



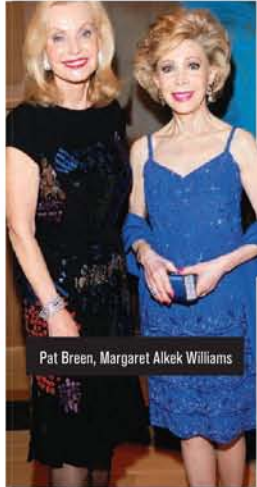
Mark Sullivan, Tony Mandola



Jamie Dabbs, Irena Hixson



Oksana Stavnychy, Viktoria Soto



Pat Breen, Margaret Alkek Williams



Alex Blair



Lynn Wyatt and her HGO backup singers



Carol DeArman, Albert Rubio

# Singing for Supper!

À la *Idol*, society swells belt it out at Becca's.

It's not every day that society royalty Lynn Wyatt struts her stuff onstage, crooning a rather convincing rendition of "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" with a bevy of backup boys. (Marilyn who?) But *this* wasn't an everyday occasion.

Becca Cason Thrash, clad in a shoulder-baring and boldly belted Fendi frock, invited nearly 250 Houston Grand Opera patrons and performers to her Memorial-area manse for "Singing With the Houston Idols," another party-turned-production in which local luminaries lit up the stage for a good cause. (Her springtime "Dancing with the Houston Stars" event benefiting Houston Ballet was such a hit, she traded fancy footwork for vivacious vocals in honor of the opera company.)

Gathered around tables dotting the perimeter of Thrash's indoor pool, partygoers enjoyed vino from the Tasting Room and a multicourse meal from

chefs at Max's Wine Dive, Convivio, Tony Mandola's and Ryan Hildebrand's new Triniti. Between courses, performers, including Tony Mandola himself, took to the stage with their Craig Kier-produced numbers—he's a voice coach and HGO's associate director—to compete for first prize, to be chosen by the audience.

Besides Wyatt and Mandola, who offered a soulful "I'd Rather Drink Muddy Water," singers included Bobby Tudor, Robin Angly, and society writer Shelby Hodge, who channeled a Supremes-era Diana Ross. In the end it was Wyatt who took top honors, tying for first with opera patron Harlan Stai, who would not settle for second place with his rendition of an aria from *Rigoletto*, performed in an Elvis costume. Spotted in the enthralled audience were Susan Plank, Cynthia and Tony Petrello, Matthew Dirst, Sue and Lester Smith, and Donna and Bob Bruni.

While Thrash herself did not play songbird, she took to the mic not only as emcee but also as auctioneer for a live auction that included a set of Fendi luggage. In all, the opera company raised about \$300,000, which truly is music to HGO's ears!  
—Evan Wetmore



Bobby and Phoebe Tudor



Audrey Cochran, Mary D'Andrea, Valerie Dieterich



Poolside dining at John and Becca Cason Thrash's home



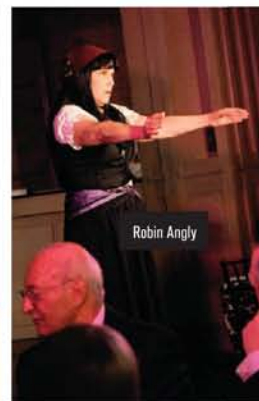
Alisa White, Shelby Hodge, Sandra Campbell



Diane Caplan, Edward Sanchez



Donna Bruni, Norman Ambrosia



Robin Angly



Becca Cason Thrash