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

Mahaiwe Announces Concerts by Pink Martini, Michael Feinstein, and Sutton Foster, plus education collaborations with Jacob's Pillow and Shakespeare & Company

Great Barrington, Mass.— Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center Executive Director Beryl Jolly announced three additions to the 2017 summer schedule today, including concerts by Pink Martini (July 11), Michael Feinstein (August 6), and Sutton Foster (August 14). The theatre will also collaborate with Shakespeare & Company, Jacob's Pillow Dance, and OLLI on pre-broadcast lectures before two upcoming screenings of HD productions by London's National Theatre and the Bolshoi Ballet.

“Mahaiwe events are about celebrating the power and beauty of collective experiences. We know that sharing an experience in a theater is very different from watching entertainment alone at home,” said Jolly. “We invite everyone in to share these world-class treats with family, friends, neighbors, and newcomers.”

Pink Martini will swing into the Mahaiwe on Tuesday, July 11 at 8:00pm. “We're delighted to bring back Pink Martini—one of our most-requested bands,” said Jolly. “Their international panoply of artistry brings a collaborative, inclusive spirit and global celebration to Great Barrington.”

Featuring a dozen musicians, Pink Martini performs its multilingual repertoire on concert stages and with symphony orchestras throughout Europe, Asia, Greece, Turkey, the Middle East, Northern Africa, Australia, New Zealand, South America, and North

America. Pink Martini made its European debut at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997. In its twentieth year, Pink Martini was inducted into both the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame and the Oregon Music Hall of Fame. The Portland, Oregon-based “little orchestra” offers a musical travelogue from samba in Rio to cabaret music in Paris to Japanese torch songs to Maurice Ravel’s “Bolero.” Tickets are \$36 to \$101.

Michael Feinstein will perform selections from the Great American Songbook on Sunday, August 6 at 7:00pm. “Michael is really unparalleled in his role as ambassador for these American classics, especially works by Ira Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, and Johnny Mercer,” said Jolly. “He brings contemporary interpretation to great music legends.”

Feinstein has built a dazzling career over the last three decades bringing the music of the Great American Songbook to the world. From recordings that have earned him five Grammy Award nominations to his Emmy nominated PBS-TV specials, his acclaimed NPR series, and concerts spanning the globe—in addition to his appearances at iconic venues such as The White House, Buckingham Palace, Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall, and Sydney Opera House—his work as an educator and archivist define him as one of the most important musical forces of our time. Tickets are \$65 to \$115. This concert is sponsored by Cyril & Dayne.

Award-winning actor, singer, and dancer Sutton Foster will grace the Mahaiwe stage on Monday, August 14 at 8:00pm. “Given the great appreciation our audiences have for Broadway stars, we’re thrilled to welcome two-time Tony winner Sutton Foster for her first visit to the Mahaiwe. Sutton has taken the stage and screen by storm and I believe she’s one of the stars for the ages,” said Jolly.

Foster has performed in eleven Broadway shows—including the 2014 revival of *Violet*—and she originated roles in the Broadway productions of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Little Women*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Shrek the Musical*, and her Tony Award-winning performances in *Anything Goes* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Her most recent stage

appearance was off-Broadway in the New Group's production of *Sweet Charity* at the Signature Center. She was first seen on television on *Star Search* at age 15, and has more recently appeared in *Bunheads*, *Psych*, *Johnny and the Sprites*, *Flight of the Conchords*, *Sesame Street*, *Law and Order SVU* and *Royal Pains*. She is currently starring in TVLand's new series, *Younger*, created by Darren Star.

The Mahaiwe is partnering with Jacob's Pillow Dance to present a special talk by Jacob's Pillow Scholar-in-residence Brian Schaefer about Simon Morrison's book, *Bolshoi Confidential, Secrets of the Russian Ballet from the Rule of the Tsars to Today* on Sunday, April 23 at 12:00pm. Under Putin in the 21st century, the Bolshoi Theater has been called on to preserve a priceless artistic legacy and mirror Russia's neo-imperial ambitions. "In these complex times, when Russia is very much in the news, It feels valuable to consider history through the lens of the arts," said Jolly. This event is co-sponsored by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and the Bookloft, which is selling the book at its Great Barrington store with a 15% discount for those wishing to read it before the talk. Admission is free.

At 12:40pm following his book talk, Schaefer will introduce the Bolshoi Ballet in HD's production of *A Hero of Our Time*, which will begin at 1:00pm. Choreographed by Yuri Possokhov, with music by Ilya Demutsky, the ballet was adapted from Mikhail Lermontov's 1840 literary masterpiece. The story of this new dance follows the larger-than-life hero Pechorin on his tragic, poetic journey. This will be an encore broadcast of the production, which will be captured live on April 9, 2017. Tickets to the Bolshoi Ballet in HD, including the pre-broadcast talk, are \$17. \$10 tickets are available for young people ages 21 and under.

On Saturday, April 8 at 7:00pm, Shakespeare & Company's new artistic director, Allyn Burrows, will give a talk in advance of the 7:30pm HD broadcast of *Twelfth Night* from London's National Theatre. Tamsin Greig plays Malvolia in Simon Godwin's joyous new production of Shakespeare's classic comedy of mistaken identity. Tickets are \$17,

including the pre-broadcast talk, and \$10 tickets are available for young people age ages 21 and under.

Tickets

Tickets to the newly announced live shows will go on sale to Mahaiwe members on Friday, February 24 and to the general public on Friday, March 10. The HD broadcasts are available on an ongoing basis. 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 16,000 students from 57 different schools for its school-time performances and residencies.