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

**Mahaiwe to Celebrate 10<sup>th</sup> and 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries in 2015**  
**Programming designed to foster deeper connections between audiences and international presentations**

Great Barrington, Mass.— Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center will celebrate its 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a theater and its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a year-round performing arts center in 2015. To celebrate these milestones, Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly announced today that the organization will continue to build upon its track record of presenting world-class artists in the Berkshires, as well as deepen its commitment to providing cultural education opportunities for children and adults, and to creating celebratory traditions at the theater for community members throughout the year.

“In just ten years, the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center has established itself as both a theater with national significance and a place for Berkshire residents and visitors to come together and experience the best of the performing arts. It’s been my privilege to shepherd the organization’s growth,” said Jolly, who also marks ten years in her leadership role at the Mahaiwe this coming season. “During this special anniversary season, in addition to providing entertainment, the goal of our programming is to more deeply weave Mahaiwe experiences into the life of our community,” she said.

Mahaiwe Chair Maggie Buchwald noted, “The board of the Mahaiwe is proud to join with our community to celebrate the first decade of the Mahaiwe’s second century. We look forward to a vibrant future of providing the finest arts and entertainment to the southern Berkshires and beyond.”

The 2015 season will include performances by Noche Flamenca (Friday, January 23 at 8:00pm), Ladysmith Black Mambazo (February 6 at 8:00pm), Cirque Ziva (public performance March 15 at 7:00pm and school field trip performance March 16 at 10:00am), Rosanne Cash, *The River and the Thread*, with John Leventhal and Zev Katz (May 17 at 7:00pm), and other acts to be announced, along with a regional history residency by Cornerstone Theater Company of Los Angeles this spring, HD broadcasts by the Metropolitan Opera, London's National Theatre, and the Bolshoi Ballet, films, and school field trip shows. The Mahaiwe will add supplemental enrichment programs around many of the headliner talents to heighten the impact of each performance. These programs will include a South African dinner and talk at Castle Street Café before Ladysmith Black Mambazo, a Chinese cultural display during Cirque Ziva's presentation, and a conversation about Rosanne Cash and her family's place in American Music to coincide with her spring concert.

"We strive to make the theater a home away from home for Berkshire residents, a place to return to throughout the year to celebrate holidays and local traditions as well as to experience outstanding artists," said Jolly. The theater will honor Martin Luther King Day by highlighting regional opportunities for community service and will celebrate Valentine's Day with a screening of the romantic classic, *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and ski season with Warren Miller's *No Turning Back*.

Hailed by critics for its transcendent and deeply emotional performances, Noche Flamenca is one of the most authentic flamenco companies in the world today, and Soledad Barrio is its star. Now, in a unique creative partnership, this company joins with acclaimed American theater director Lee Breuer to create a new work, *Antigona*, based on Sophocles' ancient Greek heroine. Themes in the work include catharsis, issues of dictatorship, repression, loss, the strength of family and female empowerment; strong themes not only in Sophocles but also in flamenco. Combining live music, song, and dance, Noche Flamenca's *Antigona* will bring the fiery, expressive nature of flamenco to one of the world's great tragedies in an evening-length work that promises to be both

gripping and intensely moving. Tickets are \$10 to \$50.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo has created joyous and uplifting music for more than 50 years. The a cappella vocal group has created a musical and spiritual message that has touched a worldwide audience, while maintaining the intricate rhythms and harmonies of their native South African musical traditions. Nelson Mandela, who bestowed on the ensemble the title of South African Cultural Ambassadors to the World, asked the group to join him in Norway in 1993, when he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He later asked them to perform at his inauguration when he became South Africa's first black president. Ladysmith Black Mambazo seeks to honor Mandela's life and work, saying, "As we continue to spread the message of peace, love, and harmony, we rededicate ourselves to Mandela and his dream of a rainbow nation and a rainbow world. May his journey continue in the soul and spirits of all who were touched by him." Tickets are \$35 to \$45.

The Golden Dragon Acrobats will present Cirque Ziva, a world-class cirque spectacular that has thrilled audiences across the United States since its creation in 2011. The fast-paced, technically innovative performance showcases traditional Chinese acrobats, dance and costumes, ancient and contemporary music, and modern theatrical techniques. The renowned acrobats perform amazing feats of athleticism and daring heart-stopping stunts with the grace of their centuries-old art form. The large cast and dazzling production designs illustrate just how breathtaking Chinese acrobatics can be. Cirque Ziva will entertain, delight, and keep audiences of all ages in suspense. Tickets are \$6 per student for the school field trip and \$25 to \$47 for the public performance.

