

OUT AND ABOUT

— A.L. Gordon (agordon@nysun.com)

CONVIVIAL AT CARNEGIE Last night, a fund-raiser for the Collegiate Chorale's education and development initiatives brought Metropolitan Opera luminaries Maria Guleghina and Salvatore Licitra to Carnegie Hall, for their only New York appearances this season. Over dinner, board members and friends of the Chorale talked of the evening's star performers. Ms. Guleghina made her Carnegie Hall debut with the Collegiate Chorale in a concert version of Verdi's "Macbeth." Mr. Licitra earned worldwide notice when he stepped in to replace Luciano Pavarotti in what was believed to be the legendary tenor's farewell operatic performance. Before the performance of Verdi's "La Forza del Destino" as an opera-inconcert, (1) Mr. Licitra, Daisy Soros, Robert Bass, and Anna Mann posed without Ms. Guleghina, who was reportedly "without dress" at the time the photo was scheduled to be taken. The jovial Mr. Licitra quipped in a heavy Italian accent, "Without dress? That's better." But just a few minutes later, (2) Ms. Guleghina arrived — in a suit, not a dress, and looking stunning. (3) Mrs. Robert Bass entertained her table guests with élan while her husband warmed up the Collegiate Chorale. The women at the dinner chose bold chokers and embroidery to cover their throats. (4) Penny Thorson's necklace, which she bought 10 years ago, is festooned with charms and metal bobbles of all kinds — many of which she herself has added to the necklace. (5) Sipilla Clark wore a long velvet gown with a neck-covering floral embroidery in pink, green, and blue hues.

FIVE ALARM COCKTAILS Though it was one of the coldest nights of the season, things got hot on West 52nd Street between Broadway and Eighth Avenues. "This is the most surreal experience I've ever had at a mediabistro party," said (6) Susan Posnock, a senior editor at Folio. Across the street at Roseland, the hip English outfit Morcheeba played to a sold-out house. And (7) long lines stood outside to get into "Hairspray." But it was the party at Float that got the firemen's attention. At about 7:30, an hour into a cocktail party for media folk hosted by mediabistro, a networking and training company, the heating lamps in the bar's party space overheated. Then the sprinklers went off. Dawn Eden, a copy-editor at the New York Post and founder of Tuesday Night Trivia, heard the party hostess, mediabistro CEO Laurel Touby, cry out to a bathroom attendant, "Help! It's raining in here!" By one account, the heating lamp went up in flames shortly after the sprinklers went off, causing the crowd of 75 to scurry into the main bar area. (8) Firemen piled in. Thirsty partygoers, having abandoned their expensive drinks in their flight, kindly requested free seconds. "It might be a conspiracy to eliminate the New York media," joked Mary Harvey, who works at Scholastic. Ms. Touby, who wore her signature boa in the color red, eventually announced that everyone had to evacuate, and invited guests to convene at the bar across the street. As people pushed and shoved their way out, Ms. Touby, who is known for her enthusiasm as a party hostess, may have reached the end of her patience. When asked by a guest, "So, how are you?" she replied, "I really can't catch up right now. I have about a million things on my mind."







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