

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bringing the performing arts to students wherever they are.
Virtual Matinee Series for area students presented by
The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory.**



Worcester, Mass. (December 22, 2020) The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts is proud to present a new [Virtual Student Matinee Series](#) to provide arts experiences for students of all ages. After a decade of successful school partnerships, the theatre is eager to continue its connection with the students and schools of central Massachusetts and beyond.

The student series will include ten performances that will be available throughout the school year. A variety of productions with a range of topics and themes will be available for teachers and students to view from the classroom or from home at a preferred date and time. Of these performances, the most highly anticipated is the theatre's own production of *A Christmas Carol Reimagined (ACCR)* sponsored by [UniBank](#), presented under the theatre's new umbrella for performances created in Worcester, The Hanover Theatre Repertory. ACCR is a reinterpreted, filmed version of the theatre's annual production of *A Christmas Carol* that has delighted

audiences for the last 12 years. In a typical year, about 6,500 students from around New England attend a daytime student matinee performance of the production. This year, they will still have the opportunity to do so in a virtual format crafted specifically for schools, with a running time of 1:04.

Charles Dickens is a suggested author in the Massachusetts English Language Arts and Literacy curriculum frameworks for Grades 5 – 8, making the theatre’s annual production a staple for many middle school teachers who read the story with their classes each year. Dickens is also listed among suggested 19th century authors in the curriculum frameworks for Grades 9 – 12.

Thanks to a generous gift from [The Hanover Insurance Group](#), the virtual student matinee performance will now be made available to all 25,000 students in the Worcester Public School (WPS) system.

“We’re proud to help bring this show to students and families in our community,” said Kimberly Salmon, president of The Hanover Foundation. “It’s a great opportunity to help celebrate the holidays at home, while serving as a learning experience.”

Susan O’Neil, Ph.D., deputy superintendent, Worcester Public Schools reflected on the matinee series and the generous gift from The Hanover Insurance Group to the WPS students and their families.

“We know that the arts are a means of communication across time, cultures and languages,” she said. “To have our students experience the arts through The Hanover Theatre, learn a story, analyze it, view a professional performance and respond to the experience through an art medium gives our students an opportunity to experience theater virtually. It will have an impact. It will develop an audience for theatre, a community in the classroom and a memorable personal experience to develop young adults who value the arts in our city.”

The Hanover Insurance Group will not only provide access to WPS students, but also to their families, as the production will be available for students to watch at home at their own convenience. In addition to the recording of the show, students and teachers will receive access to exclusive content, including interviews with the cast, a study guide, behind-the-scenes information about the production and more.

“Offering this additional content to students and teachers will enhance their experience with this virtual production by providing them with the tools to engage with the material both before and after watching the film,” said Meghan Montaner, director of education for the theatre and conservatory.

[Access to high resolution production and rehearsal shots available on Flickr.](#)

About The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts

The Hanover Theatre has entertained more than 2 million patrons with world-class performances and headlining acts including Broadway hits (“Jersey Boys,” “Kinky Boots,” “Something Rotten!”), comedians (Dave Chappelle, Jay Leno, Jerry Seinfeld), musical acts (Neil Young, Aretha Franklin, John Legend, Tony Bennett) and everything in between (“A Christmas Carol,” Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Alton Brown, Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson). POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the Top Theatres in the World. After 12 seasons, the award-winning, historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class performing arts venue and catalyst for the economic development of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre’s facilities at 551 Main Street house function spaces, offices and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory. Worcester Center for Performing Arts, a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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