HANOVER THEATRE & CONSERVATORY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Worcester Audiences Continue to be Wooed by the Mighty Wurlitzer! Organist, Dr. Jonathan Kleefield Returns with February Follies and more starting February 12.

Photo Credit: Erika Sidor Photography, Dr. Jonathan Kleefield

Worcester, Mass. (January 15, 2025) After a powerful fall concert series, The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts welcomes back resident organist Dr. Jonathan Kleefield on the Mighty Wurlitzer for a series of spring concerts and pre-show performances.

Beginning on what we hope will be the cusp of spring, Dr. Kleefield kicks off his performances with *February Follies: Lerner, Loewe, Lincoln, and Love, A Musical Revue* on **Wednesday, February 12 at noon**.

Tickets are on sale now!

This lavish revue is inspired by the notable events packed into the shortest month of the year. February is the month our first president was born and February 12 marks the exact date of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Music honoring both icons will be featured on the Mighty Wurlitzer including the powerful Doxology Hymn. Additional melodies anticipated in this concert will remind the audience that Valentine's Day is right around the corner. Timeless tunes from the popular writing team Lerner and Loewe will be highlighted including pieces from *My Fair Lady* and *Brigadoon*.

Following that memorable concert, patrons will have the opportunity to celebrate their favorite musical theatre icons in *The S'Wonderful Fred & Gene: A Musical Revue on the Mighty Wurlitzer* **Wednesday, March 26 at noon**.

This toe-tapping musical revue acknowledges the contribution of what many consider two of the greatest popular dancers of the 20th century, Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly. While neither wrote any significant music themselves, they were more than capable vocalists, who supplemented their unparalleled dance skills by delivering songs of many famous composers, including George Gershwin and Jerome Kern. This program will chronicle the lives of these remarkable performers.

Both special events will showcase the Mighty Wurlitzer's many unique capabilities as Dr. Jonathan Kleefield shares interesting background about the instrument's rich history along with behind the scenes' intel about the musical programs.

Tickets for *February Follies* and *The S'Wonderful Fred & Gene* are only $10 for non-members. The Mighty Wurlitzer concerts are FREE for subscribers, current conservatory families, members and their guests. Seating is general admission. Run time is approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. Contact the box office at **877.571.7469** for more information or visit TheHanoverTheatre.org.

Additional opportunities to hear the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ include pre-show performances at the following:

Saturday, March 8 at 8 PM
The Irish Tenors

Thursday, April 24 at 7:30 PM
Neil Berg's The 70's - Long Live Rock & Roll!

Friday, April 25 at 7:30 PM

The Moth Mainstage

To enjoy Dr. Jonathan Kleefield's pre-show performances on the Mighty Wurlitzer, guests must arrive early and hold tickets to the headlining events.

The Mighty Wurlitzer, assembled and gifted to the theatre by Donald Phipps, is recognized as one of the cultural jewels of Worcester. Phipps, Kleefield and the Mighty Wurlitzer were recently highlighted on WGBH's, The Culture Show. As a board director of the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, Phipps followed in the footsteps of our theatre's founders, with his vision of restoring a treasured piece of our heritage and culture.

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.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts is a registered not-for profit 501(c)(3) organization, which owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts and, on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Coalition, manages Worcester's BrickBox Theater at the Jean McDonough Arts Center. The organization also provides free public programming for the Francis R. Carroll Plaza and the outdoor Bank of America Stage, located directly in front of The Hanover Theatre. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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