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<http://www.mahaiwe.org/press.html>

**Mahaiwe Presents An Evening with Joshua Bell and Alessio Bax
October 28 concert to honor Ursula and Walter Cliff**

Great Barrington, Mass.— Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center will present a concert by world-renowned violinist Joshua Bell and pianist Alessio Bax on Friday, October 28 at 8:00pm. The benefit recital will honor longtime Mahaiwe supporters Ursula and Walter Cliff of South Egremont.

“We are thrilled to present Joshua Bell, one of the most acclaimed violinists of our time,” said Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “This concert promises to be an exceptional experience given the beautiful acoustics and intimate setting of the Mahaiwe Theater. It is also a special opportunity for us to recognize the Cliffs at this memorable event.”

“Ursula and Walter Cliff have been supporters of the Mahaiwe since the very beginning,” noted Mahaiwe Founder Lola Jaffe. “They had faith in this exciting endeavor from very early on and have been enthusiastically involved ever since.”

Joshua Bell is one of the most celebrated violinists of his era, and his restless curiosity, passion, and multifaceted musical interests are almost unparalleled in the classical music world. Born in Bloomington, Indiana in 1967, he received his first violin at age four and at 12 began studying with Josef Gingold at Indiana University. At 14, Bell began his rise to stardom, performing with Riccardo Muti and the Philadelphia Orchestra, and at 17, he made his Carnegie Hall debut.

Named the Music Director of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields in 2011, Bell is the first person to hold this post since Sir Neville Marriner formed the orchestra in 1958. An exclusive Sony Classical artist, Bell has recorded more than 40 CDs garnering Grammy, Mercury, Gramophone, and Echo Klassik awards since his first LP recording at age 18 on the Decca Label. His Brahms recording was released last month, featuring the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Steven Isserlis, and Jeremy Denk.

Pianist Alessio Bax, Leeds and Hamamatsu International Piano Competition and 2009 Avery Fisher Career Grant winner, has appeared as a soloist with over 100 orchestras, including the London and Royal Philharmonics. Bax is celebrated for his vast repertoire, which has grown continuously since he graduated from the conservatory in Bari, Italy at the age of 14.

The recital program includes Beethoven “Sonata in A Major for Violin and Piano, Op. 12, No. 2,” Brahms “(Sonatensatz) Scherzo C minor for Violin and Piano, Brahms “Sonata No. 3 for Violin and Piano in D minor, Op. 108,” Ysaÿe “Violin Sonata No.3 in D minor, Op. 27,” Debussy “Sonata in G minor for Violin and Piano, L140,” and Sarasate “Carmen Fantasy for Violin and Piano, Op. 25.” Please note that the program is subject to change.

Tickets

Tickets are \$65 to \$250 (with the latter including a pre-show cocktail reception at Lauren Clark Fine Art Gallery, premium seats for the performance, and a post-show reception onstage with the artists). Proceeds will support the Mahaiwe’s year-round artistic and education programs. The Mahaiwe is located at 14 Castle Street in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Box office hours are Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 6:00pm and three hours before show times. For tickets and information, see www.mahaiwe.org.

About the Mahaiwe

Located in downtown Great Barrington, Massachusetts, the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center is the year-round presenter of world-class music, dance, theater, classic films, Live in HD broadcasts, and arts education programs for the southern Berkshires and neighboring regions. The intimate jewel box of a theater opened in 1905. Since 2005, the performing arts center has hosted over 1,000 events and welcomed almost half a million people through its doors. The Mahaiwe has now welcomed over 15,000 students from 55 different schools for its school-time performances and residencies.