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BERKSHIRE

THEATRE GROUP

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For Immediate Release, Please:

**Berkshire Theatre Group Presents
Colonial Concert Series: Featuring Broadway Favorites**

Kelli O'Hara In-Person in the Berkshires

Tony Award-Winner for *The King and I*

Norm Lewis: In Concert

Tony Award Nominee for *The Gershwins' Porgy & Bess*

Carolee Carmello: My Outside Voice

Three-Time Tony Award Nominee for *Scandalous, Lestat, Parade*

Krysta Rodriguez: In Concert

Broadway Actor and Star of Netflix's *Halston*

Stephanie J. Block: Returning Home

Tony Award-Winner for *The Cher Show*

Kate Baldwin & Graham Rowat: Dressed Up Again

Two-Time Tony Award Nominee for *Finian's Rainbow, Hello, Dolly!* & Broadway and Television Actor

An Evening With Rachel Bay Jones

Tony, Grammy and Emmy Award-Winner for *Dear Evan Hansen*

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Pittsfield, MA - The Colonial Concert Series: Featuring Broadway Favorites will captivate audiences throughout the summer with evenings of unforgettable performances by a blockbuster lineup of Broadway talent. Concerts by Tony Award-winner **Kelli O'Hara**; Tony Award nominee **Norm Lewis**; three-time Tony Award nominee **Carolee Carmello**; stage and screen actor **Krysta Rodriguez**; Tony Award-winner **Stephanie J. Block**; two-time Tony Award nominee **Kate Baldwin** and Broadway and television actor **Graham Rowat**; and Tony Award-winner **Rachel Bay Jones** will be presented under The Big Tent outside at The Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield, MA.

Kate Maguire says, "These intimate evenings of song will be enchanting under the Big Tent at the Colonial in Pittsfield. Last year's special evenings with The Naughton Family and Brian Stokes Mitchell were thrilling. When Brian Stokes Mitchell announced that the acoustics under the big tent were perfect, I thought, we are going to do this again!"

Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased online at www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org or by calling (413) 997-4444. BTG is offering a 10% discount for all front-line workers. Ticket office hours are every day from 12pm–5pm, or on any performance day from 12pm until curtain. All plays, schedules, casting and prices are subject to change.

**Colonial Concert Series: Featuring Broadway Favorites
Outside Under The Big Tent
At The Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield**

Kelli O'Hara In-Person in the Berkshires

Colonial Concert Series
The Colonial Theatre
Outside Under the Big Tent
at The Colonial Theatre Parking Lot

Friday, June 25 at 7pm

Tickets: \$100

Saturday, June 26 at 7pm, includes post-performance talkback

Tickets: \$150

ABOUT:

Tony Award winner Kelli O'Hara brings her glorious voice, irresistible stage appeal, and radiant personality to the Berkshires in an evening of personal favorite songs. Plus she'll share post-pandemic ponderings about the purpose and power of the arts and its resilient people.

BIO:

Stage and screen star Kelli O'Hara has established herself as one of Broadway's greatest leading ladies. Her portrayal of Anna Loenowens in *The King and I* garnered her the 2015 Tony Award for Best Leading Actress in a Musical, along with Grammy, Drama League, Outer Critics and Olivier Nominations. She reprised the role while making her West End debut, and performed a limited engagement at Tokyo's Orb Theatre. Kelli also received an Emmy nomination for her portrayal of Katie Bonner in the hit web series *The Accidental Wolf*. Other film and television credits include: Season 2 of Netflix's *13 Reasons Why*, *All the Bright Places*, *Peter Pan Live!*, *Sex & The City 2*, Martin Scorsese's *The Key to Reserva*, Showtime's *Master of Sex*, *The Good Fight*, *Blue Bloods*, *N3mbers*, and the animated series *Car Talk*. Other Broadway credits include *Kiss Me Kate* (Tony, Drama League, OCC nominations), *The Bridges of Madison County* (Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League, OCC nominations), *Nice Work if You Can Get It* (Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League, OCC nominations), *South Pacific* (Tony, Drama Desk, OCC nominations), *The Pajama Game* (Tony, Drama Desk, OCC nominations), *The Light in the Piazza* (Tony, Drama Desk nominations), *Sweet Smell of Success*, *Follies*, *Dracula and Jekyll & Hyde*. She was awarded the prestigious Drama League's Distinguished Achievement in Musical Theatre Award in 2019. In 2015, she made her Metropolitan Opera debut in Lehar's *The Merry Widow* opposite Renee Fleming and returned as Despina in Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*. Her concerts have gained international acclaim, spanning from Carnegie Hall to Tokyo. She is a frequent performer on PBS's live telecasts, The Kennedy Center Honors and performs often alongside The New York Philharmonic. Along with her two Grammy nominations, her solo albums, *Always* and *Wonder in the World*, are available on Ghostlight Records. Next up, Kelli will star alongside Christina Baranski & Cynthia Nixon in HBO's new series *The Gilded Age* shooting in New York City this fall.

Norm Lewis: In Concert

Colonial Concert Series

The Colonial Theatre

Outside Under the Big Tent

at The Colonial Theatre Parking Lot

Friday, July 2 at 7pm

Tickets: \$75

Saturday, July 3 at 7pm, includes post-performance talkback

Tickets: \$125*

*A portion of sales for this performance will go to The Actors Fund and Black Theatre United

ABOUT:

SAG and Tony Award nominee Norm Lewis brings his glorious voice and ineffable charm and warmth to Berkshire Theatre Group. Star of Netflix and Spike Lee's *Da 5 Bloods*, *Phantom Of The Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Porgy & Bess*, *The Little Mermaid* and more, Lewis is "among the most reliably impressive voices on Broadway" (*NYT*) and one of its most sought-after leading men. In an evening filled with the songs from roles that have brought him critical acclaim to unique takes on musical theatre standards, Lewis promises to leave audiences wanting more.

BIO:

Norm Lewis can currently be seen starring in the SAG, Critics Choice, and NAACP Image Award-nominated Netflix film *Da 5 Bloods* by Spike Lee and in the Hulu miniseries, *Mrs. America*. He was previously seen in the NBC television special, *Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert!*, alongside John Legend, Sara Bareilles, and Alice Cooper. He recently appeared in the Broadway revival of *Once on This Island* and as Sweeney Todd in the Off-Broadway production of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* at the Barrow Street Theatre, receiving the AUDELCO Award for his performance. In May of 2014, he made history as *The Phantom of the Opera*'s first African American Phantom on Broadway.

He has been seen on PBS in the Live From Lincoln Center productions of *Showboat* with Vanessa Williams, *Norm Lewis: Who Am I?*, and *New Year's Eve: A Gershwin Celebration* with Diane Reeves, as well as *American Voices* with Renée Fleming and the PBS Special *First You Dream—The Music of Kander & Ebb*. He can be seen recurring in the VH1 series, *Daytime Divas*, also alongside Vanessa Williams. His additional television credits include *Better Things*, *The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, *Bull*, *Chicago Med*, *Gotham*, *The Blacklist*, and *Blue Bloods*, as well as in his recurring role as Senator Edison Davis on the hit drama *Scandal*.

Mr. Lewis is a proud founding member of Black Theatre United, an organization which stands together to help protect Black people, Black talent and Black lives of all shapes and orientations in theatre and communities across the country. He received Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle award nominations for his performance as Porgy in the Broadway production of *The Gershwins' Porgy & Bess*. Other Broadway credits include *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Les Misérables*, *Chicago*, *Amour*, *The Wild Party*, *Side Show*, *Miss Saigon*, and *The Who's Tommy*. In London's West End he has appeared as Javert in *Les Misérables* and *Les Misérables: The 25th Anniversary Concert*, which aired on PBS.

