

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 12, 2013

Media Contact:
Gina Hyams, PR Consultant
413.464.2851
ginahyams@gmail.com

High-resolution photographs are available for download at
<http://www.mahaiwe.org/press.html>

Mahaiwe Celebrates the Holidays

Musical highlights include Darlene Love's "Love for the Holidays" and John Pizzarelli and Jessica Molaskey with Bucky Pizzarelli

Great Barrington, Mass.— Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center will host a festive array of events this holiday season, including **Darlene Love's** "Love for the Holidays" concert on Friday, November 29 at 8:00pm and jazz guitarist and singer **John Pizzarelli** and Broadway singer and actress **Jessica Molaskey** with guitarist **Bucky Pizzarelli** in a cabaret concert celebrating the Great American Songbook and other classics on Saturday, December 28 at 8:00pm. In honor of Love's live appearance, the Mahaiwe will screen the hit documentary ***20 Feet From Stardom***, in which she plays a starring role, on Saturday, November 23 at 7:00pm. Food historian **Francine Segan** will give a talk about Gilded Age holiday entertaining on Saturday, December 14 at 6:30pm. In addition, the theater will screen two **Met: Live in HD** opera broadcasts and several family-friendly **classic movies** detailed below.

"We're happy to celebrate this winter with joy and nostalgia—the best parts of the holiday season!" said Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly.

Darlene Love's "Love for the Holidays" concert will feature songs from the holiday season performed with her full band and backup singers. Every year since 1986 (with the exception of the writers' strike in 2007), Love has appeared on the *Late Show with David Letterman* during the last episode of the calendar year to perform her classic "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)." *Rolling Stone* proclaimed Love "one of the greatest singers

of all time” and *The New York Times* declared that her “thunderbolt voice is as embedded in the history of rock and roll as Eric Clapton’s guitar or Bob Dylan’s lyrics.” In the 1960s, she sang lead on a string of Phil Spector-produced hits, including “He’s a Rebel,” “Zip-A-Dee-Do-Dah,” “(Today I Met) The Boy I’m Gonna Marry,” “Wait Til My Bobby Gets Home,” “Why Do Lovers Break Each Other’s Hearts?” and the seasonal classic “(Christmas) Baby Please Come Home.” In the 1970s and early 80s, she joined Dionne Warwick, singing backup for her on records, on tour, and on the Warwick-hosted TV show *Solid Gold*. She also starred in Broadway musicals, including *Leader of the Pack Hairspray*, and she took on dramatic roles in all three *Lethal Weapon* movies and a stage adaptation of Stephen King’s *Carrie*. In 2007, she released a holiday album, *It’s Christmas of Course* and in 2010, she released a live retrospective, *The Concert of Love*. In 2011, Love received the highest honor in rock music: she was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. She is featured in *Twenty Feet From Stardom*, the hit documentary film about the world of backup singers, which opened the Berkshire International Film Festival at the Mahaiwe in June, where Love wowed the audience with her live rendition of “Stand by Me.” Tickets are \$30 to \$80.

Millions know their voices, but no one knows their names. In his compelling new film ***20 Feet From Stardom***, award-winning director Morgan Neville shines a spotlight on the untold true story of the backup singers behind some of the greatest musical legends of the 21st century. Triumphant and heartbreaking in equal measure, the film is both a tribute to the unsung voices who brought shape and style to popular music and a reflection on the conflicts, sacrifices, and rewards of a career spent harmonizing with others. These gifted artists span a range of styles, genres, and eras of popular music, but each has a uniquely fascinating and personal story to share of life spent in the shadows of superstardom. Along with rare archival footage and a peerless soundtrack, the film boasts intimate interviews with Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Wonder, Mick Jagger, and Sting to name just a few. However, these world-famous figures take a backseat to the diverse array of backup singers whose lives and stories take center stage in the film, including most of all: the incomparable Darlene Love. Tickets are free for Mahaiwe Members who have purchased Darlene Love concert tickets or \$7 (general admission).

