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

Mahaiwe December Events
Melissa Etheridge, John Pizzarelli, HD Broadcasts, and Family Movies

Great Barrington, Mass.— The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center will present an array of festive events in December, including concerts by Melissa Etheridge and John Pizzarelli, HD broadcasts by Met Opera, London’s National Theatre, and Bolshoi Ballet, and family movies. “It is always a treat to celebrate the holidays at the Mahaiwe,” said Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “From all-star concerts to nostalgic classic movies and performance broadcasts—when it’s freezing and snowy outside, we look forward to a warm and wonderful season inside our historic theater.”

Live Music

Rock star Melissa Etheridge’s Holiday Trio will perform on Friday, December 9 at 8:00pm. For this special holiday show, she will sing fan favorites and holiday classics, such as “Merry Christmas Baby,” “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas,” “O Night Divine,” and more. Etheridge’s critically acclaimed eponymous debut album was certified double platinum. Her popularity built around such memorable songs as “Bring Me Some Water,” “No Souvenirs,” and “Ain’t It Heavy” (for which she won her first Grammy for Best Female Rock Vocal). Etheridge hit her commercial and artistic stride with her fourth album, *Yes I Am*, featuring the massive hits “I’m the Only One” and “Come to My Window,” a searing song of longing that brought her a second Grammy. The six-time platinum album spent more than two and a half years on the album chart. On June 20, 2016, she released a song called “Pulse” that she wrote in reaction to the mass shootings that took place in Orlando. As she told *Rolling Stone*, “We want to try to

make sense. We want to try to heal. We want to bring some meaning, some purpose. We also want to put it down forever in history. That's how I'm coping." All proceeds from the sale of "Pulse" will benefit Equality Florida, the state's largest LGBT civil rights organization. Tickets are \$70 to \$145. This concert is sponsored by Cyril and Dayne Artisan Eyewear.

On Sunday, December 11 at 7:00pm, legendary jazz guitarist and singer John Pizzarelli will present *Midnight McCartney* based on his recent Paul McCartney-inspired album of the same title. The album was actually Sir Paul's idea; he proposed that Pizzarelli interpret some of his lesser-known tunes in a mellow jazz style. Pizzarelli, his wife Jessica Molaskey—co-producer of *Midnight McCartney*—and pianist Larry Goldings immediately went into research mode, digging through McCartney's albums of the last 45-plus years to find songs that could be re-harmonized and adapted for Pizzarelli's trademark style. As he told the *Wall Street Journal*, "I asked myself a couple of questions: 'How can we take the style we do and communicate it to people who grew up on Gershwin and people who grew up on the Beatles? How do we communicate jazz to the non-jazz listeners?'" Pizzarelli will be joined onstage at the Mahaiwe by Molaskey and his band, the Swing 7. Tickets are \$29 to \$120.

Met Opera, London's National Theatre, and Bolshoi Ballet HD Broadcasts

Met Opera Live in HD will broadcast Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho's breakthrough opera, *L'Amour de Loin*, on Saturday, December 10 at 1:00pm (with an encore presentation on Wednesday, December 21 at 1:00pm). Commissioned by the Salzburg Festival, where it was first seen in 2000, it will now finally have its Metropolitan Opera premiere in a dazzling new production by Robert Lepage, featuring glimmering ribbons of LED lights that extend across the length of the stage and over the orchestra pit. Eric Owens is the knight on a quest of love and Susanna Phillips is his lover on the other side of the sea. Conductor Susanna Mälkki makes her Met debut. Scholar Scott Eyerly will give a lively talk about the production at 11:30am before the first screening on December 10. Tickets are \$18 to \$25 and \$10 for the pre-broadcast lecture.

Sunday, December 18 at 3:00pm (with an encore broadcast on Saturday, January 28 at 7:00pm), London's National Theatre will present *No Man's Land*. Following their hit run on Broadway, Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart return to the West End stage in Harold Pinter's play, broadcast live to cinemas from Wyndham's Theatre. One summer's evening, two aging writers, Hirst and Spooner, meet in a Hampstead pub and continue their drinking into the night. Recommended for audience members ages 17+ due to explicit language and adult content. Tickets are \$17.

Thursday, December 22 at 1:00pm, the Bolshoi Ballet will broadcast *The Nutcracker*, with choreography by Yuri Grigorovich and music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The holidays would not be complete without the enchanting tale of young Marie and her Nutcracker prince. The production transports children and adults alike to a world of magic and wonder. This is an encore broadcast; the production was captured live in 2014. Jacob's Pillow Scholar-in-Residence Brian Schaefer will give a pre-screening talk at 12:40pm. Tickets are \$17.

Family Movies

The Mahaiwe will screen *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* (1971) starring Gene Wilder on Saturday, December 17 at 4:00pm and Disney's animated classic, *The Jungle Book* (1967), on Tuesday, December 27 at 4:00pm. General admission tickets are \$7.

In addition, the theater will present its annual free holiday screening of Frank Capra's *It's A Wonderful Life* (1946) as a gift to the community on Friday, December 23 at 7:00pm. Mahaiwe movies are sponsored by Don Buchwald and Associates and Greylock Federal Credit Union.

[Tickets](#)

A limited number of \$15 tickets are available for audience members ages 30 and younger to the Mahaiwe's live performances through the Mahaiwe ArtSmart Tix program. 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 or call 413.528.0100.

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.