One of the most compelling figures in popular music, with a body of work encompassing country, rock, roots, and pop influences, Rosanne Cash inherited a reverence for song and profound artistry—and an equal duty to find insights of her own. The oldest daughter of country music icon Johnny Cash and stepdaughter of June Carter Cash of the legendary Carter Family, she holds a lineage rooted in the very beginning of American country music, with its deep cultural and historical connections to the South. Over a three-decade

career she has responded to this heritage with 15 albums of extraordinary songs that have earned a Grammy Award and nominations for 12 more, the Americana Honors and Awards' Album of the Year Award, and 21 top-40 hits, including 11 No. 1 singles. Her four books include the best-selling memoir *Composed*. In her new album, *The River and the Thread*, written with her longtime collaborator, producer, guitarist, and husband John Leventhal, Cash evokes the bittersweet stories of people and places of the South. The album's unique sound, which draws from country, blues, gospel, and rock, reflects the soulful mix of music that traces its history to the region. *Smithsonian Magazine* recently honored Cash with an American Ingenuity Award. Tickets are \$29 to \$79.

The Mahaiwe will create a local history program in partnership with Cornerstone Theater Company of Los Angeles, which has worked with tens of thousands of people across the country over the last 28 years to develop theatrical projects based on the unique voices and concerns of individual communities. The Mahaiwe residency, titled *South County Stories*, is a community collaboration to celebrate living histories of Berkshire families developed into theatrical format. The Mahaiwe's community partners for this project include WAM Theatre, Great Barrington Historical Society, Housatonic Heritage, Paper Town Projects, and Berkshire Grown.

### **Tickets**

Tickets go on sale to Mahaiwe members on Thursday, December 4 at noon and to the public on Saturday, December 6 at noon. A limited number of \$15 tickets to each live performance are available for audience members ages 30 and younger through the Mahaiwe ArtSmart Tix program, sponsored by Greylock Federal Credit Union. 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. For tickets and information, see [www.mahaiwe.org](http://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 1,000 events and welcomed almost half a million people through its doors. Its education program has served over 10,000 students from 35 different schools with school-time performances and residencies. The Mahaiwe generates in excess of \$1,000,000 in ticket revenue from 150 events each year, while contributing over \$4,000,000 in regional economic impact from the theater's direct spending and audience's restaurant, lodging, and shopping activities.

### **Mahaiwe 2015 Season at a Glance**

Friday, January 16 at 7:00pm

*Doctor Zhivago* (1965)

David Lean's Oscar-winning epic drama-romance film, set in Russia during WWI and the October Revolution, stars Omar Sharif and Julie Christie.

\$7

Saturday, January 17 at 11:00am (pre-broadcast lecture by Scott Eyerly)

Saturday, January 17 at 1:00pm

The Met: Live in HD

Lehár's *The Merry Widow*

The great Renée Fleming stars as the beguiling femme fatale who captivates all Paris in Lehár's enchanting operetta, seen in a new staging by Broadway virtuoso director and choreographer Susan Stroman.

\$18 to \$25

Friday, January 23 at 8:00pm

Noche Flamenca

*Antigona*

Directed by Lee Breuer, the Noche Flamenca production of Sophocles's *Antigone* combines live music, song, and dance to bring the fiery, expressive nature of flamenco to one of the world's great tragedies.

\$10 to \$50

Saturday, January 24 at 5:00pm

London's National Theatre in HD

*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

A story of murder, money, and mutiny. The production is suitable for audience members ages 10+.

\$17

Sunday, January 25 at 1:00pm

HD broadcast of the Bolshoi Ballet's *Swan Lake*

With Piotr Tchaikovsky's famous, lyrical score and libretto and choreography by Yuri Grigorovich, *Swan Lake* is a universal and enchanting masterpiece of love, deception, and drama.

\$17

Wednesday, January 28 at 1:00pm (encore broadcast)

The Met: Live in HD

Lehár's *The Merry Widow*

The great Renée Fleming stars as the beguiling femme fatale who captivates all Paris in Lehár's enchanting operetta, seen in a new staging by Broadway virtuoso director and choreographer Susan Stroman.

\$18 to \$25

Saturday, January 31 at 11:00am (pre-broadcast lecture by Scott Eyerly)

Saturday, January 31 at 1:00pm

The Met: Live in HD

Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* (The Tales of Hoffmann)

The magnetic tenor Vittorio Grigolo takes on the tortured poet and unwitting adventurer of the title of Offenbach's operatic masterpiece, in the Met's wild, kaleidoscopic production.