Off-Broadway Mr. Lewis has performed in *Dessa Rose* (Drama Desk nomination, AUDELCO Award), Shakespeare in the Park's *The Tempest*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Drama League nomination), *Captains Courageous*, and *A New Brain*. His regional credits include Porgy in *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* (A.R.T.), *Ragtime*, *Dreamgirls* (with Jennifer Holliday), *First You Dream*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *The Fantasticks*. His additional film credits include *Magnum Opus*, *Winter's Tale*, *Sex and the City 2*, *Confidences*, and *Preaching to the Choir*. Norm's albums *The Norm Lewis Christmas Album & This is The Life* can be found on Amazon.com as well as cdbaby.com.

Carolee Carmello: My Outside Voice

Colonial Concert Series: Featuring Broadway Favorites
Outside Under The Big Tent
at The Colonial Theatre Parking Lot

Friday, July 9 at 7pm

Tickets: \$75

ABOUT:

With her powerhouse voice and fun backstage stories, three-time Tony Award nominee Carolee Carmello has charmed and delighted audiences across the country. Now she's bringing her varied characters and styles to the Berkshires. Singing from many of her 14 Broadway shows, classic composers and new voices, Carolee will thrill and entertain as she creates moments from her starring roles in everything from *Mamma Mia* to *Hello Dolly!*.

BIO:

A three-time Tony Award nominee, Ms. Carmello most recently starred as Dolly Levi in the National Tour of *Hello, Dolly!*. Her career includes 14 Broadway musicals. She was seen as Mae Tuck in *Tuck Everlasting* and as Mrs. du Maurier in *Finding Neverland* (earning a Drama Desk nomination). Carolee received both a Tony nomination and Drama Desk nomination for her portrayal of Aimee Semple McPherson in *Scandalous*. Broadway audiences also saw her as Mother Superior in *Sister Act*; Alice Beineke in *The Addams Family* (Drama Desk nomination and Outer Critics Circle nomination); Donna in *Mamma Mia!*; Gabrielle in *Lestat* (Tony nomination, Drama Desk nomination); Ms. Pennywise in *Urinetown*; Kate in *Kiss Me Kate*; Marguerite in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*; Lucille Frank in *Parade* (Tony nomination and Drama Desk Award); Abigail Adams in *1776*; Cordelia in *Falsettos* and as Oolie in *City of Angels*. Off-Broadway credits include: *John and Jen*, *Das Barbecü*, *I Can Get It For You Wholesale*, *Hello Again* (Obie Award), *A Class Act*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Elegies*, and her year-long turn as Mrs. Lovett in the critically-acclaimed *Sweeney Todd* at New York's Barrow Street Theatre. Her screen credits include *The Deuce*; *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*; *The Good Fight*; *Madam Secretary*; *Smash*; *Law and Order: SVU*; *Frasier*; *Ed*; *Indoor Boys* (Indie Series Award) and *Remember W.E.N.N.* (SAG Award nomination). Ms. Carmello's concert appearances have taken her across America and Europe, including engagements at Lincoln Center, Town Hall and Carnegie Hall.

Krysta Rodriguez: In Concert

Colonial Concert Series: Featuring Broadway Favorites
Outside Under The Big Tent
at The Colonial Theatre Parking Lot

Saturday, July 10 at 7pm

Tickets: \$75

ABOUT:

Krysta Rodriguez brings her charming edge and humor to make her Berkshires concert debut with an evening of career highlights from such memorable turns as Broadway's *Spring Awakening*, *The Addams Family*, *In the Heights*, *First Date*, and her personal favorite songs and stories that have so far shaped her career. Fresh off playing the iconic Liza Minnelli in Ryan Murphy's newest Netflix series *Halston*, Rodriguez promises an evening of heartfelt laughs and an exciting performance you won't want to miss.