World-renowned jazz guitarist and singer **John Pizzarelli** returns to the Mahaiwe for the third time, this time teaming up with Broadway singer and actress **Jessica Molaskey** (who just happens to be his wife), and his dad, the legendary jazz guitarist **Bucky Pizzarelli**. The trio will be joined by **Martin Pizzarelli** on bass, **Konrad Paszkudzi** on piano, and **Kevin Kanner** on drums. Their splendid cabaret show features rich, original interpretations of songs from the Great American Songbook mixed with contemporary classics. John Pizzarelli is a Grammy Award-nominated jazz guitarist and singer, with nearly 40 albums to his credit. He has established himself as one of the prime interpreters of the Great American Songbook and beyond, bringing a cool jazz flavor to his work. He is both a bandleader and solo performer, and has been a special guest on recordings for artists such as Paul McCartney, James Taylor, Natalie Cole, Kristin Chenoweth, Donna Summer, Roberta Flack, and Rosemary Clooney. Jessica Molaskey is a critically-acclaimed actress and vocalist, whose singing voice has been compared to Peggy Lee, Chris Connor, k.d. lang, and even Chet Baker. She is a veteran of a dozen Broadway shows, including the revival of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's *Sunday In The Park With George*, which was nominated for nine 2008 Tony Awards. Jazz guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli's career spans over 60 years, from the Vaughn Monroe Orchestra to the Johnny Carson Tonight Show. Hundreds of jazz concerts worldwide, including White House performances with Benny Goodman, Frank Sinatra, and Claude "Fiddler" Williams add to the list. Tickets are \$25 to \$80.

Talks

Food historian **Francine Segan**'s delicious lecture series concludes with "Gilded Age Holiday Entertaining" about the fascinating era when high society was at its peak. It was a time of calling cards, horse drawn coaches, high tea, cotillions, lawn parties, formal dinners—a time when even picnics were served on fine china. Her vivid descriptions will bring to life all sorts of historic foods, elaborate etiquette, and enchanting entertainments enjoyed then. Segan will also demonstrate how to create 19th century garnishes and attendees will enjoy tastes of popular 19th century tidbits and receive handouts of unique

recipes of the era. Tickets are \$20 to \$25. This lecture series is sponsored by Guido's Fresh Marketplace and Salisbury Bank.

“Live in HD” Broadcasts: Opera and Theatre

The Met: Live in HD, the Metropolitan Opera's award-winning series of live transmissions to movie theaters, continues through the holidays with **Puccini's *Tosca***, starring Patricia Racette as the tempestuous title character and Roberto Alagna as her devoted lover on Wednesday, November 20 at 1:00pm (encore broadcast) and Met Music Director James Levine will lead a new production of **Verdi's *Falstaff***, directed by Robert Carsen on Saturday, December 14 at 1:00pm (encore on Sunday, December 22 at 1:00pm). Tickets are \$18 to \$25.

Opera expert Scott Eyerly gives an introductory talk about each Met opera at the Mahaiwe at 11:00am before its live broadcast. Mixing erudition and humor, Eyerly's lectures enhance the opera-goer's experience. All interested community members are welcome to attend these educational seminars whether attending the broadcast or not. Tickets are \$10 per lecture (general admission). Podcasts of these lectures are available after each opera on the Mahaiwe website: mahaiwe.org.

The Mahaiwe will offer an encore screening of **London's National Theatre: Live in HD** production of ***Macbeth*** directed by Olivier and Tony Award-winner Rob Ashford and starring Kenneth Branagh in his first Shakespeare performance in over a decade on Saturday, November 23 at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$18 to \$25.

Classic Movies

The longstanding Mahaiwe tradition of screening *The Wizard of Oz* on Thanksgiving is on hiatus this year because Warner Brothers is holding distribution in anticipation of the film's upcoming 75th anniversary. In its place, the Mahaiwe will show Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen's classic musical, ***Singin' in the Rain*** (1952, rated G), starring Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, and Donald O'Connor, on Saturday, November 30 at 4:00pm.

As a special holiday gift to the community, on Sunday, December 22 at 7:00pm, the Mahaiwe will host a special free screening of Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946), starring James Stewart and Donna Reed. Families will also enjoy the animated favorites *Polar Express* (2004, rated G), directed by Robert Zemeckis and narrated by Tom Hanks, on Friday, December 27 at 5:00pm and *Classic Cartoons / Looney Tunes Part 2* (1930 to 1969, rated G) on Sunday, December 29 at 4:00pm. Tickets are \$7 (general admission). Purchase movie tickets at the Mahaiwe box office in person to avoid additional online service fees. Movies at the Mahaiwe are sponsored by Don Buchwald & Associates.

