

Siblings delight Kiwanis festival fans

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Everything was coming up roses for the impeccable party that Gerry

Arial, floral designer to the rich and famous, recently hosted in support of the Kiwanis Music Festival scholarship funds.



From left, Hermina Wang, Bryan Cheng, 14, Yale Cheng and Silvie Cheng, 21, at an exclusive reception and concert hosted by Gerry Arial of The Silver Rose in support of the Kiwanis Music Festival, National Capital Region.

The exclusive event for 20 guests featured a concert by pianist Silvie Cheng, 21, and her cello-playing brother,

Bryan Cheng, 14. "Someday, they will be world-famous," Arial predicted while joking he'll never touch

his piano again.

Silvie is studying, on scholarship, at the Manhattan School of Music while Bryan attends Lisgar Collegiate. The siblings delighted everyone with their charming and self-assured ways, not to mention their exceptional talent.

The concert program included Saint-saëns' The

Swan, which the Chengs played as one of their encores during their recent debut at Carnegie Hall. Afterward, Aline Chrétien was heard congratulating the musicians' father, electrical engineer Yale

Cheng, who was there with his scientist wife, Hermina

Wang. "It was a gift to be here tonight," said Chrétien, who was only sorry her husband, former PM Jean

Chrétien, was out of town and had to miss it.

Supporters also included philanthropist Jeanne Fuller; Gerda Hnatyshyn, head of The Hnatyshyn Foundation established by her late husband, former governor general Ray Hnatyshyn; community leader Grete Hale; Sound Venture Productions president Neil

Bregman and general contractor Sean Lundy. Gary Morton, executive director of the Kiwanis Music Festival NCR, was there with his wife,

Marlene.

The concert was held last Sunday in Arial's O'Connor Street heritage home, where his florist store, The Silver Rose, is also located. His shop was filled with the scent and sight of fresh flowers. Paintings done by Arial hung on the wall. Elegant servers, who addressed guests by their formal names, passed around champagne and hors d'oeuvres (prepared by Arial) and post-concert chocolates and tea.

Guests left with the parting gift of a dozen beautiful longstem yellow roses and tickets to the Chengs' next Carnegie Hall concert in April 2013. It was the perfect ending to a perfect party.