



HANOVER THEATRE
& CONSERVATORY

NEWS RELEASE

For interview requests,
please contact Lisa Condit at 508.471.1767
or PR@TheHanoverTheatre.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***The Hanover Theatre's A Christmas Carol: Sensory Friendly
Performance will create a stress-free and unique
experience for all viewers***



David Costa Photography (2022) featuring John Little* and Lillian Rogers

Worcester, Mass. (November 29, 2023) - The classic holiday play, [A Christmas Carol](#), returns to The Hanover Theatre mainstage this December 16-23, 2023. On Sunday, December 17 at 1:00 pm, the cast of *A Christmas Carol* will present a [Sensory Friendly Performance](#) modified for individuals who would benefit from a more relaxed environment.

Sensory Friendly Performances are unique theatre experiences where those impacted by autism or other sensitivities can attend free of stress or self-consciousness. With guidance and training from [Autism Alliance](#), The Hanover Theatre has completed the Autism Welcoming InitiativeSM and is pleased to be recognized as an Autism Welcoming Partner through the organization. In addition to Autism Alliance, the theatre has received guidance from Seven Hills Foundation, The Arc of Opportunity, Autism Resource Central, Autism Theatre Initiative, Autism Speaks and Theatre Development Fund.

“The partnership between the Autism Alliance and The Hanover Theatre increases quality of life for family caregivers and their loved ones with autism, and creates a welcoming, inclusive community for all,” says Jeffrey Keilson, Senior Vice President of Strategic Planning at Advocates.

At *A Christmas Carol* expect the most startling moments of the show will be softened. House lights will be kept on but dimmed for the entirety of the performances and sounds will be lower in volume and intensity. Select cast members will be introduced to the audience prior to performing. Accommodations of support will be provided, including a quiet area for individuals and families that need a break from the experience where staff and volunteers can assist patrons’ needs. Patrons can download [Sensory Friendly Guide](#) to view before the show.

The highly anticipated annual production returns to The Hanover Theatre adapted by president and CEO Troy Siebels and featuring the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ. [A Christmas Carol](#) features timeless music, lavish costumes and spine-tingling special effects. New and returning cast members tell the tale based on the Charles Dickens novel of the curmudgeonly miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, who is visited by the Spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet To Come.

Music Director Timothy Evans will lead a pre-show concert featuring the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ, the largest and most versatile theatre pipe organ in New England, which viewers will not want to miss.

[Tickets](#) for the Sensory Friendly Performance of *A Christmas Carol* are \$16, \$26 and \$31 made possible by the sponsorship of UMass Memorial Health and UMass Chan Medical School. For more information, please contact the box office at **877.571.7469** or visit TheHanoverTheatre.org.

*Denotes members of Actors’ Equity Association.

About The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts

Since opening in 2008, The Hanover Theatre has entertained more than two million guests with Broadway musicals, comedy headliners, music, dance and more. POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the top theatres in the world. The award-winning historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class center for the performing arts, a venue for local cultural and civic organizations and a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre’s facilities at 551 Main Street house function spaces, offices and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory.

The Hanover Theatre Conservatory provides performance opportunities, classes, and individual instruction in theatre, dance and technical theatre and design to more than 500 young people and adults from across central Massachusetts each year. Established in 2016, the conservatory cultivates individual attention, ignites creativity and inspires confidence through arts education led by outstanding teaching artists. The state-of-the-art facility includes classrooms, rehearsal and teaching studios, and tech and costume labs for advanced education in stage craft and

design. Students receive access to master classes with national touring artists and gain professional experience from performance opportunities with THT Rep and on The Hanover Theatre's world-class stage. THTC believes in access to arts education for all and provides financial aid for those in need. Many conservatory students have continued their pursuit of the arts at institutions such as Emerson College, Boston University, NYU, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Berklee College of Music, Hofstra, Hartt School at the University of Hartford, Marymount Manhattan College, Syracuse University and more.

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 (THT) and, on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Coalition (WCC), manages Worcester's BrickBox Theater at the Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC). All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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