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

**Mahaiwe Announces Additions to 2018 Schedule**  
**Highlights include Mahaiwe Gala featuring Whoopi Goldberg; summer concerts by**  
**Melissa Etheridge, Ani DiFranco, The Wailers, Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo, Air**  
**Supply, Paul Taylor Dance Company; fall concerts Chris Botti, Postmodern**  
**Jukebox, and Arlo Guthrie**

Great Barrington, Mass.—Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly announces additions to the performing arts center's 2018 schedule, including the Mahaiwe Gala featuring Whoopi Goldberg; summer concerts by Melissa Etheridge, Ani DiFranco, The Wailers, Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo, Air Supply, and Paul Taylor Dance Company; as well as fall engagements by Chris Botti, Postmodern Jukebox, and Arlo Guthrie.

“We are extremely excited by the scale and scope of the new additions to the Mahaiwe's 2018 program,” says Jolly. “The arts always offer escape and connection and this Mahaiwe season is full of both.”

Melissa Etheridge will rock the house on Sunday, June 10 at 7:00pm. Known for her confessional lyrics and raspy, smoky vocals, Etheridge has remained one of North America's favorite female artists for more than two decades. Her chart-topping singles include “Bring Me Some Water,” “No Souvenirs,” “Ain't It Heavy,” “I'm the Only One,” “Come to My Window,” and “I Want to Come Over.” In addition to her two Grammy Awards, she has won an Academy Award for “Best Original Song,” a Juno Award for “International Entertainer of the Year,” and ASCAP's “Songwriter of the Year” Award. Tickets are \$71 to \$146.

Ani DiFranco will perform on Sunday, June 17 at 7:00pm. With the release of her latest album *Binary*, DiFranco returns to the road backed by her band mates Todd Sickafoose (bass) and Terence Higgins (drums) on the “Rise Up” tour. She is a songwriter, vocalist and guitarist perpetually on the move. From the raw “folk punk” of her early albums through the jazz/funk grooves she created during her years touring with a five-piece band to the twists and turns of her current work as a solo artist, DiFranco’s restless creativity continually leads her and her listeners into ever more exciting territory. Folk rock singer-songwriter Haley Heynderickx will serve as the opening act. Tickets are \$30 to \$80.

Reggae band The Wailers will perform on Saturday, June 23 at 8:00pm. From 1973 to 1980, Bob Marley and The Wailers recorded, toured, and performed worldwide, selling more than 250 million recordings. Since 1981, original band members bassist Aston “Familyman” Barrett and guitarists Junior Marvin and Donald Kinsey have carried on the mission to “keep The Wailers together,” as Marley requested. Their intention is to keep Marley alive through the music. The band now includes Aston Barrett, Jr. on drums, singers Joshua David Barrett and Shema McGregor, Owen “Dreadie” Reid on guitar/bass, Noel Davey on keyboards, and live engineer Dennis Thompson, the man responsible for The Wailers sound in stadiums, clubs, and studios throughout the ‘70s. Tickets are \$30 to \$70.

The Mahaiwe will host an acoustic evening with Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo on Monday, June 25 at 8:00pm. During their nearly four-decade career, the couple has won an unprecedented four consecutive Grammy awards, as well as three American Music awards. Their undeniable chemistry, Benatar’s mezzo-soprano vocal range, and Giraldo’s trailblazing work as a producer, guitarist, and songwriter created some of rock’s most memorable hits. These include “Promises in the Dark,” “Hell is For Children,” “We Live For Love,” “Love Is A Battlefield,” “Hit Me with Your Best Shot,” and “We Belong.” Their rock and roll love affair has endured for 38 years and they continue to tour every year. This is a unique opportunity to hear the duo perform stripped down, acoustic versions of their songs in an intimate setting. Tickets are \$71 to \$141.

