

International Awards Dinner



On September 25th, IIE hosted its annual International Awards Dinner at The Plaza in New York City. The theme of the dinner was “IMPACT,” as it is of this report. This year IIE recognized BP and its Chairman, Lord Browne of Madingley, with its inaugural **Opening Minds Corporate Leadership Award**, and composer, conductor, and Fulbright alumnus, Lukas Foss, with the **Fritz Redlich Alumni Award**.

In his greeting, James J. Schiro, CEO of Zurich Financial Services, who served as the evening’s Welcoming Co-Chair, noting Zurich’s role of building bridges of understanding — with customers, neighbors, investors and employees around the world, said:

“Today, more than ever before, leaders of all stripes need to be able to work effectively across cultures. We need to encourage bright young men and women to learn to live in cultures that are different — so they not only understand those cultures, but also appreciate the differences and respect them. That is vitally important. And it is central to the work of the Institute of International Education.”

BP, the largest hydrocarbons company in the U.S., works in some of the world’s wealthiest countries, as well as the poorest and most war-torn nations. Under Lord Browne’s leadership, it is committed to fostering new standards of transparency and ethics in the way it does business, assuring that its presence in a community results in mutual advantage. BP seeks to be a force for good.

In accepting the award on Lord Browne’s behalf, Patti Bellinger, BP’s Head of Leadership Education, Global Diversity and Inclusion, said:

“Education is the critical path forward toward these important but very challenging aspirations. We’ve all seen how education can be the enabler of progress, so we invest — in communities, in primary education, but also in educational experiences for young people at the world’s greatest institutions of higher education....to create the leaders of tomorrow in government, and academia and in business.”

Lukas Foss was introduced by Dr. Leon Botstein, President of Bard College and music director of the American Symphony Orchestra, who was recently appointed music director of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. In his introduction, he said:

“Lukas Foss is probably one of the musicians that all musicians both admire and envy. Music, like any other field, is very competitive and people think if you do one thing well, that’s enough....Lukas Foss...is a fabulous conductor and a great composer. And you will never hear anyone play J.S. Bach as well....”

Dr. Botstein also noted that this award makes a statement that the arts are not merely peripheral to the quality of democracy. In fact they are crucial to the expression of freedom. Upon accepting his award, Lukas Foss played *Fantasy Rondo*, which he had composed at the age of 23.

At IIE’s International Awards Dinner, Left: IIE Chairman Thomas S. Johnson and Trustee Thomas Russo present Patti Bellinger, BP’s Head of Leadership Education, Global Diversity and Inclusion, with the Opening Minds Corporate Leadership Award on behalf of Lord Browne. Center: Fulbright Alumnus and renowned composer Lukas Foss with Bard College President Leon Botstein; Right: Welcoming Co-Chair James J. Schiro, CEO of Zurich Financial Services, with Lukas Foss.