Mahaiwe Announces Gin Blossoms, Madeleine Peyroux, and Alan Cumming and Ari Shapiro

Great Barrington, Mass.–Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center will present concerts by Gin Blossoms on Friday, March 6 at 8:00pm; Madeleine Peyroux on Friday, April 17 at 8:00pm; and Alan Cumming and Ari Shapiro in Och & Oy: A Considered Cabaret on Sunday, July 19 at 7:00pm. Tickets go on sale to Mahaiwe members on Thursday, December 12 at noon and to the public on Thursday, December 19 at noon.

“We’re thrilled to kick off the news of the Mahaiwe’s 2020 season with three fantastic performances for spring and summer: rock band Gin Blossoms, jazz artist Madeleine Peyroux, and new cabaret from Alan Cumming and Ari Shapiro will offer very different and wonderfully dynamic concerts,” said Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “Janis Martinson, the Mahaiwe’s incoming acting executive director, and I are excited about the breadth and depth of programming the Mahaiwe’s 15th anniversary season will include over the course of the year. There’s more good news to come!”

Grammy-nominated Gin Blossoms is one of the top alt-rock bands of the ’90s. From their breakout album, New Miserable Experience, through today, they have sold more than 10 million albums. Their hits include “Hey Jealousy,” “Allison Road,” “Until I Fall Away,” “Mrs. Rita,” “Found Out About You,” “’Til I Hear It From You,” “Follow You Down,” “As Long As It Matters,” “Learning The Hard Way,” “Long Time Gone,” and “Miss Disarray.” The group, composed of Robin Wilson (lead vocals and guitar), Jesse Valenzuela (vocals and guitar), Scott Johnson (guitar), Bill Leen (bass), and Scott Hessel (drums) now play some 120 concerts per year. “This is what we most enjoy doing,” said
Wilson. “It’s our job and I know all of us are really grateful that we can earn a living making records and entertaining people on the road. We’re doing something we really love! I don’t know many people that can say that when they go to work everyday.” Tickets are $50 to $90.

Singer-songwriter Madeleine Peyroux is known for her soft, sultry, evocative voice. Her music career began with the release of her debut album, *Dreamland* in 1996, for which critics hailed her as one of the year’s breakthrough artists. Eight albums later, she continues to challenge the confines of jazz, venturing into the fertile fields of contemporary music with unfading curiosity. Her latest album, *Anthem*, finds her collaborating with writers/musicians Patrick Warren (Bonnie Raitt, JD Souther, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Lana Del Rey, The Red Hot Chilli Peppers), Brian MacLeod (Sara Bareilles, Leonard Cohen, Tina Turner, Ziggy Marley), and David Baerwald (Joni Mitchell, David and David, Sheryl Crow), who are also the basic rhythm section players on the album. Together, they cast a sober, poetic, and at times philosophical eye on the current state of the world. Tickets are $40 to $75.

Alan Cumming (*Cabaret, The Good Wife*) and Ari Shapiro (NPR’s *All Things Considered, Pink Martini*) both transport audiences to other worlds through their stories. Now, they’re joining forces in song. At the Mahaiwe, they will debut their new evening of tunes and tall tales titled *Och & Oy: A Considered Cabaret*, with musical direction by Henry Koperski. Tickets are $31 to $146.

In a statement, Cumming said, “I’ve got to know Ari over the last few years, both socially and when he interviewed me for a couple of events. The last time was an evening in D.C., and by the end of it I realized our chemistry and the unusual combo of us, as well as the fact that Ari has an amazing voice, would make for a really great cabaret show. And kapow! We’re doing it! What I love most is it’s fresh and ever-changing.”

Shapiro added, “When Alan first suggested that we create a show together, I didn’t quite believe him. Then as we started to dig in to this collaboration, I realized how much our
professional lives actually complement each other. We’re both storytellers who try to help audiences better understand themselves and the world around them. This show lets us explore those shared ideals on stage together, through stories and songs.”

A limited supply of $15 youth tickets is available to these shows 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.

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