

LEGACY SOCIETY



Chris Botti 2009, 2018, 2023

MAHAIWE

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Mahaiwe's Story

The non-profit Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center opened in 2005, but its history began much earlier. The Mahaiwe rests on the traditional lands of the Stockbridge-Munsee tribe of the Mohican nation. The building was designed by architect Joseph McArthur Vance and replaced an earlier corner structure on Castle and Main Streets that burned down in 1901. In 1905, the Mahaiwe opened with live performances, among them by John Philip Sousa and vaudeville acts. Silent films came around in 1914, followed by "talkies" in 1929.

In 1995, the beloved but aged Mahaiwe gained protection under the formation of Great Barrington's Historic District. In 2003, theater renovation began with architect Hugh Hardy and a team of talented artisans. The Mahaiwe opened as a year-round performing arts center in 2005 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

Today, the Mahaiwe is a year-round destination and vibrant community hub presenting world-class music, dance, drama, comedy, classic films, and HD broadcasts from the National Theatre of London and the Metropolitan Opera. Hundreds of the nation's most sought-after performers have graced the Mahaiwe stage, and the Mahaiwe's community engagement and performing arts education programs reach families and students throughout the Berkshire region.



You can be part of this history by including the Mahaiwe in your estate plans and helping to ensure that future generations can experience unforgettable performances from world-renowned artists.

The Legacy Society

The Legacy Society celebrates those who have remembered the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center by bequest, through life-income gifts, an insurance or retirement policy, charitable trust, or with another planned gift. Legacy Society Members enjoy invitations to special events and the satisfaction of knowing that the Mahaiwe will continue to enrich and entertain our community for years to come.

“We want the Mahaiwe to benefit when Laura and I are not around.”

— Jordie Green, Mahaiwe Usher and
Legacy Society Member



Photo by Marina Dominguez

“The Mahaiwe is a bona fide national treasure. Making the Mahaiwe part of my estate plans was high on my list.”

— Robert Vare, Mahaiwe Member and
Legacy Society Member

Join the Legacy Society

Adding the Mahaiwe as a beneficiary in your will is one of the simplest ways to join the Legacy Society. The Mahaiwe's Advancement Team can provide you with information about other options that meet your philanthropic and financial goals. Contact Director of Advancement Diane Wortis at 413-644-9040 x123 or diane@mahaiwe.org.



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