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

Mahaiwe Presents Singer-Songwriter Rosanne Cash

Great Barrington, Mass.— The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center will present Rosanne Cash, *The River and the Thread*, with John Leventhal and Zev Katz on Sunday, May 17 at 7:00pm. At 6:00pm, *Smithsonian Magazine* feature writer and national music critic Geoffrey Himes will give an in-depth pre-concert talk about Rosanne Cash's new album.

“Rosanne Cash is one of the most compelling figures in popular music,” said Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “While she inherited a reverence for song and profound artistry, she has forged her own way, finding insights and creating a sound all her own.”

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 in a kaleidoscopic examination of its geographic, emotional, and historic landscape. “I went back to where I was born, and these songs started arriving in me,” Cash has said. “All these things happened that made me feel a deeper connection to the South than I ever had. We started finding these great stories, and the melodies that went with those experiences. I feel this record ties past and present together through all those people and places in the South I knew and thought I had left behind.”

The album reflects journeys through the Southern states, with stops at William Faulkner's house; Dockery Farms, the plantation where Howlin' Wolf and Charley Patton worked and sang; her father's boyhood home in Dyess, Arkansas; the Sun Records Studio in Memphis; and the Mississippi Delta, with its memories of the birth of the Civil Rights era and the haunting gravesite of the great bluesman Robert Johnson.

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. The album won three Grammy Awards, including "Best Americana Album." *Smithsonian Magazine* also recently honored Cash with an American Ingenuity Award.

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 four Grammy Awards 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. She has also written four books, including the best-selling memoir *Composed*.

In recent seasons, Cash has appeared in concerts and talks at the Spoleto Festival, Toronto's Luminato festival, and the Festival of Arts and Ideas, and partnered in programming collaborations with the Minnesota Orchestra, Lincoln Center, and San Francisco Jazz.

Geoffrey Himes wrote the *Smithsonian* magazine feature article about Rosanne Cash's 2014 American Ingenuity Award. He has also written about music for the *Washington Post*, *Rolling Stone*, the *New York Times*, *Jazz Times*, *Sing Out*, and many other publications since the late 1970s. He has won three ASCAP/Deems Taylor Awards for music writing. *Born in the USA*, his book on Bruce Springsteen, was

published in 2005, and he is currently finishing a book for the Country Music Hall of Fame about Rosanne Cash, Emmylou Harris, Rodney Crowell, and Ricky Skaggs.

Tickets

Tickets are \$29 to \$79 and include admission to the pre-concert talk by Geoffrey Himes. A limited number of \$15 tickets 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 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 12,000 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.