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A night of gastronomic delights



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On Tuesday evening, Roy Thompson Hall was transformed into a cornucopia of gastronomic delights, all in the name of a good cause.



HEATHER BUCHAN/FOR METRO

As nearly 600 guests – who had each paid \$150 to attend the 16th annual Eat to the Beat fundraising event – wandered throughout the Roy Thompson's circular lobby sampling the sweet and savoury delights on hand, 60 of Canada's top female chefs prepped and served their specially-made creations.

Karalee La Rochelle, left, dressed as the dessert Charlotte Russe and Monica Chang as French Onion Soup, were just two of the 22 corset models Tuesday at the fundraiser Eat to the Beat at Roy Thompson Hall.

Each one of the culinary wizards, from Donna Dooher of Mildred's Temple Kitchen to Anne Yarymowich of the AGO's Frank restaurant, donated both their time and talent to the evening which benefited the national charity Willow Breast Cancer Support Canada.

Raising funds

To date, the Eat to the Beat fundraiser has raised \$3.1 million for Willow – the national non-profit organization dedicated to providing women and their loved ones affected by breast cancer with free support programs.

From smoked duck breast on a sesame crisp with sea buckthorn and cranberries prepared by Lindsay Skoropada of the Stratford Chef School to soy-cured wild salmon on sushi rice and Asian pear created by the Spice Route's Winlai Wong, the savoury dishes on offer didn't disappoint.

"Honestly, I am overwhelmed. The food is endless," said Jolene Leon, who attended with her friend Maria. "I thought it would just be one little room with a few food stations. It's really spectacular. I

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wish they had an oxygen bar!”

George Restaurant’s Tracy Wong, who served up a delectable hubbard squash cheesecake with cardamom roasted pearl pear with vanilla chantilly said, “I’ve heard so much about the event. I was so happy to jump on board and showcase this dessert. Squash is in season now and so we thought we’d play on that and see what we could come up with.”

Strolling throughout the venue were ladies donning food-inspired corsets including French Onion Soup and the dessert Charlotte Russe.

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