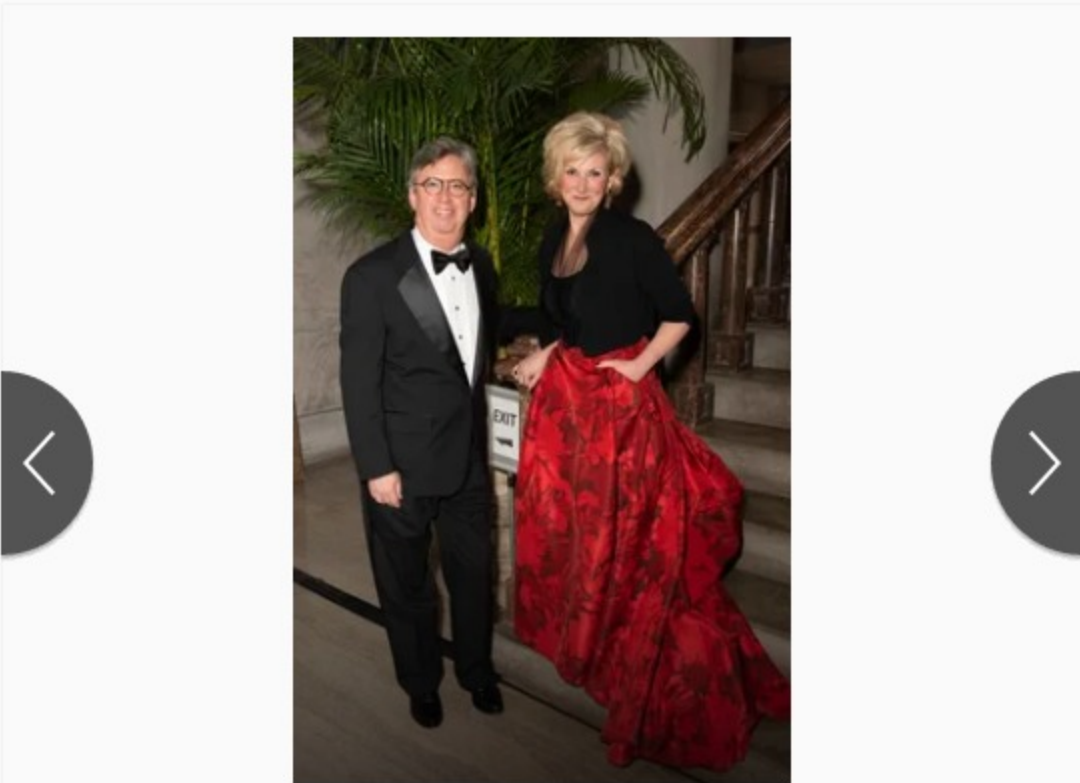


A Tennessee Waltz toasts tradition, celebrates state's history

Kendall Mitchell Gemmill, Special to Nashville Tennessean / USA TODAY NETWORK — TENNESSEE Published 5:11 p.m. CT May 6, 2019



The Tennessee State Museum's annual black-tie benefit, A Tennessee Waltz, held at the State Capitol, not only marked 27 years of the preservation and celebration of our state's history, but also the first waltz under Tennessee's 50th governor.

Gov. Bill Lee attended the gala with first lady Maria Lee, along with Tennessee State Museum Foundation chairman Dr. Paul McCombs and gala chair Pat Kerr Tigrett, among an eclectic mix of political dignitaries and notable Tennesseans from the arts and entertainment industries.

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First lady Maria and Gov. Bill Lee attend A Tennessee Waltz at the Tennessee State Capitol. (Photo: Tommy Lawson / Tennessee State Museum Foundation)

The Capitol smelled like spring with fresh blooms artfully arranged by floral designer Jim Marvin. Guests enjoyed a cocktail reception with spirits and wines provided by Jack Daniel Distillery and Brown-Forman. The Capitol balcony is always a popular place to lounge, with its panoramic views of the city, which at the time was hosting a record number of attendees for the NFL Draft.

Dinner was provided by chef Danielle Kates of d.Kates Catering and included a lemon vinaigrette spinach salad with shaved radish, cauliflower and apple, Black Angus filet with grilled shrimp, potato gratin, asparagus and tomato confit and chocolate pot de crème, salted caramel and brown butter shortbread for dessert. Kates also served an alternative dish of grilled cauliflower steak, English pea purée and a vegan toasted almond salad that caught the eyes of many

carnivores.



Ashley Howell, executive director of Tennessee State Museum, and Joe Howell attend A Tennessee Waltz at the Tennessee State Capitol. (Photo: Tommy Lawson / Tennessee State Museum Foundation)

The evening was full of musical entertainment, beginning with a violin solo by Dr. Ming Wang accompanied by Carlos Enrique on classical guitar. The museum foundation also partnered with Nashville Opera to present a Popera performance by Brent Hetherington and Darius Thomas. Per tradition, the duo included "The Tennessee Waltz" in their Broadway repertoire. The Eddie Gore Band continued the lineup of talented performers, playing hits that kept guests dancing late into the night.

A Tennessee Waltz is a night steeped in tradition, honoring and supporting the preservation efforts of the Tennessee State Museum. Last fall, the museum opened the doors of its new location at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park. Thanks to the work of museum officials and donations from benefactors and patrons of the Waltz, the museum has since since expanded its exhibition capacity, added new programming like teacher workshops and more than

doubled its attendance. For more information, hours and admission, visit tnmuseum.org.

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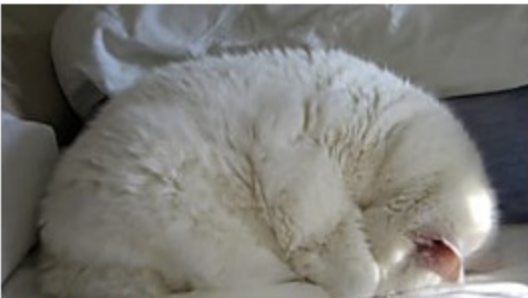


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