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**Subject:** Avrams Feted at Grand Reopening of Avram Theater

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Stony Brook University President Shirley Strum Kenny (center) with Dr. Mike and Maria Avram at the grand re-opening of the Avram Theater and Gallery on Thursday, July 10. Photo credit: Gordon M. Grant.

## **Avrams Feted at Grand Reopening of Avram Theater**

Dr. Mike and Maria Avram were honored at the official reopening of the Avram Theater and Gallery on Thursday, July 10, at a special joint concert of Music at Southampton: Sustainable Treasures starring acclaimed soprano Christine Goerke and the popular Pianofest series, drawing over 300 audience members.

Dr. Avram, who, with his wife, were recently Grand Marshals of the Fourth of July parade in Southampton, said at a special reception in his honor that he was "proud of this new venue for young people and artists on the East End."

He added, "The venue is large, totally renovated, new and with a deep and very high stage that permits festive and important productions.

"The acoustics are incredibly clear -- the best on East End. The new carpeting, stage, curtains, seats ... This is a true Lincoln Center in the Hamptons! It has a gallery with magnificent terrace to complement this romantic, artistic and successful new venue."

The Avram Theater has a rich legacy as a host for the world's top performers and their audiences. The \$1M restoration includes the installation of new seats, modernized lighting and sound equipment, backstage renovations, and modifications to make the 429-seat theater fully accessible. The new Avram Theater can now easily host movies, conferences, theater, music and dance. Currently, the Avram Gallery has the posters of famed Broadway artist James McMullan on display through September 8. Music at Southampton: Sustainable Treasures continues on July 17 at 8 p.m. with a jazz performance by Joel Frahm and Friends. Tickets are available by calling 631-632-8000 or visiting [www.stonybrook.edu/treasures](http://www.stonybrook.edu/treasures).

Added Paul Shenly, director of Pianofest: "The Avram Theater is an auditorium with warm and beautiful acoustics for music, and has a distinguished tradition of Pianofest concerts and myriad other significant artistic events. I am excited by the fact that all of this beauty and art will continue to have the opportunity to be presented there.

"I am grateful to Stony Brook Southampton and the Avram family, and indeed, very, very much. All of us in the arts and everyone who has attended an event there understands how important and what a gem the Avram Theater is to the cultural life of the East End. No facility on the East End could be more important and nurturing to cultural life in the Hamptons. It is both a cradle and a magnet."

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**Attachments:**

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