\$18 to \$25

Friday, February 6 at 8:00pm

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

South African a cappella vocal group

\$35 to \$45

Wednesday, February 11 at 1:00pm (encore broadcast)

The Met: Live in HD

Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* (The Tales of Hoffmann)

The magnetic tenor Vittorio Grigolo takes on the tortured poet and unwitting adventurer of the title of Offenbach's operatic masterpiece, in the Met's wild, kaleidoscopic production.

\$18 to \$25

Saturday, February 14 at 10:30am (pre-broadcast lecture by Scott Eyerly)

Saturday, February 14 at 12:30pm

The Met: Live in HD

Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* and Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle*

On the heels of her triumphant Met performances in Eugene Onegin, soprano Anna Netrebko takes on another Tchaikovsky heroine in the first opera of this intriguing double bill.

\$18 to \$25

Saturday, February 14 at 7:00pm

Valentine's Day screening of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961)

Audrey Hepburn stars in this romantic comedy classic directed by Blake Edwards.

\$7

Sunday, February 15 at 7:30pm

*No Turning Back* (2014)

Warren Miller's ski film pays homage to the 65 years of mountain culture and adventure filmmaking around the world—back to a time before skis had edges and mountains had condos.

\$10

Sunday, February 22 at 12:30pm (encore broadcast)

The Met: Live in HD

Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* and Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle*

On the heels of her triumphant Met performances in Eugene Onegin, soprano Anna Netrebko takes on another Tchaikovsky heroine in the first opera of this intriguing double bill.

\$18 to \$25

Thursday, March 5 at 10:00am (school field trip performance)

The Omaha Theater Company

*Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*

Lilly, a mouse with a wild imagination, marches to the beat of her own drum in this adventurous, colorful story based on Kevin Henkes's children's books.

Recommended for K through 3rd grade

\$6

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

Saturday, March 14 at 1:00pm

The Met: Live in HD

Rossini's *La Donna del Lago*

Bel canto superstars Joyce DiDonato and Juan Diego Flórez join forces for this Rossini showcase of vocal virtuosity, set in the medieval Scottish highlands and based on a beloved novel by Sir Walter Scott.

\$18 to \$25

Sunday, March 15 at 7:00pm (public performance)

Monday, March 16 at 10:00am (school field trip performance).

The Golden Dragon Acrobats present Cirque Ziva

Breathtaking Chinese acrobatics

\$6

Wednesday, March 25 at 1:00pm (encore broadcast)

The Met: Live in HD

Rossini's *La Donna del Lago*

Bel canto superstars Joyce DiDonato and Juan Diego Flórez join forces for this Rossini showcase of vocal virtuosity, set in the medieval Scottish highlands and based on a beloved novel by Sir Walter Scott.

\$18 to \$25

Wednesday, April 15 at 10:00am (school field trip performance)

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favorites*

Three beloved stories by Eric Carle, award-winning children's book illustrator and author, are retold on stage through the magic of black light and fanciful puppets.

Recommended for pre-school through 3rd grade

\$6

On Sunday, April 19 at 3:00pm

London's National Theatre in HD

*The Hard Problem* by Tom Stoppard

Nicholas Hytner directs Stoppard's new play about a young psychology researcher at a brain science institute.

\$17

Saturday, April 25 at 10:30am (pre-broadcast lecture by Scott Eyerly)

Saturday, April 25 at 12:30pm

The Met: Live in HD

Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*

Opera's most enduring tragic double bill returns in an evocative new production from Sir David McVicar, who sets the action across two time periods but in the same Sicilian village.

\$18 to \$25

Wednesday, May 6 at 12:30pm (encore broadcast)

The Met: Live in HD

Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*

Opera's most enduring tragic double bill returns in an evocative new production from Sir David McVicar, who sets the action across two time periods but in the same Sicilian village.

\$18 to \$25

Friday, May 15 at 7:00pm

London's National Theatre in HD

*Man and Superman* by George Bernard Shaw

Academy Award nominee Ralph Fiennes plays Jack Tanner in this exhilarating reinvention of Shaw's witty, provocative classic.

\$17



Sunday, May 17 at 7:00pm

Rosanne Cash with John Leventhal and Zev Katz

Country pop singer-songwriter to perform songs from her new album, *The River and The Thread*

\$29 to \$79