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

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

Mahaiwe Celebrates the Holidays
John Pizzarelli and Jessica Molaskey with Bucky Pizzarelli Concert,
plus Opera and Classic Holiday Movies

Great Barrington, Mass.— Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center will present an array of events this holiday season. Jazz guitarist and singer **John Pizzarelli** and Broadway singer and actress **Jessica Molaskey** with guitarist **Bucky Pizzarelli** will perform a cabaret concert celebrating the Great American Songbook and other classics on Saturday, December 28 at 8:00pm. In addition, the theater will screen a **Met: Live in HD** opera broadcast 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.

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 and audience members are encouraged to dress to the nines.

The Met: Live in HD, the Metropolitan Opera's award-winning series of live transmissions to movie theaters, continues through the holidays. Met Music Director James Levine will lead a new production of **Verdi's *Falstaff***, directed by Robert Carsen on Sunday, December 22 at 1:00pm (encore broadcast). Tickets are \$18 to \$25.

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 ***The 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.

The Mahaiwe will host a wide variety of community events presented by **Berkshire Bach Society**, and **Close Encounters With Music**. 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.

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Mahaiwe Schedule at a Glance

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

The 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