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

Mahaiwe Announces Fall and Winter Events

Highlights include John Pizzarelli with Catherine Russell, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas Special, and Thompson Square Duo

Great Barrington, Mass.— Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly announces additions to the performing arts center’s fall and winter schedule, including John Pizzarelli with Catherine Russell, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas Special, and Thompson Square Duo, along with Bolshoi Ballet in HD and London’s National Theatre in HD broadcasts. Tickets to the live events go on sale to Mahaiwe members on August 3 and to the public on August 11. Tickets to the Bolshoi Ballet in HD and London’s National Theatre in HD broadcasts go on sale to Mahaiwe members on August 23 and to the public on August 25.

“For the past dozen years, the Mahaiwe has presented world-class, year-round programming that’s contributed to the transformation of Great Barrington. People now come every season from near and far to attend our events and enjoy the creative vibrancy of downtown Great Barrington,” says Jolly. “We’re excited to add the breadth and variety of these fall and winter offerings to our 2017 season slate: from country music to iconic modern dance, plus great southern gospel and quintessential jazz for memorable holiday celebrations. The Mahaiwe team is also delighted to bring more arts education programs into local schools, with the workshops by the Paul Taylor dancers in addition to our annual hip-hop residency. The magic continues!”

Over Columbus Day weekend, Paul Taylor Dance Company will celebrate its tenth consecutive season of performances at the Mahaiwe on Saturday, October 7 at 8:00pm and Sunday, October 8 at 2:00pm. One of the seminal artists of our time, Paul Taylor continues to shape the homegrown American art of modern dance that he has helped define since becoming a professional dancer and pioneering choreographer in 1954. The program will include three pieces: Set to music by Richard Wagner and Heinrich Baermann, Paul Taylor's *Roses* (1985) is a paean to love and relationships in various stages. Set to Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" recomposed by Max Richter, *Continuum* (2017) is an abstract work by Taylor alumna Lila York, commissioned through Taylor Company Commissions and made on the Taylor dancers, about finding peace in a hostile environment. Paul Taylor's *Arden Court* (1981) is one of the exuberant dances from his highly acclaimed collection of works set to baroque music. Music by William Boyce accompanies this look at three kinds of relationships: supportive, competitive, and flirtatious. Tickets are \$10 to \$65.

In partnership with Jacob's Pillow Dance, Suzanne Carbonneau will offer brief pre-show talks one hour before each performance. Carbonneau is a dance scholar and Paul Taylor's biographer. Admission is free for performance ticket holders.

In addition, the Mahaiwe's education program will present workshops by Paul Taylor dancers at four Berkshire County schools on Thursday, October 5 and Friday, October 6. These workshops will offer insights into the athleticism and artistry for which the Paul Taylor Dance Company is known. "Students will deepen their understanding and appreciation of dance as an art form, and of Paul Taylor as one of the most influential modern dance choreographers," says Jolly.

International Country music stars Thompson Square Duo will perform on Friday, November 3 at 8:00pm. "The duo of Keifer and Shawna Thompson are a force to be reckoned with in modern day Country music," says Jolly. Thompson Square has topped the radio charts across the United States, Canada, and Australia with #1 hits "Are You

Gonna Kiss Me Or Not,” “If I Didn’t Have You,” and “Everything I Shouldn’t Be Thinking About” respectively. Tickets are \$30 to \$55.

Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas Show featuring Preservation Hall Legacy Horns will perform on Sunday, December 10 at 7:00pm. The Blind Boys first rose to fame in the segregated south with their thrilling vocal harmonies and roof-raising live show. They released their debut single, “I Can See Everybody’s Mother But Mine,” on the iconic Veejay label in 1948, launching a 70-year recording career that would see them rack up five Grammy Awards (plus one for Lifetime Achievement), enter the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, collaborate with everyone from Mavis Staples and Stevie Wonder to Prince and Lou Reed, and perform on the world’s most prestigious stages. Tickets are \$30 to \$67.

John Pizzarelli Quartet with Catherine Russell will present “Billie & Blue Eyes” on Saturday, December 23 at 8:00pm. In this program, Catherine Russell’s Grammy Award-winning vocals and John Pizzarelli’s smooth quartet pair to evoke the glory days of jazz, taking on two of the greats: Billie Holiday and Frank Sinatra. This unforgettable evening features soulful interpretations of chart-topping classics like “All of Me,” “God Bless the Child,” “Witchcraft,” and “One More for My Baby.” Instead of stepping back in time, these artists pull the music gracefully into the present, and do it all with their signature panache. Tickets are \$30 to \$100.

The 2017-18 Bolshoi Ballet in HD season presents the greatest classics restaged by today’s most celebrated choreographers for a cinema-exclusive experience featuring some of the best dancers in the world. Three historical ballets recreated by Alexei Ratmansky: *Le Corsaire* (Sunday, October 22 at 1:00pm), *Romeo and Juliet* (Sunday, January 21 at 1:00pm), and *The Flames of Paris* (Sunday, March 4 at 1:00pm) will be shown on the big screen alongside John Neumeier’s *The Lady of the Camellias* (Sunday, February 4 at 1:00pm) and Jean-Christophe Maillot’s riveting *The Taming of the Shrew* (Saturday, December 2 at 1:00pm). Three timeless classics and audience-favorites will complete the season: *Giselle* (Sunday, April 8 at 1:00pm), *The Nutcracker* (Wednesday, December 27 at 1:00pm) and *Coppélia* (Sunday, June 10 at 1:00pm). A Jacob’s Pillow

Dance Scholar will give a pre-show talk 20 minutes before each broadcast. Tickets to the Bolshoi Ballet in HD events, including the pre-show talk, are \$17, with \$10 tickets available for young people ages 21 and under.

The Mahaiwe will also continue presenting broadcasts by London's National Theatre in HD. There will be an encore presentation of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches* on Saturday, August 26 at 2:00pm and of *Angels in America Part Two: Perestroika* on Sunday, August 27 at 2:00pm. In this award-winning two-part play, New Yorkers grapple with life and death, love and sex, heaven and hell during the 80s AIDS crisis and a conservative Reagan administration. Directed by Marianne Elliott, the cast includes Andrew Garfield, Denise Gough, Nathan Lane, James McArdle, and Russell Tovey. On Saturday, September 23 at 7:00pm, there will be a broadcast of *Yerma*, Simon Stone's radical production of Lorca's achingly powerful masterpiece. In it, Billie Piper plays a young woman who is driven to the unthinkable by her desperate desire to have a child. Tickets to London's National Theatre in HD broadcasts are \$17, with \$10 tickets available for young people ages 21 and under.

In addition to the new shows, the Mahaiwe announces its new season sponsorship by Berkshire Bank. "The bank has been supportive since the theater's restoration 15 years ago. They have made a tremendous difference with their sponsorship of our arts education programs; they are good neighbors, even offering employee volunteer hours. Their additional support now will help take the Mahaiwe to the next level of excellence," says Jolly.

"We are so pleased to expand our partnership with the Mahaiwe, which has been offering robust cultural enrichment and educational opportunities to Berkshire County and beyond for many years," says Lori Gazzillo, vice president and director of the Berkshire Bank Foundation. "Their education program provides first-hand access to a level of performing arts that many of the students would otherwise not experience. We are proud of the long-standing support we have provided and look forward to enhancing our efforts in the coming years."

The Mahaiwe is located at 14 Castle Street in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Box office hours are Tuesday 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 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.