



This year's Banff Centre Midsummer Ball Weekend is the most successful in the event's 31-year history. It sold out early, attracting over 370 industry, government, arts and culture, and community leaders from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, the United States, and overseas. Guests were on-hand to witness the grand opening of The Banff Centre's new Kinnear Centre for Creativity & Innovation—a world-class facility that will attract talented and diverse leaders, visionaries, creators, and artists from around the globe to explore, to create, and to invent new possibilities.



HRH The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, KG, KCVO, attended Saturday's opening of the Kinnear Centre for Creativity & Innovation, part of a program that included remarks by attendees including Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment, and donor James Kinnear, along with performances by Aeriosa Dance, Jens Lindemann, and James Ehnes. The Prince Edward also attended the Ball Gala Champagne Reception, where he participated in unveiling a commissioned sculpture by Brian Jungen, *The ghosts on top of my head*.



Over \$750,000 was raised in support of artist scholarships. Midsummer Ball scholarships have a transformative impact on the lives and careers of artists. Thanks to the generous support of leading corporate sponsors and individual donors, many talented emerging and established artists from Canada and around the world — in the areas of music and sound, opera, dance, theatre, literary arts, Aboriginal arts, media and visual arts — will be able to attend The Banff Centre's world-class professional development programs.



Friday night's Food Festival and Cabaret was a weekend hit. Guests enjoyed fabulous wine and roving food stations before being treated to an appetizer-sized portion of the stage comedy *Bittergirl*. The show featured four performers and four musicians from the musical comedy which is currently in development and was workshopped at The Banff Centre in summer 2010.



Leading Banff Centre alumni and friends from Canada and around the world performed on the Ball Weekend in support of artist scholarships and to celebrate the opening of the new Kinnear Centre for Creativity & Innovation. Feature performers included the Canadian Tenors; aerial dance troupe Aeriosa Dance; 17-year-old violin sensation Bora Kim; Grammy- and Juno-nominated trumpet virtuoso Jens Lindemann, and renowned composer, performer, producer, clinician and pianist Kristian Alexandrov.



J. Vair Anderson Jewellers and MC Angela Knight of CBC Radio presented "Inspiring Creativity" Scholarship Fund incentive winners Patricia Holden and David Aisenstat (President and CEO, The Keg Restaurants) each with a \$9,000 Rolex watch. For each \$1,000 scholarship donation guests were entered to win one of two Rolex watches compliments of J. Vair Anderson Jewellers and Rolex Canada Ltd.

"The Banff Centre gives artists a voice and the chance to interact with other artists in a setting that instills both inspiration and contemplation. It is a pleasure to be able to sponsor artists and in some small way be part of this artistic process!" **Jacqueline Nowak, 2010 Ball sponsor and attendee**