



Scene

PARTIES! PARTIES! PARTIES!

2010 November 11

The Italian Job

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Lady de Rothschild, Robert McDuffie, and Giancarla Berti

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(NEW YORK) Since when has any performer at Carnegie Hall finished a performance to the sort of hooting, hollering, and whistling generally reserved for a **Lady Gaga** concert at MSG? Since last night. When violin maestro **Robert McDuffie** and the Venice Baroque Orchestra drop finished movement of the new **Philip Glass** commission, "The American Four Seasons," even the prime boxes at Carnegie were just as ecstatic in their praise as the top tier balcony. "Holy sh*t!" gasped one UES-esque social to her tuxedoed date, before covering her mouth with her hand. "Excuse me, but that was mindblowing!"

And it was. The musical moment in question came courtesy of the Friends of FAI, an organization benefitting the National Trust for Italy, which sponsored last night's New York premiere of Glass' new masterpiece. FAI acquires properties of historical importance---villas, castles, libraries, art collections, and more---and restores them to a state of long-term sustainability. They are then opened to the public. Members of FAI's advisory board include **Giorgio Armani**, **Anna Bulgari**, and **Chiara Ferragamo**.

After the finale, which brought Glass to the stage for a three-round standing ovation, guests were transported by shuttle bus to the Morgan Library, where Friends of FAI's chairman of advisory trustees **Lynn Forester de Rothschild** greeted guests like **Martha Wainright**, **Sid** and **Mercedes Bass**. **Rose Marie Bravo** and Co. got to work with a meal of acorn squash soup (served *en squash*), peppercorn crusted sliced filet of beef (with black truffle creamed spinach), and vanilla meringue with meyer lemon curd and coconut dacquoise. The Pomino Bianco Benefizio 2007 and Nipozzano Chianti Refuna Riserva 2006 may have been the most popular items on the menu. *Grazie*, **Marchesi de' Frescobaldi!**

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