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

**Mahaiwe Announces Soweto Gospel Choir, Cowboy Junkies, and
The Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia**

Great Barrington, Mass.— Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center Executive Director Beryl Jolly announced the first three shows of 2014 today. The Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia will perform their stage adaptation of Leo Lionni’s beloved children’s books *Swimmy*, *Frederick*, and *Inch By Inch* on Sunday, January 26 at 2:00pm. The renowned Soweto Gospel Choir will appear on Friday, February 14, at 8:00pm. The Canadian indie-rock group, Cowboy Junkies, will perform on Saturday, March 8 at 8:00pm. Tickets go on sale to Mahaiwe Members on Saturday, November 16 and to the public on Wednesday, November 20.

“We are delighted to welcome families in from the cold this January for a performance that brings Leo Lionni’s classic stories to life, and to celebrate Valentine’s Day with the inspiring international sounds of the Soweto Gospel Choir,” said Jolly. “We are also looking forward to welcoming back the Cowboy Junkies, four years after they packed the house here in 2010. They’ve released *The Nomad Series* and the *Kennedy Suite* since then, so this performance will be new and just as fantastic.”

Founded in 1972, The Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia is a touring children's theatre whose productions incorporate whimsical puppets. The company has a global audience, having performed for over four million spectators on four continents. At the Mahaiwe, they will perform their stage adaptation of Leo Lionni's exquisitely crafted Caldecott Honor books *Swimmy*, *Frederick*, and *Inch By Inch*. *Swimmy* is a tiny fish who uses ingenuity to fend off danger. *Frederick*, a poetic mouse, makes everyday life an artful experience. The third story is about a lovable inchworm who shares his facility for measuring absolutely everything. The show features an assortment of innovative puppetry styles and imaginative lighting techniques, as well as an original musical score. Recommended for ages 3 and up. Tickets are \$10 for children and \$20 for adults.

Mahaiwe education sponsors Cain Hibbard & Myers and the Dr. Robert C. and Tina Sohn Foundation are sponsoring a school field trip performance of this production, with sign language interpretation, on Monday, January 27 at 10:00am.

Over the last 10 years, Soweto Gospel Choir has brought joy into the lives of audiences all over the world. They have collaborated, recorded, and performed with artists including Bono and U2, Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Robert Plant, Celine Dion, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Peter Gabriel, Josh Groban, and Andre Rieu. They have performed in front of President Bill Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, and their spiritual fathers, Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Under the direction of choirmaster David Mulovhedzi and South African Director and Executive Producer Beverly Bryer, the Soweto Gospel Choir shares the brightest talent from churches and communities in and around Soweto. Theirs has been an incredible journey from the streets of Soweto to the world's most prestigious venues. Along the way, they have won two Grammys, an Emmy and an Oscar nomination, and they have just released their sixth album, *Divine Decade*. The *New York Times* describes their sound as "a cornucopia of remarkable voices: sharp, sweet, kindly, raspy and incantatory leads above a magnificently velvety blend." Tickets are \$25 to \$65.

For more than 20 years, the Cowboy Junkies have remained true to their unique artistic

vision and to the introspective, quiet intensity that is their musical signature, creating a critically acclaimed body of original work that has endeared them to an audience unwavering in its loyalty. This Canadian alternative country/blues/folk rock band have released 16 studio albums, several live albums and a number of singles and built up a dedicated following in the alternative rock community. Since the release of their seminal album, *The Trinity Session* in 1988, Cowboy Junkies has appeared on countless major television shows in North America from *Saturday Night Live* to *Late Night with David Letterman* and the *Tonight Show*. Their music has been featured in dozens of television programs and feature films. In 2010, they launched *The Nomad Series*, a four album series (*Renmin Park, Demons, Sing in My Meadow, The Wilderness*) released over an 18-month period. The latest, *The Wilderness*, was released February of 2012 and continues the beautiful melodic brooding that they do so well. Tickets are \$30 to \$50.

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.

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