Mahaiwe Announces Comedian John Mulaney to Headline Mahaiwe Gala, plus Natalie Merchant and Arlo Guthrie Concerts

Great Barrington, Mass.—Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center announces that Emmy Award-winning comedian John Mulaney will headline the 2019 Mahaiwe Gala and concerts by singer-songwriters Natalie Merchant and Arlo Guthrie have been added to the season.

“We can’t wait to bring national headliner comedian John Mulaney to the Mahaiwe this August as our annual gala performer, bringing laughter to audience members of all ages in celebration of the Mahaiwe’s year-round programming. This year’s gala will honor Maggie Buchwald, in appreciation of her board leadership and lifelong commitment to the arts. It promises to be our most memorable gala yet,” says Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “Natalie Merchant and Arlo Guthrie return to our stage for very special experiences—an intimate summer night with Natalie and a reprise of the 50th anniversary of Alice’s Restaurant with Arlo, in what has become a Berkshire Thanksgiving holiday tradition.”

Natalie Merchant will perform with her long-time guitarist, Erik Della Penna, on Tuesday, August 6 at 8:00pm. The concert will include material from the past 35 years of Merchant’s career. She started out as the lead vocalist and lyricist of the pop music band 10,000 Maniacs and released two platinum and four gold records with the group between 1981 and 1993 (The Wishing Chair, In My Tribe, Blind Man’s Zoo, Hope Chest, Our Time in Eden, and MTV Unplugged). Together with artists like R.E.M., they defined
college rock and created the first wave of alternative rock bands and what became known as the alternative rock format on FM radio. In 1994, Merchant began her solo career with a self-produced debut album, *Tigerlily*. Her latest albums are *Butterfly*, which is entirely devoted to songs with string quartet arrangements and *The Natalie Merchant Collection*, which is a deluxe 10-CD retrospective of her solo career. Sponsored by Berkshire Gas, tickets ($71) go on sale to Mahaiwe members on Thursday, April 11 and to the public on Friday, April 12.

The 2019 Mahaiwe Gala performance will take place on Saturday, August 10 at 8:00pm. Writer and comedian John Mulaney recently toured the United States with *Kid Gorgeous*, which was also released as a Netflix Special and won the Emmy for Outstanding Writing in a Variety Special. Additionally, he has hosted *Saturday Night Live* twice, in April 2018 and March 2019. Previously, Mulaney starred in the Broadway hit, *Oh, Hello*, alongside Nick Kroll. He can most recently be heard in *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, which won both the Oscar and Golden Globe for best animated feature film. Performance-only tickets start at $100 and gala packages will be available. Gala packages will be available in May and show-only tickets will go on sale in July.

Arlo Guthrie will return to the Mahaiwe on Saturday, November 23 at 8:00pm on the homestretch of his *Alice’s Restaurant—Back By Popular Demand Tour*, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the feature film *Alice’s Restaurant*. For this concert, he will be joined on stage by longtime collaborators Terry “A La Berry” Hall (drums), Steve Ide (guitar, vocals), and Carol Ide (vocals, percussion). His daughter, singer-songwriter Sarah Lee Guthrie, will open the performance. Directed by Arthur Penn, the film was originally released in 1969, starring Guthrie as himself. It was based on a folk song that Guthrie wrote about a series of unbelievable events that began on Thanksgiving in 1965. The song, “Alice’s Restaurant Massacre,” struck a chord with the anti-war counterculture; by 1967, he had gone from playing small clubs to playing festivals and stadiums. Sponsored by Theory Wellness, tickets ($29 to $79) go on sale to Mahaiwe members on Saturday, April 13 and to the public on Friday, April 19.
A limited supply of $15 youth tickets to the Merchant and Guthrie shows is available for everyone ages 30 and under on a first-come, first-served basis via the Mahaiwe box office only (not online). 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 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 1,500 events and welcomed over half a million people through its doors. More than 22,000 students from 73 different schools have benefited from the Mahaiwe’s school-time performances and residencies. For more information, see 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.

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