HANOVER THEATRE & CONSERVATORY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAMMY®-Nominated Classical-Meets-Hip-Hop Duo Black Violin to Perform at The Hanover Theatre October 4!

New Album Full Circle Out This Friday

Photo Credit: Meredith Traux

Worcester, Mass. (April 29, 2025) *Black Violin*, the GRAMMY®-Nominated hip-hop string fusion duo from Florida, will perform at The Hanover Theatre & Conservatory for the Performing Arts on **Saturday, October 4, 2025, at 7:30 PM!** Today the duo announced an extensive fall US tour with stops planned across the country, including California, Michigan, and Worcester!

Ticket presales begin April 30. Public on-sale begins, Friday, May 2 at 10 AM.

Black Violin members **Wil Baptiste** and **Kev Marcus** met on the first day of orchestra class in 1996 at Dillard High School of the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale. (Baptiste originally wanted to play

saxophone in the band, but the orchestra teacher got him assigned to his class after winning a golf bet with the band instructor.) Classically trained by day, they faithfully put on their headphones and listened to the hottest rap records each night. They went to different colleges—Marcus attended Florida International University and Baptiste went to Florida State—but then reconvened, moved into an apartment together, and started trying to produce other musicians.

They developed an act covering hip-hop songs on their violins, which became popular in local clubs. Two years after sending in a tape to "Showtime at the Apollo," they were invited to appear on the show—which they won and kept winning. They were approached by the manager of Alicia Keys, who asked them to perform with the singer at the Billboard Awards. Other offers followed—they toured with Mike Shinoda of Linkin Park, opened for the Wu-Tang Clan, and worked with the likes of Alessia Cara, 2 Chainz, and Lil Wayne. All the while, *Black Violin* continued touring non-stop (playing as many as 200 shows a year) and released two independent, self-financed albums before putting out the acclaimed "Stereotypes" in 2016, followed by 2019's "Take the Stairs," which was nominated for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album at the 2020 GRAMMYs®.

Black Violin has always been about taking things further, exceeding expectations, challenging conventions. The duo has steadily built a devoted following and a diverse touring base, culminating in such triumphs as two sold-out shows at the Kennedy Center with the National Symphony Orchestra commemorating the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death, and appearances on the "Today Show," "CBS Mornings," and "PBS Newshour," while occupying a musical lane that's entirely its own.

Black Violin's work extends far beyond the stage, reaching deep into communities nationwide with numerous free performances for students and hands-on engagement with youth symphonies and community centers. Through collaborations with local and national education programs such as Turnaround Arts, Baptiste and Marcus connect with more than 100,000 students throughout the year, including low-income and Title 1 schools, and adopted Bethune Elementary, in Florida's Broward County (near where they grew up) to initiate an ongoing mentorship program. In 2019, the duo launched the Black Violin Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering youth by working with them in their communities to provide access to quality music programs that encourage creativity and innovation.

Full Circle finds Black Violin 20 years into their career, arriving back where they began—only now with the clarity that comes from experience. This new chapter is both a reckoning and a renewal, as they confront their past selves while evolving beyond them.

In addition to the *Black Violin Full Circle Tour*, today the duo also announced the release of "Beautiful Day" featuring R&B legend Lalah Hathaway, the final single from their album "Full Circle" (out this Friday). Produced by Phil Beaudreau (Dr. Dre, Justin Bieber, The Game), the album marks a bold new chapter for the genre-defying duo. The songs feel like natural extensions of their early work—refined,

redefined, and charged with the paradox of returning and progressing all at once. Black Violin's new pieces will be reflected on The Hanover Theatre's main stage, **October 4**.

Tickets for *Black Violin Full Circle Tour* range from $48 to $69 depending on seat location. There are a limited amount of VIP packages available for $154. Please contact the box office at 877.571.7469 or visit TheHanoverTheatre.org for more information.

Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. To learn more about group rates call 508.471.1689 or email groupsales@thehanovertheatre.org.

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. The organization also operates the Jean McDonough Arts Center and 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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