



MERKIN CONCERT HALL
LUCY MOSES SCHOOL
SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL

**2013 Kaufman Music Center Gala to Honor Pianist Vladimir Feltsman,
Education Reformer and Philanthropist Dr. Kelly Posner Gerstenhaber,
and City Council Member Gale Brewer**

Event to benefit Kaufman Music Center's programs in music education and performance

Monday, May 6, 2013 at The Pierre, 6:30 pm

The 2013 Kaufman Music Center Honors Gala will take place on Monday, May 6, 2013, at The Pierre (2 E. 61st St. at Fifth Ave., NYC). This year's event will honor the Russian-American classical pianist **Vladimir Feltsman**; **Kelly Posner Gerstenhaber**, an education reformer and leading international expert in the areas of suicide risk and depression; and City Council Member **Gale Brewer**.

The evening begins at 6:30 pm with cocktails and continues at 7:30 pm with a seated dinner, concert and awards. The program includes performances by students of Kaufman Music Center's **Special Music School**, New York's only K-12 public school for musically gifted children, and **Lucy Moses School**, New York's largest community arts school, with additional artists from the Center's renowned **Merkin Concert Hall**.

This annual gala is Kaufman Music Center's most important fundraising event, generating support for everything from scholarship programs for underprivileged music students to contemporary music festivals in Merkin Concert Hall. This year's gala will be a special celebration as Kaufman Music Center embarks on a significant period of expansion, including a partnership with Opus 118 Harlem School of Music, and the opening of a high school extension to Special Music School, thereby establishing NYC's first K-12 public school for musically gifted students.

For tickets and information, please call 212 501 3350 or email gnapolitano@kaufman-center.org.

About the Honorees

This year, Kaufman Music Center will recognize three Honorees who have made invaluable contributions to the world of music, arts and education.

Vladimir Feltsman, *Creative Arts Award*

Not only is the Russian-American classical pianist and conductor Vladimir Feltsman an inspirational teacher and musician, but he was also instrumental in conceptualizing Kaufman Music Center's Special Music School, a public school for musically gifted children that opened in 1996. Mr. Feltsman

is one of the most versatile and constantly interesting musicians of our time. His vast repertoire encompasses music from the Baroque to 21st-century composers. He has appeared with all the major American orchestras and on the most prestigious musical stages and festivals worldwide.

Born in Moscow, Mr. Feltsman debuted with the Moscow Philharmonic at age 11. In 1969, he entered the Moscow Tchaikovsky State Conservatory of Music to study piano and also studied conducting at both the Moscow and Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) Conservatories. In 1979, because of his growing discontent with the restrictions on artistic freedom under the Soviet regime, Mr. Feltsman signaled his intention to emigrate by applying for an exit visa. In response, he was immediately banned from performing in public and his recordings were suppressed. After eight years of virtual artistic exile, he was finally granted permission to leave the Soviet Union. Upon his arrival in the United States in 1987, Mr. Feltsman was warmly greeted at the White House, where he performed his first recital in North America. That same year, his debut at Carnegie Hall established him as a major pianist on the American and international scene.

A dedicated educator of young musicians, Mr. Feltsman holds the Distinguished Chair of Professor of Piano at the State University of New York, New Paltz, and is a member of the piano faculty at the Mannes College of Music in New York City. He is the founder and Artistic Director of the International Festival-Institute PianoSummer at New Paltz, a three-week-long, intensive training program for advanced piano students that attracts major young talents from all over the world. Mr. Feltsman is an American citizen. He and his wife Haewon live in upstate New York with four dogs.

Dr. Kelly Posner Gerstenhaber, Educational Leadership Award

Named one of *New York Magazine's* "Most Influential" people, Dr. Kelly Posner Gerstenhaber has been a long-standing advocate of education reform. She is the Founding Chairman of the Board of Turnaround for Children, the groundbreaking model that has been proven to fix failing schools in high-poverty communities, often referred to as "a missing link" of the education reform challenge. She is also co-founder of The Speyer Legacy School and Institute, the first independent school and education reform approach for advanced learners. For her work in both of these innovative educational initiatives, *Avenue* and *New York Family* magazines named her "Education Philanthropist of the Year." In 2011 she was also granted *The Turnaround Impact Award*, along with John Legend and NBC, joining the ranks of Joel Klein and Merryl Tisch. Dr. Posner Gerstenhaber graduated with honors from Brown University, and was awarded the most distinguished alumna over the past 50 years from her graduate school at Yeshiva University.

