

In the Name of Beauty

— The Friends of the Uffizi Galleries sixth visit to Florence brimmed with excursions to palaces, churches, museums, art collections. Common sentiments among patrons of the arts

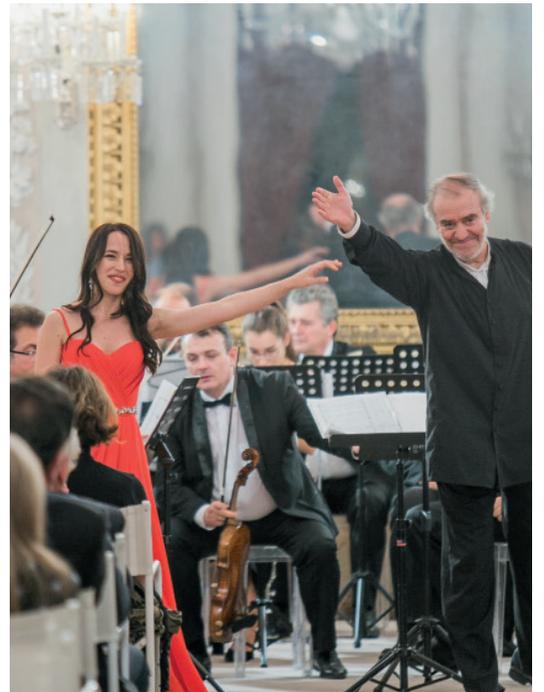
An immersion in the beauty of art works and the Tuscan countryside, accompanied by the meaningful recognition of the important role patronage plays in the preservation of the collective artistic patrimony that represents our identity.

This was, once again, the *fil rouge* of the sixth Florentine sojourn of our Friends of the Uffizi Galleries that took place from October 4 to October 9, 2018. An occasion for enjoyment and sharing beauty and good together in an intense program that, along with pleasurable social interludes, included visits to palaces, churches, museums, art collections. Our American Friends viewed the works of art restored and thus preserved for future generations thanks to their generous contributions: from the new layout of the former yellow halls in the Galleria degli Uffizi dedicated to Caravaggio and the painting of the Seicento to the new rooms of Raffaello, Michelangelo and Leonardo, completely renovated thanks to the donations of the Friends and the Italian Amici. And the same holds true for the renovated setting for the Contini Bonacossi collection and the acquisition of the *Armida* by Cecco Bravo, donated to the Uffizi at Christmas 2017.

All this to mention only a few of the achievements in the history of the long-term solidarity and common sentiments shared with the Friends of the Uffizi Galleries; it's the art that once again tells the tale of our continuous search for beauty, the recogni-



Veronica Atkins, chairperson of Atkins Young Artist Program, V. Atkins Foundation, and Maria Vittoria Rimbotti at the concert in the Sala Bianca (photo by Rocco De Ciantis).



Applause for Maestro Valery Gergiev who directed the concert of the St. Petersburg Mariinsky Orchestra dedicated to the Friends (photo by Rocco De Ciantis).



The Sala Bianca of Palazzo Pitti filled with the Amici and the American Friends during the concert of the St. Petersburg Mariinsky Orchestra, last October (photo by Rocco De Ciantis).

tion of our common roots, so essential in today's world if we are to provide substance and continuity for the future.

An eloquent example of true patronage can be found in Veronica Atkins, a benefactor who far from the clamor of publicity chose to finance the restoration of the tapestry series the "Festivities at the Court of the Valois" as well as all the frescoes in the Sala

di Bona in Palazzo Pitti. I would also like to thank her for making possible the concert by the St. Petersburg Mariinsky Orchestra in the Sala Bianca of Palazzo Pitti

– directed by Maestro Valery Gergiev with two young singers – that greeted all of the friends with music: a coral embrace of aesthetic pleasure for distinctive cultures that allowed us to reconfirm our common values and like conception of knowledge and progress. ■

Maria Vittoria Colonna Rimbotti

The group of Friends during a visit to the Uffizi in front of the painting they donated to the Gallery, *Armida* by Cecco Bravo. At the center, the president of the Amici degli Uffizi and of the Friends of the Uffizi Galleries, Maria Vittoria Colonna Rimbotti.

