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High-resolution photograph available for download at

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

Mahaiwe Announces New Director of Advancement

Great Barrington, Mass.— The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Janis Martinson as Director of Advancement. She will assume her new position at the theater on July 1.

Martinson will work with Mahaiwe senior leadership to develop and articulate the organization's long-term organizational strategies and vision, supervise the development staff to achieve all major gift, special event, and contributed income goals, and help establish new campaign initiatives for the Mahaiwe's strength and sustainability.

“As a long-time Egremont resident, I am thrilled at the opportunity to support a thriving cultural institution in the southern Berkshires. From its founding, I have been a fan of the Mahaiwe, so working on behalf of the organization is like a homecoming for me. As someone who studied and taught drama, and whose first years as a fundraising professional were for a theater company, I look forward to helping to ensure local access to world-class performing arts,” said Martinson. “I’m convinced that sitting together in the dark, having a shared—if not identical—experience, replenishes our emotional reserves and strengthens our sense of community. I am excited about the Mahaiwe’s varied offerings, its educational programming, and its active partnerships with other non-profit cultural organizations. It will be a privilege to help anchor those activities financially and to help to ensure the ongoing preservation of its historic building.”

Currently, Martinson is Vice-President of Institutional Advancement at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA, where she has led university fundraising and alumni and donor relations for three years. She spent 17 years as Chief Advancement Officer at Miss Hall's School in Pittsfield, MA, leading two capital campaigns, developing volunteer cohorts, and overseeing events and communications. She has raised more than \$90 million over 26 years spent in fundraising for educational and performing arts organizations. She is a graduate of Princeton University and U-Mass Amherst's Isenberg School of Management.

“We are very excited that Janis Martinson will be joining the Mahaiwe team. Her skills, passion for arts and education, and her commitment to this Berkshires community make her the perfect fit,” said Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “We appreciate the support of Dowley Associates, which facilitated this search process.”

“We are thrilled to welcome Janis Martinson to our stellar staff. Her many years of experience at senior levels of development and communications, as well as her deep roots in our community, will help take the Mahaiwe to its next level,” said Mahaiwe Board Chair Maggie Buchwald. “The board looks forward to working closely with Janis and we are eager to introduce her to our many friends, supporters, and audiences.”

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 over half a million people through its doors. More than 18,000 students from 61 different schools have benefited from the Mahaiwe's school-time performances and residencies. For tickets and information, see www.mahaiwe.org or call 413.528.0100.

[About the Berkshires](#)

Less than three hours from New York City and Boston, the Berkshires offers culture and adventure year-round. The surrounding mountains provide plenty of opportunity for outdoor excursions in all seasons while world class culture and entertainment, along with a deeply rooted food culture and an array of lodging options amidst picturesque towns, set this region apart. For more information, visit berkshires.org.