The Mahaiwe will celebrate its eleventh consecutive season of performances by Paul Taylor Dance Company on Friday, July 6 at 8:00pm and on Saturday, July 7 at 2:00pm and 7:30pm. 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 “Gossamer Gallants” (2011), “Company B” (1991), and the New England premiere of “Concertiana” (2018). Tickets are \$10 to \$95. CBT Architects and Greylock Federal Credit Union are sponsors of the Paul Taylor Dance Company engagement at the Mahaiwe.

Whoopi Goldberg will headline the 2018 Mahaiwe Gala on Sunday, July 29. The evening will feature her unique observations on current events and a wide variety of topics that are on her mind. An actor, author, entrepreneur, and human rights advocate, as well as the moderator of the Emmy award-winning “The View,” Goldberg is one of an elite group of artists who have won the Grammy, the Academy Award, the Golden Globe, the Emmy, and a Tony. Time and ticket prices to be announced.

Pop music favorites Air Supply will perform on Sunday, August 12 at 7:00pm. In 1980, “Lost in Love” became the fastest-selling single in the world, leaping to the top of all of the charts and was named Song of the Year. Seven top-five singles later, Air Supply at that time had equaled The Beatles’ run of consecutive top five singles. The albums *Lost in Love*, *The One That You Love*, *Now & Forever*, and *The Greatest Hits* sold in excess of 20 million copies. The trademark sound of Russell Hitchcock's soaring tenor voice and Graham Russell’s simple yet majestic songs created a unique sound that would forever be known as Air Supply. Allegrone Companies is sponsoring this concert. Tickets are \$46 to \$141.

Grammy Award-winning master trumpeter and composer Chris Botti will perform on Saturday, October 6 at 8:00pm. For over two decades, Botti has amassed a spectacular variety of honors, including multiple Gold and Platinum albums, to become the nation’s largest-selling instrumental artist. He has performed with an array of legends, including

Sting, Barbra Streisand, Tony Bennett, Yo-Yo Ma, Frank Sinatra, Paul Simon, and Andrea Bocelli. Whether he's performing with symphonies or at renowned venues around the globe, his crystalline and poetic sound transcends musical boundaries. Tickets are \$41 to \$175.

Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox (PMJ) will perform on Friday, November 2 at 8:00pm. Founded by pianist and arranger Bradlee in 2009, the large ensemble reimagines contemporary pop, rock, and R&B hits in the style of various yesteryears, from swing to doo-wop, ragtime to Motown—or, as Bradlee himself puts it, “pop music in a time machine.” The band parlayed a series of YouTube videos shot in Bradlee's Queens living room into massive success, accruing more than 950 million YouTube views, over 3.3 million subscribers, and more than 1.5 million likes on Facebook. They have played hundreds of shows to sold-out houses around the world. Tickets are \$30 to \$80.

Arlo Guthrie will return to the Mahaiwe on Saturday, November 17 at 8:00pm with his “Alice's Restaurant Back by Popular Demand” show. The concert will be a celebration of the 50th anniversaries of the film, *Alice's Restaurant*, as well as Woodstock and 50 years of Flower Power. Tickets are \$29 to \$79.

### **Tickets**

Tickets to Ani DiFranco go on sale to Mahaiwe members on March 28 and to the public on March 30. Tickets to Melissa Etheridge, The Wailers, Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo, Air Supply, Chris Botti, and Postmodern Jukebox go on sale to Mahaiwe members on April 4 and to the public on April 12. On-sale dates for tickets to Paul Taylor Dance Company, the 2018 Mahaiwe Gala with Whoopi Goldberg, and Arlo Guthrie will be announced soon. In addition to early buying privileges, Mahaiwe members enjoy special discounts on tickets to all live shows. A limited number of youth discount \$15 tickets are available for audience members ages 30 and younger to the Mahaiwe's live performances.

The Mahaiwe is located at 14 Castle Street in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Box office hours are Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 4:00pm and three hours before show times. For tickets and information, see [www.mahaiwe.org](http://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 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).

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