

TALKING POINTS/REMARKS – SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2

PRESIDENT NUNES/JIM HOCH: OSILAS COCKTAIL PARTY REMARKS

PRESIDENT NUNES

Good evening, my friends, colleagues, and fellow music lovers!

Welcome to Concordia College New York and the first concert of this year's Hoch Chamber Music Series! And what a way to kick off the season, with our friend Larry Dutton and the Emerson String Quartet!

I am particularly delighted to spend time with you here in OSilas Gallery tonight, amidst the absolutely stunning exhibit we are blessed to be living with for the next several weeks.

Here in this setting, preparing for the Emerson to stir our souls as their artistry illuminates the genius of master composers Beethoven, Dvorak and **Fanny** Mendelssohn, I am once again reminded of why the arts matter.

The arts matter, because when we are every day confronted with the worst that human beings are capable of, the arts remind us of the breathtaking heights to which our humanity can climb.

Maya Angelou in her poem A Pale Blue Dot expressed it so well:

“In whose mouths abide cankerous words

Which challenge our very existence

Yet out of those same mouths come songs of such exquisite sweetness

That the heart falters in its labor”

The arts matter in large part because they give us hope for a more enlightened future.

All of you here tonight understand this. And you understand the value of a community resource like Concordia College – where the arts thrive and are cherished. You **especially** understand the value of Sommer Center – a place where the acoustics are so good, Larry Dutton not only loves playing here but with my friend Jim Hoch and his beloved wife Mary developed and continues to underwrite with world-class Hoch Chamber Series. Jim's financial leadership has benefitted Concordia College in many ways, and his friendship is highly valued by me and the entire College.

JIM HOCH

On behalf of myself and Mary, it has meant so much to be able to bring the Emerson Quartet, John Pattitucci, the American Quartet, the Julliard Quartet, Ruth Naomi Floyd, Norm Lewis, Christine Ebersole and countless more to my own home town of Bronxville.

And because you're here tonight, John and I both know how much you appreciate having this magnificent resource right in your own back yard – just as I do. That's why I hope you'll join me

and your other friends and neighbors in supporting the various updates Sommer Center needs and deserves.

BACK TO JOHN

In just one week we have raised over \$100,000 for Sommer Center, thanks in large part to the generous leadership of Claudia and Rodolpho Amboss, Simoni and Mauricio Morato, and Jim Hoch. We are making it as easy as possible to be a part of this worthy effort. You can text to give, visit our website, or contact Kathleen Suss, who I am sure will be happy to take your information. I believe there are some cards on the desk with all the details.

So tonight as once again Kathleen invites us to sit back, relax and enjoy our Sommer Center, I hope you'll consider an investment in the venue we all love. Thank you and God bless!

JIM

Thank you for your support of Concordia and the Hoch, and enjoy the Emerson!

KATHLEEN SUSS: CONCERT INTRODUCTION

Good evening! I'm Kathleen Suss, Executive Director of Concordia Conservatory and Vice President of Major Gifts for Concordia College New York. On behalf of President John A. Nunes, I welcome you all to the first concert of the 2019-2020 Hoch Chamber Series, featuring the incomparable Emerson String Quartet!

Before Larry Dutton tells us more about what we'll be hearing tonight, I want to take a brief moment to ask you to think about what Sommer Center means to you.

You've been here for concerts, for student recitals, for lecture and film series, Books and Coffee events and Community Dinners. Some of you have seen your children graduate here. And Sommer has been a place of worship, with baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

I'm asking you tonight to support this magnificent community resource we share. We need to update the lobby, install all new LED lighting, and be able to rely on a modern audiovisual system. Please look into your heart and give what you can. In your program, you'll find a card with all the information. No texting during the performance, but when those lights go up I'd like to see you all on your phones texting your donation to the number on the card. And of course, you can always go to the Concordia College website or contact me directly to make a gift.

In the space of just one week, your friends and neighbors and many of you here tonight have already given over \$100,000, but we need more – every gift of every size is meaningful, and will ensure that we can keep enjoying beautiful evenings like this one.