf, Pat & Michele Atkins at Maecenas gala

Pittsburgh, PA...

[Pittsburgh Opera](#) hosts "one of the most anticipated events of the year", the 34th annual [Maecenas Gala](#), on Saturday, May 12th. With the whimsical theme "Cirque de l'Opera," Pittsburgh Opera's historic headquarters in the Strip District will be transformed into a place of mystery and intrigue, where guests can dance among the stars.

Receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award at the event will be the Honorable Tom Wolf, [Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#), in recognition of his extraordinary dedication to the state of Pennsylvania and the city of Pittsburgh.

"Pennsylvania is lucky to have a vibrant arts and culture sector which enriches the lives of residents and draws millions of visitors to the commonwealth each year," said Governor Wolf. "Pittsburgh Opera plays a vital role in our creative legacy, and I am excited to support the Opera at the Maecenas Gala."

Pittsburgh Opera will also honor local arts patrons Pat and Michele Atkins with its Maecenas Award. The event's namesake [Gaius Maecenas](#), an ancient Roman, was a celebrated patron to such artists as Horace and Virgil. Today his name is synonymous with 'patron of the arts.' Mr. and Mrs. Atkins, long-time Pittsburgh Opera supporters, last summer [announced a \\$1.2MM donation](#), one of the largest in Pittsburgh Opera's 79-year history.

"Since 1596 opera has been able to inspire, motivate, educate and entertain people throughout the world," said the Atkinses. "We are impressed by opera's continuously accomplishing all these things for over 25 generations. Most impressive is the passion exhibited by the people who invest their talents, creativity, energy, and dedication to keep opera such a wonderful art form. Every time we go to the opera, we are humbled and grateful to its past contributors, its present players and leaders, and all those dedicated to ensuring opera remains a gift for future generations."

"No one is more deserving of our Maecenas Award than Pat and Michele," said Pittsburgh Opera General Director Christopher Hahn. "Similarly, Gov. Wolf has gone to great lengths to grow our state's economy and improve our schools, to help provide more Pennsylvania students with access to art, music and Advanced Placement programs. Pittsburgh Opera is excited to honor them at this wonderful gala which attracts guests from all over the greater Pittsburgh region year after year."

The [Duquesne Club](#) will cater a fabulous dinner, including deep-fried lobster on a stick, blackened Tournedos of Beef and braised short rib croquette with a mushroom demi-glace, and warm ratatouille tartelette with sofrito and roasted marble potatoes. Entertainment will include a special performance by [Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists](#), as well as [The Bachelor Boys](#).

Maecenas XXXIV will raise crucial funds to allow Pittsburgh Opera to keep live opera productions and educational programs financially accessible to all audiences, while training the next generation of great American singers. Few events have a more longstanding tradition of support and none rival its grandeur.

Sponsorship information is available on [Pittsburgh Opera's website](#). Tables of eight start at \$7,500, while individual tickets start at \$500. Members of Pittsburgh Opera's New Guard, a Young Professionals Group, can purchase tickets for \$250. All ticket and sponsorship levels can be reserved at pittsburghopera.org/Maecenas34. Inquiries may be directed to Pittsburgh Opera Manager of Special Events Ronna Pratt at 412-281-0912 ext. 225.

Pittsburgh Opera celebrates its 79th season in 2017-18. Established by five intrepid women in 1939, Pittsburgh Opera is viewed as one of the most vibrant opera organizations in the U.S., with a rich artistic tradition, outstanding educational programs, an acclaimed artist training program, and a progressive outlook toward the future. Its green initiative culminated in LEED® Silver certification for its Strip District headquarters, and its capacity as a true community partner has increased significantly under General Director Christopher Hahn's leadership.

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