

HOST WITH THE MOST

JONATHAN ROSS

THROWS A PARTY FOR A
CAUSE CLOSE TO HIS HEART



The evening's host Jonathan with Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, whose company Three's A Crowd organised the fundraiser in aid of the Lowe Syndrome Trust.



Jonathan Ross could be forgiven for wanting an evening off. As a presenter of weekly shows on both BBC1 and Radio 2, the busy father-of-three admits that family time is precious. But it was thoughts of a family other than his own that led him to host a fundraising gala for the Lowe Syndrome Trust last week.

Jonathan first became aware of the charity when its founder, Lorraine Thomas, approached him. Her 19-year-old son Oscar has the syndrome, which causes physical and mental handicaps. Sadly, life expectancy for those with the genetic condition is low. The Trust funds medical research in the hope of finding a cure.

"Lorraine told me she'd tried to get a few celebrities involved and had had no luck," Jonathan told HELLO!. "I appreciated how hard it was and signed up."

The event was held at London's trendy Florida bar where guests included Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, Beverley Knight, Louise Redknapp, Russell Watson, Jean-Christophe Novelli and Tony Hadley. To help raise money on the night, Jonathan and Tara hosted a charity auction, with lots that included a private charter flight to Jamie Oliver's Fifteen restaurant in Cornwall, and a Garrard necklace worn by Madonna



The Trust's founder Lorraine Thomas (above) – whose son Oscar (below) has the syndrome – was delighted with the turnout, which included chef Jean-Christophe Novelli and Arsenal footballers Mathieu Flamini and Alexander Hleb

...told us she was "really nervous" about the
beforehand. "But once I was up there, I
oyed myself," she grinned.
an himself bid for a Chelsea football shirt
been signed by the team and their recently
d manager Jose Mourinho. The TV
won the auction, only to claim afterwards
bid just to get the price up. "I don't even
call!" he admitted.
past, he has donated some of his typically
nt suits to Lowe Syndrome Trust auctions.
y didn't go for as much as they cost me,"
HELLO! with mock indignation. "I can

could have bought them for Halloween."

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Tony Hadley, attending with his girlfriend Aii, is another celebrity who has played an important part in the charity's success. The ex-Spandau Ballet singer is so involved that he has even met scientists at Imperial College, London, when they received a research grant from the Trust. "All the charity wants to do is raise enough to find a cure," he said. "Lorraine works so tirelessly and Oscar is a lovely little lad."

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Opera star Russell Watson and singer Beverley Knight provided the entertainment. "I'm glad I can be a part of this," said Beverley



Spandau Ballet singer Tony Hadley is a keen supporter of children's charities. "We want to

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That's Life and *Strangers in the Night*. It seems hard to believe that this time last year he was in hospital after being diagnosed with a brain tumour. "It's been pretty tough, but I'm getting there," said the singer, who is currently working on a new album. "They're keeping an eye on me."

Like Russell, Beverley Knight donated her performance for the evening. "After talking to Lorraine about her son, I'm glad I can be a part of this," she told HELLO!. "As much as we're all having fun, it brings it all into focus."

While some guests danced into the early hours, Jonathan headed for home. "My daughter is going away on her first school trip tomorrow, so I want to see her," he revealed, ever the family man. **H**

REPORT: DAWN EMERY