Among her notable achievements, the FDA commissioned Dr. Posner Gerstenhaber to establish methods which are now required for drug development programs and by many international health agencies. In a lead article in *The New York Times*, her work was characterized as "one of the most profound changes of the past 16 years to regulations governing drug development." Dr. Posner Gerstenhaber continues to work with U.S. Department of Education, New York State, New York City public schools, NIH, CDC, FDA, and all branches of the U.S. military. She is an international expert and spokesperson on suicide prevention and the treatment of depression, with appearances on NBC, CBS, *World News Tonight*, CNN and numerous global media forums, and also gave the invited address to the leaders of the European Union on how to tackle depression and suicide. Dr. Posner Gerstenhaber is an associate professor in psychiatry and the Director of the Center for Suicide Risk Assessment at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital.

Dr. Posner Gerstenhaber's dedication to improving the quality of education children receive in New York City's public schools is a belief that has always been embraced by Kaufman Music Center's educational arms, and it is our distinct privilege to honor her for her remarkable accomplishments.

Gale Brewer, *Public Leadership Award*

City Council Member Gale A. Brewer has been representing the Upper West Side and the northern part of Clinton in the New York City Council since 2002. Her service in the Council is a continuation of nearly 30 years of public service.

Council Member Brewer currently chairs the Committee on Governmental Operations after having chaired the Committee on Technology in Government (now the Committee on Technology) from 2002 through 2009. As Government Operations Chair, Brewer works to review governmental structure and organization with an eye toward increasing both efficiency and accountability, particularly in the delivery of services and the use of technology. Since taking office, Brewer has worked to make better use of technology to save money, improve City services, and bring residents, businesses and non-profits closer to government and their communities. Brewer is also the only Council Member to publish an education newsletter that highlights all the information and programs for every public school in her District.

Council Member Brewer co-chairs the Manhattan Delegation (MD), sits on the Council's Budget Negotiating Team (BNT) and is a member of the Rules Committee Working Group. Brewer has been instrumental in passing numerous laws, including legislation to open all city databases to the public, requiring landlords to repair underlying conditions that cause repeat housing violations, a ban on smoking in NYC parks and beaches, a law protecting domestic workers; a bill establishing the Broadband Advisory Committee; a bill establishing an electronic death registration system; two bills aimed at eliminating graffiti and unwanted stickers; and legislation requiring City publications to be made available via the Web.

Council Member Brewer has an MPA from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and she did her undergraduate work at Columbia University and Bennington College. She is married to Cal Snyder and has raised many foster children.

Gale has been a devoted fan and supporter of Kaufman Music Center as well as a wonderful neighbor for many years. A great friend of the arts and education, Gale has helped the Center received much-needed government support over the years. We are honored to recognize her for her tireless efforts as an advocate for the people of our city and her special and devoted friendship to the arts.

About Kaufman Music Center

Kaufman Music Center is New York's creative home for music education and performance. It's where music lovers, from curious fans to renowned performers, come together to explore their musical passions. Founded in 1952 as a community music school, today's Kaufman Music Center is one of the city's most vibrant cultural organizations, combining world-class teaching with electrifying performances featuring rising young classical stars, Broadway icons and cutting-edge performer/composers who are re-defining contemporary music. Kaufman Music Center is home to the acoustically superior **Merkin Concert Hall**; **Lucy Moses School**, New York's largest community arts school; and **Special Music School**, New York's only K-12 public school for musically gifted children.

Listings information:

Kaufman Music Center Honors

Venue: The Pierre (2 E. 61st St. at Fifth Ave., NYC)

Thursday, May 6, 2013, 6:30 pm

Individual ticket prices begin at \$1000. Table prices begin at \$10,000.

Festive dress.

Ticket information: 212 501 3350, gnapolitano@kaufman-center.com, or kaufman-center.org/kc/support/gala