Community Events

The Mahaiwe will host a wide variety of community events presented by **Berkshire Bach Society, Close Encounters With Music, The Yiddish Book Center,** and **Deborah Zecher**. The full schedule follows in the calendar summary below.

Tickets

The Mahaiwe is located at 14 Castle Street in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Box office hours are Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 6:00pm and three hours before show times. A limited number of \$15 tickets are available for patrons ages 30 and younger to all Mahaiwe-produced programs through the Mahaiwe ArtSmart Tix program. 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 and has been in continuous operation for over 100 years. In 2005, the theater experienced a renaissance as a beautifully restored 681-seat venue to offer a broad range of cultural and community events. Today's "Mahaiwe Mix" of diverse, high quality programming strives to provide meaningful, memorable entertainment for all ages and interests.

###

Mahaiwe Schedule at a Glance

Saturday, November 16 at 8:00pm
The Yiddish Book Center Presents
The Klezmatics
Grammy award-winning klezmer band
Tickets are \$25 to \$68

Wednesday, November 20 at 1:00pm (Encore)
Mahaiwe Presents
The Met: Live in HD
Puccini's *Tosca*
Starring Patricia Racette as the tempestuous title character and Roberto Alagna as her devoted lover
Tickets are \$18 to \$25

Thursday, November 21 at 7:00pm
Deborah Zecher Presents
Warm Up the Winter: A Benefit for Local Fuel Assistance
Tickets are \$5 to \$50

Saturday, November 23 at 2:00pm
Mahaiwe Presents
London's National Theatre in HD
Macbeth
Starring Kenneth Branagh in his first Shakespeare performance in over a decade
Tickets are \$18 to \$25

Saturday, November 23 at 7:00pm
Mahaiwe Presents
Twenty Feet From Stardom
Documentary film about the lives of backup singers, including Darlene Love, Judith Hill, Merry Clayton, and others.
Tickets are free for Mahaiwe Members who have purchased Darlene Love concert tickets and \$7 (general admission)

Friday, November 29 at 8:00pm
Mahaiwe Presents
Darlene Love
"Love for the Holidays" concert
Tickets are \$30 to \$80

Saturday, November 30 at 4:00pm

Mahaiwe Presents

Singin' in the Rain (1952, rated G)

Classic movie musical, starring Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, and Donald O'Connor

Tickets are \$7 (general admission)

Saturday, December 14 at 11:00am (pre-broadcast lecture by Scott Eyerly)

Saturday, December 14 at 1:00pm

Mahaiwe Presents

The Met: Live in HD

Verdi's Falstaff

Met Music Director James Levine leads this new production directed by Robert Carsen

Tickets are \$18 to \$25

Saturday, December 14 at 6:30pm

Mahaiwe Presents

Francine Segan Lecture: Gilded Age Holiday Entertaining

A talk about the fascinating time period when high society was at its peak

Tickets are \$20 to \$25

Saturday, December 21 at 6:00pm

Close Encounters With Music Presents

The Miraculous Violin: An Evening with Vadim Gluzman and Angela Yoffe

Tickets are \$25 to \$45

Sunday, December 22 at 1:00pm (Encore)

Mahaiwe Presents

The Met: Live in HD

Verdi's Falstaff

Met Music Director James Levine leads this new production directed by Robert Carsen

Tickets are \$18 to \$25

Sunday, December 22 at 7:00pm

Mahaiwe Presents

It's a Wonderful Life (1946)

Frank Capra's classic holiday film starring James Stewart and Donna Reed

Free

Friday, December 27 at 5:00pm

Mahaiwe Presents

Polar Express (2004, rated G)

Animated fantasy film directed by Robert Zemeckis and narrated by Tom Hanks

Tickets are \$7 (general admission)

Saturday, December 28 at 8:00pm

Mahaiwe Presents

John Pizzarelli and Jessica Molaskey with special guest Bucky Pizzarelli

Great American Songbook and other classics
Tickets are \$25 to \$80

Sunday, December 29 at 4:00pm

Mahaiwe Presents

Classic Cartoons / Looney Tunes Part 2 (1930 to 1969, rated G)

Warner Brothers classic cartoons

Tickets are \$7 (general admission)

Tuesday, December 31 at 6:00pm

Berkshire Bach Society Presents

Bach at New Year's

Tickets are \$40 to \$85