

Starlight and Stardust

Celestial Evenings All Around Town

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ust a few days before his sudden passing, Broadway legend Cy Coleman was honored in grand style by the community he loved and adored and the feeling was mutual.

The always spectacular Rainbow Room atop Rockefeller Center was transformed into a gold and white fantasy land for the 2nd Annual Johnny Mercer Award Gala honoring the beloved Cy, Broadway's composer extraordinaire.



Cy Coleman with Tony Bennett. Photo by Barry Gordin.

The legendary Margaret Whiting, president of the foundation, and her husband director/actor Jack Wrangler organized a supreme salute to the man who over five decades had delighted - and continues to delight - Broadway, television, film, concert hall and club audiences with his memorable tunes. Coleman, the creative genius behind such

smash hits as Sweet Charity, Little Me, City of Angels and The Will Rogers Follies not only appeared to receive the award but performed as well.

The glittering crowd, a veritable who's who of great American music, swirled around the room almost in time to the soft, melodic playing of jazz legend Bucky Pizzarelli. Among those toasting Cy and his lovely wife Shelby Coleman were Hal David, Tony Danza, Marty and Edith Segal, David Zippel, Charles Strouse, Jimmy Webb and Sheldon Harnick, Liz Callaway, Karen Mason, Phyllis Newman and Andrea Marcovici.



Tony Bennett, Chita Rivera, Cy Coleman
Photo by Barry Gordin.

There were stunning musical tributes to Cy from Kathie Lee Gifford, Ed Dixon, The Accenteuate The Positive Kids and Tony Award winners Brian Stokes Mitchell,

Glenn Close, Chita Rivera and Charles Strouse who gave a sneak peek at his new musical, Marty, as did Adam Guettel, who performed a tune from Light in the Piazza.

The highlight of the evening came when Tony Bennett presented Cy with The Johnny Mercer Foundation Award and then the pair took off in a terrific salute to Johnny Mercer, Richard Whiting and of course, Cy Coleman.

Three days later, one of the brightest lights on Broadway was extinguished and the Theater world mourned but also celebrated a giant. **BT**

To find out more information about:
The Johnny Mercer Foundation please visit www.johnnymercerfoundation.org



Cy Coleman Photo by Barry Gordin.

Lenox Hill Hospital Autumn Ball

On the very same evening and just blocks away, another magical evening was unfolding. Under the direction of a team of creative co-chairs - Kay and John McEnroe and Judy and Will Hiltz - and dinner chair Caroline A. Davis, the Waldorf Astoria's Grand ballroom was transformed into a cosmic fantasyland for the Lenox Hill Hospital Autumn Ball 2004, "Stardust." The milky way setting aglow with glittering stars and comets, was the perfect backdrop for this heavenly celebration of the Hospital's dedicated doctors, nurses and staff.



Francis Clap, Mike Wallace, Judy & Will Hiltz Photo by Brad Hess

It was also the ideal setting for the acknowledgment of the Hospital's "stars," this year's recipients of LHH Board of Trustees prestigious Medals of Distinction. Five stellar New Yorkers were singled out for this honor which has been presented to such extraordinary New Yorkers as Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Beverly Sills, Lena Horne, Neil Simon, Alan Alda, Carol Burnett, Harry Belafonte, Joe Namath, Katie Couric, Whoopi Goldberg, John McEnroe, Tom Brokaw, Julie Andrews, Bette Midler, and the 2003 Medal of Distinction recipients Al Roker and Deborah Roberts.

The 2004 Medals of Distinction were presented to: Erika K. Aron and Barbara W. Kummel for Volunteer Leadership, Theodore L. Sann for Creative Excellence, Armando E. Grassi, M.D. for Medical Excellence, Senator Roy M. Goodman for Community Service and Mike Wallace, The 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Journalism.

Glady's George, President of Lenox Hill Hospital, the gala's co-chairs and committees were thrilled with the success of the evening - "Stardust" raised \$ 2.4 million for the hospital's emergency care and community programs. **BT**



Ellen & Jim Marcus with Sen. Roy Goodman photo by Brad Hess

Please visit Lenox Hill Hospital's web site for more information about The Hospital's programs at www.lenoxhillhospital.org