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

**Mahaiwe Presents Columbus Day Weekend Concerts
by Lucinda Williams and Audra McDonald**

Great Barrington, Mass.— The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center will present singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams on Saturday, October 10 at 8:00pm and the Mahaiwe's 10th Anniversary Gala on Sunday, October 11 at 8:00pm will star singer and actress Audra McDonald. The festive evening will benefit the Mahaiwe's artistic and education programs and honor philanthropists Dena and Felda Hardymon.

"I'm thrilled to welcome Lucinda Williams and Audra McDonald to Great Barrington for their Mahaiwe debuts," said Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. "Both women are music world icons and we're so fortunate to be able to feature them in the theater's 10th anniversary season. I'm also happy that our Gala will honor the Hardymons, who have provided invaluable advice, encouragement, and extraordinarily generous support to the Mahaiwe's development and growth."

Lucinda Williams is a three-time Grammy winner. Her signature sound is a blend of rock, country, blues, and Americana. She has been maneuvering down a path all her own for more than three decades now, emerging from Lake Charles, Louisiana (a town rich in all of America's indigenous musical traditions, from country to the blues) having been imbued with a "culturally rich, economically poor" worldview. With her latest, 11th studio album, *Down Where The Spirit Meets The Bone*, she stays very much rooted in the here and now, but also conjures up the spirit of classic '70s country soul—the province of

Dan Penn, Bobbie Gentry, and Tony Joe White. The resulting warmth of tone gives the album a late-night front-porch vibe. Williams's backing band, Buick 6 (composed of drummer and vocalist Butch Norton, bassist David Sutton, and guitarist Stuart Mathis), will serve as the opening act and then join her for an epic concert. Tickets to Lucinda Williams are \$35 to \$85.

Audra McDonald is unparalleled in the breadth and versatility of her artistry as both a singer and an actress. Recipient of a record-breaking six Tony Awards, two Grammy Awards, and an Emmy Award, she was named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people of 2015. Aside from her Tony-winning performances in *Carousel*, *Master Class*, *Ragtime*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, and *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*, she has appeared on Broadway in *The Secret Garden*, *Marie Christine* (Tony nomination), *Henry IV*, and *110 in the Shade* (Tony nomination). She returns in the 2015-16 season in *Shuffle Along, Or, The Making of the Musical Sensation of 1921 and All That Followed*.

The Juilliard-trained soprano's opera credits include *La voix humaine* and *Send* at Houston Grand Opera, and *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* at Los Angeles Opera. On television, she was seen by millions as the Mother Abbess in NBC's *The Sound of Music Live!* and played Dr. Naomi Bennett on ABC's *Private Practice*, among many other shows. She won an Emmy Award for her role as host of PBS's *Live From Lincoln Center*, having previously received nominations for *Wit* and *A Raisin in the Sun*. An exclusive recording artist for Nonesuch Records, she has released five solo albums for the label. McDonald also maintains a major career as a concert artist, regularly appearing on the great stages of the world and with leading international orchestras. At the Mahaiwe, McDonald will be backed by her trio: Andy Einhorn (music director and piano), Mark Vanderpoel (bass), and Gene Lewin (drums).

Tickets are \$80 to \$150. Gala packages, including premium seating and a preshow dinner catered by Chef Peter Platt of the Old Inn on the Green, start at \$500 and are available by calling Dave Barrett at 413.644.9040 ext. 106.

Jane Iredale is the honorary chair of the Mahaiwe 10th Anniversary Gala Committee. Gala Committee members include Shari Ashman, Carol Bekar, Maggie Buchwald, Maria Mackavey Carls, Sharon Casdin, Margaret Deutsch, Ellen House, Liz and Alan Jaffe, Lola Jaffe, Dan and Sue Lipson, Bob Montgomery, Cheryl Raifstanger, Deborah Ryan, Barry and Marjorie Shapiro, Dick and Stephanie Solar, Mandy Victor-Pieczarka, and Vicki and Ronald Weiner.

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.