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BERKSHIRE
THEATRE GROUP

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**BTG Welcomes The Nashville Beat with
Fabrizio and the Fever**

**15th Annual Fundraiser
to Support Sending Children to BTG PLAYS! Summer Camps
Through the Richie duPont Scholarship Fund**

Pittsfield, MA—Berkshire Theatre Group (BTG) presents *The Nashville Beat with Fabrizio and the Fever* at The Colonial Theatre on Friday, May 29 at 7pm. All proceeds go towards sending children to BTG PLAYS! summer camps through the Richie duPont Scholarship Fund. There will be a special performance by **RO/BMS Winter Rock Band**, an outgrowth of the Rock On and Berkshire Music School initiative to provide year-round music programs for teens in downtown Pittsfield.

The Richie duPont Scholarship Fund was established in 2005 in memory of a talented young actor who performed in two of BTG's Main Stage productions. This fund provides summer camp scholarships, so children can pursue their dreams of being on stage.

Since its inception 15 years ago, The Richie duPont Award has been given to 154 children, allowing them the opportunity to attend BTG PLAYS! summer camps on scholarship. Summer camps are one-week sessions offered during the summer vacation months. Students work together to prepare and perform a classic fairy tale, creating basic props and costume pieces in addition to rehearsing. The final performance is followed by a student-led question and answer session.

Michael Fabrizio, son of local pediatrician Dr. Michael Fabrizio and BTG trustee and event chair Kathleen Fabrizio, is a Berkshire native who has spent the last 13 years

writing and performing his original music in and around Nashville. The multi-talented performer has also appeared in episodes of the ABC and CMT drama *Nashville*, where he was part the character Gunnar's band. In 2013, Michael formed Fabrizio and the Fever, an alternative-rock entity. The band, dubbed "genre-gypsies," pulls from a plethora of inspirations including country, rock, Americana, folk-rock, as well as pop and hip-hop music. The band regularly consists of Warner Brothers sound engineer and longtime friend Mark Lonsway (acoustic guitar), well-known Nashville shredder Matt Zehr (electric guitar), and longtime friend and time-keeper Steve Wolfe (drums). Fabrizio and the Fever premiered in October 2013 with an opening slot for legendary super group Boston. Since then, Fabrizio and the Fever has opened for Robert Randolph, Sleeper Agent, Trigger Hippy, John Carter Cash, Craig Morgan, Jessica Andrews, Raelyn Nelson and others.

Fabrizio is the president of Nashville music company, Red Roots Music LLC, and is the founder of The Nashville Masquerade, Nashville's hottest musical showcase. For band information: www.fabrizioandthefever.com; for business information: www.redrootsmusic.org; Find Fabrizio on Instagram: @fabrizionfever, @redrootsmusic, and @thenashvillemasquerade.

Tickets to *The Nashville Beat with Fabrizio and the Fever* range from \$15 to \$25. VIP tickets are \$50, which includes premium seating, 6pm pre-show reception in the Garage with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and refreshments, Fabrizio and the Fever meet and greet and signed event poster. Contact the Colonial Ticket Office at 111 South Street, Pittsfield by calling 413-997-4444, or online at www.berkshiretheatregroup.org. The Ticket Office is open Monday–Saturday, 10am–5pm or on any performance day from 10am until curtain.

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. In 2010, under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, the two organizations merged to form Berkshire Theatre Group (BTG). Berkshire Theatre Group's mission is to support wide ranging artistic exploration and acclaimed performances in theatre, dance, music and entertainment. Every year, BTG produces and presents performances to over 68,000 attendees and, through our Educational Program, serves over 13,000 Berkshire County schoolchildren annually. BTG's celebrated stages reflect the history of the American theatre; they represent a priceless cultural resource for the community.