

UNICORN · COLONIAL · FITZPATRICK

BERKSHIRE THEATRE GROUP

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Moody Blues Frontman Justin Hayward Comes to the Colonial Theatre

Pittsfield, MA– Justin Hayward, the lead guitarist and vocalist of legendary rock band The Moody Blues, who released his latest solo album *Spirits Of The Western Sky* (Eagle Rock Entertainment) to critical acclaim last year, will be hitting the road again. He and his band will perform at the Colonial Theatre on May 13 at 7:30pm.

Tickets to *Justin Hayward* are on sale now for \$35-\$95. Contact the Colonial Ticket Office at 111 South Street, Pittsfield by calling 413-997-4444. Tickets can also be bought online at www.berkshiretheatregroup.org. The Ticket Office is open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm or on any performance day from 10am until curtain.

“We had a great tour last year and we received such a warm welcome from the audiences on my solo gigs in support of *Spirits Of The Western Sky* so I’m thrilled to be touring again this year with the new songs from *Spirits* plus some old favourites,” says Justin. “With young and talented Mike Dawes with me on acoustic guitar and Julie Ragins on backing vocals and keyboards, we want to create a pure uncluttered feel. We enjoy this ‘close’ and personal format very much.”

The Swindon, England native’s professional career began in 1964 when he joined Marty Wilde and his wife, Joyce, in the Wilde Three. Hayward joined the Moody Blues in late 1966, replacing departing vocalist, Denny Laine. Bassist John Lodge replaced Clint Warwick at the same time. The integration of Hayward and Lodge into the Moody Blues sparked commercial success and recognition for the band, transforming them from a cover band into one of the biggest selling acts of all-time.

Performing and recording for more than 40 years with The Moody Blues, Hayward wrote such beloved songs as “Nights In White Satin,” “Tuesday Afternoon,” “Question,” “The Voice,” and “Your Wildest Dreams.” His prolific songwriting helped earn the band over 60 million albums sold. *Spirits* is Hayward’s first solo album since 1996’s *The View From The Hill*. Awash in his trademark vocals and guitar work, the album is highlighted with orchestrations by Academy Award-winning composer Anne Dudley.

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About Berkshire Theatre Group

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. Having united in November of 2010 under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, these two institutions are providing the Berkshires and beyond with the finest in live theatre, music, dance and the visual arts on five stages in Stockbridge, MA and Pittsfield, MA. The Fitzpatrick Main Stage (400 seats), cataloged by the National Register of Historic Places, was originally designed and built by Stanford White as the Stockbridge Casino in 1888. The intimate Unicorn Theatre (122 seats) is a home for emerging artists and new theatrical ideas. The Colonial in Pittsfield (780 seats) re-opened in August of 2006, following a \$21 million restoration, and boasts pristine acoustics, classic gilded age architecture and state-of-the-art technical systems. BTG also performs at the outdoor Neil Ellenoff stage, located on the grounds of BTF in Stockbridge, and at The Garage, a music venue located in the lobby of The Colonial. BTG serves over 100,000 patrons per year and reaches over 17,000 students through its educational and outreach programs. For more information on BTG call (413) 448-8084. To purchase tickets, call (413) 997-4444 or go online to www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org.