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Media Contact:  
Gina Hyams, PR Consultant  
413.629.3175  
ginahyams@gmail.com

### **Mahaiwe Receives Support from Feigenbaum Foundation and Berkshire Bank**

Great Barrington, Mass.—The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center recently received a \$50,000 grant from the Feigenbaum Foundation and major sponsorship from Berkshire Bank to support its 2018 season, youth programs, and capital projects.

“We are thrilled and grateful for this significant support from the Feigenbaum Foundation and Berkshire Bank,” said Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “These community-focused grants will support our youth, local residents, and help maintain the historic Mahaiwe Theater.”

“We wish the Mahaiwe much continued success in all that they do for the children of the Berkshire communities and for the arts,” said Emil George, executive director of the Feigenbaum Foundation.

The \$50,000 Feigenbaum Foundation grant will be divided among the following Mahaiwe projects this year: \$25,000 to fund arts education programs that welcome thousands of schoolchildren to live performances; \$5,000 to support the theater’s youth ticket discount program that offers \$15 tickets to everyone 30 and under to all live Mahaiwe Presents programs and \$10 tickets to everyone 21 and under to all the HD broadcasts from London’s National Theater, the Bolshoi Ballet, and the Metropolitan Opera; and \$20,000 toward important facility repairs and upgrades that are part of a Massachusetts Cultural Council Cultural Facilities Fund matching grant program.

The Fitzpatrick Trust and several individual donors have also contributed funds toward the Mahaiwe's 1:1 match of its \$65,000 Cultural Facilities Fund grant, but it still needs to raise \$28,000 by the end of this year to complete the match for capital projects.

Berkshire Bank has become the Mahaiwe's 2018 Season Sponsor with a generous grant and multi-year commitment to the arts organization. The bank will continue its support of the Mahaiwe's annual youth Hip Hop Program with Open Thought Productions, which offers students from three local schools the chance to work with acclaimed Hip Hop artists from New York City in a residency in their own schools and then the chance to perform together onstage at the Mahaiwe each November. The bank has been a supporter of the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center since the theater's restoration in 2005, and the theater's lobby is named the Berkshire Bank Lobby in appreciation of this corporate commitment.

“We are so pleased to support the many educational and culturally enriching programs offered by the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center. As a neighbor, friend, and supporter for many years, we applaud the Mahaiwe for their work in deeply connecting with the schools throughout Berkshire County and beyond as well as the high level of programming they are making accessible to all,” said Lori Gazzillo, director of the Berkshire Bank Foundation

### **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 more information, see [www.mahaiwe.org](http://www.mahaiwe.org).

### **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](http://berkshires.org).