

James and Mary Heddens



Leonardo Soto and Beth Rennie



Alex and Alexandra Myrick



Amy and Jason Powers



April Fegeler and Sandra and Thomas Kraus



Conner Wilton, Mary-Jo Germain and Leonardo Soto



Anne and Rich McKnight



Scott Daniel



Andrew Fierova

Charlotte Symphony Orchestra

Musicians pair dinner courses with chords

Soft songs from a violin complemented the first course of dinner—shrimp, stuffed peppers, smoked salmon and prosecco—at Blue Restaurant on November 17. Violinist Martha Geissler opened the **Rhapsody at Blue** event with a performance for the approximately 80 donors and prospective donors of the **Charlotte Symphony Orchestra** (CSO). Guests bid on silent auction items, which included a private concert, a Summer Pops picnic and a signed score from the CSO season opener, *The Planets*.

The violin solo was followed by four more performances paired with wine and dinner courses. For the patrons, prospective patrons and musicians, CSO Communications and Grants Manager Jamie Wolf said: “It’s an opportunity to really connect in an intimate and fun way.” The CSO seeks to bring great symphonic music to Charlotte while serving the community through music that entertains and educates.

During dinner, the musicians enjoyed the meal with their supporters and, when they did perform, they played selections that they had chosen for a particular course. Beth Rennie, who sang soprano accompanied by Leonardo Soto on the marimba, selected French love songs to pair with the fourth course of ribeye and cabernet sauvignon. “When I think about the fourth course,” she said, “it’s the meat of the meal.”

The evening was envisioned by Dinner Chair and CSO board member Dr. James Heddens, who saw the event as a chance to develop relationships among the board members and their clientele. Wolf said, “It’s more of a long-term view: building personal relationships.” ■

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Charlotte Symphony Orchestra
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Written by Katie Toussaint. Photos by Dianna Augustine.
More photos at www.societycharlotte.com

Levine Children’s Hospital

Ornaments honor a memory

Slack silver ornaments were already shining with holiday spirit at Windsor Jewelers in Phillips Place on November 14. The twinkling baubles—made by SLANE Jewelers out of New York—were on sale at the **Baby J Party** to benefit **Levine Children’s Hospital** (LCH). Over the years, the Baby J Ladley Pediatric Brain Tumor Research Fund has raised over \$700,000 dollars to benefit the hospital, according to Beverly Ladley, founder of the Baby J Fund.

“Each year we work with Dr. Chad Jacobson to determine the best use of the funds,” Ladley said. “Typically, we try to support the ability to bring the most recent trials to LCH so that children of the region can get the latest treatments close to home.”

The Baby J Fund was started in 2000 by Ladley, her husband Mark and her friend Landon Slane, President of SLANE, to honor the memory of baby John Francis Ladley III. The Fund was a founding partner of the Carolinas Kids Cancer Research Coalition, which is committed to fighting pediatric cancer at LCH. Slane, who is originally from High Point, was also in attendance along with 75 other guests who were looking to both help the cause and to add some festiveness to their Christmas trees.

“It was a fun way to kick off the holiday season and visit with friends,” Ladley said, “all for a great cause!” ■

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Baby J Fund • www.babyjfund.org • 704.355.4048

Written by Rémy Thurston. Photos by Jon Strayhorn.
More photos at www.societycharlotte.com



Beverly Ladley, Ben Simon and Landon Slane



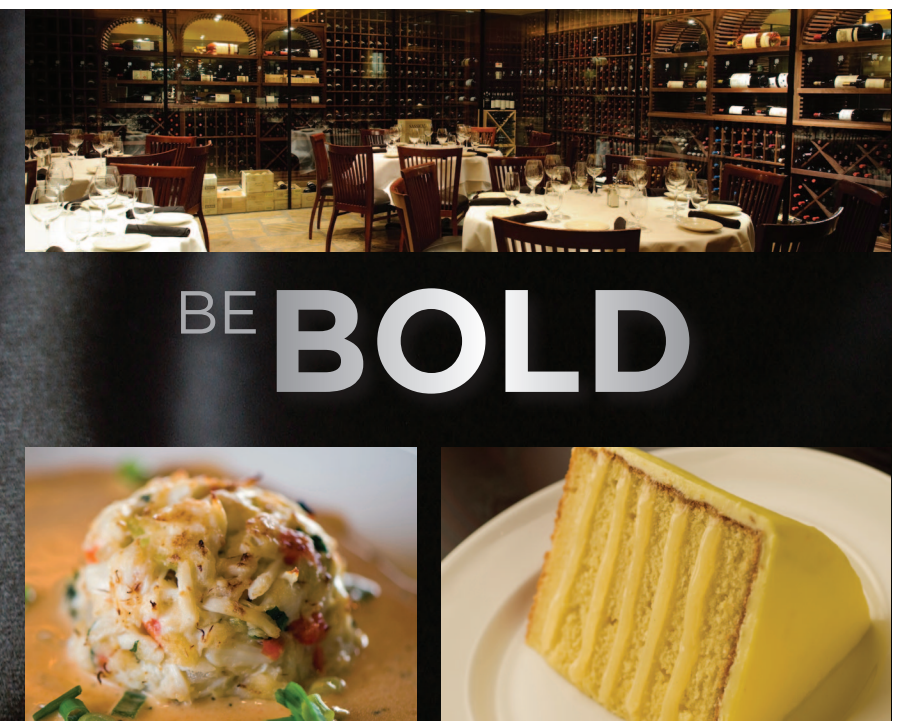
Allie Ladley and Caroline DeMordaunt



Lark Elliott and Amy Gakenheimer



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