BIO:

Krysta Rodriguez stars as the iconic Liza Minnelli in the Netflix limited series *Halston* from Ryan Murphy following her role opposite Matthew Broderick in *Daybreak*. Rodriguez starred as Megara in the Public Works production of *Hercules*, the musical adaptation of the Disney animated film at the Public Theater's Delacorte Theater in Central Park. Prior to that, Krysta received an Outer Critics Circle honor for her performance in *Seared* for MCC Theater, in a role she originated at the Williamstown Theatre Festival under the direction of Mortiz von Stuelpnagel. Other memorable turns include: Anita in *West Side Story* at The Kennedy Center with the National Symphony Orchestra and Theresa Rebeck's *What We're Up Against* Off-Broadway opposite Skyler Astin. A Broadway veteran, Rodriguez was last seen as Ilse in the critically acclaimed Deaf West revival of *Spring Awakening* and prior to that headlined in *First Date* opposite Zachary Levi. Her extensive Broadway credits include Wednesday Addams in *The Addams Family* opposite Nathan Lane and Bebe Neuwirth, *In the Heights*, *Spring Awakening*, *A Chorus Line* (Revival) and *Good Vibrations*. On television, Rodriguez is known from her scene-stealing turn on the second season of NBC's *Smash* as fan-favorite Ana Vargas. Rodriguez was a standout in the Hollywood Bowl production of *A Chorus Line*, in which *The Hollywood Reporter* singled her out as the "Broadway pro whose delivery is so powerful she easily fills the cavernous Bowl, leading the cast to a cathartic crescendo." Other television credits include the NBC series *Trial & Error* opposite John Lithgow and recurring roles on *Quantico*, *Younger*, *Chasing Life*, *The Mysteries of Laura*, *Married* and *Gossip Girl*.

Stephanie J. Block: Returning Home

Colonial Concert Series: Featuring Broadway Favorites
Outside Under The Big Tent
at The Colonial Theatre Parking Lot

Saturday, August 21 at 2pm

Tickets: \$100

Saturday, August 21 at 7pm

Tickets: \$150

ABOUT:

Recognized as one of the most relevant and versatile voices in contemporary musical theatre, Stephanie J. Block is one of a few Broadway performers to garner three Tony Award nominations in just six years. She holds the current Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her star turn as Cher in *The Cher Show*. In this, her first live performance since March 2020, she will share with the audience the idea of returning home. Singing songs that reflect this last year of staying in our homes, her decision to relocate from the East Coast to her home state of California and bringing us to where she feels most at home...onstage. This will certainly be an emotional and heartfelt reunion as she returns home.

BIO:

Stephanie most recently starred as Cher in *The Cher Show* and prior to that as Trina in Lincoln Center Theatre's highly acclaimed revival of *Falsettos*. Stephanie received both the 2013 Tony Award and Drama Desk nomination for Best Leading Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of

Alice Nutting/Edwin Drood in The Roundabout Theatre's production of *The Mystery Of Edwin Drood*. Other Broadway credits include Reno Sweeney in the 2011 Tony Award-winning revival of *Anything Goes*, *9 To 5: The Musical* playing the role of Judy Bernly for which she earned a Drama Desk nomination for Best Actress in a Musical. She created the roles of Grace O'Malley in *The Pirate Queen* and Liza Minnelli in *The Boy From Oz* (opposite Hugh Jackman). Ms. Block is best known for her portrayal as Elphaba in the Broadway company of *Wicked* as well as originating the role in the First National Tour for which she won numerous awards including the prestigious Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Actress in a Musical.

Ms. Block has sung with numerous symphony orchestras including the NY Pops at Carnegie Hall, Boston Pops, National Symphony Orchestra (under the baton of Marvin Hamlisch), Dallas Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Utah Symphony, Columbus Symphony, Charlotte Symphony and the Cleveland Pops among many others. Her solo concert was critically acclaimed and sold out throughout the US and in London.

Some of her Off-Broadway and regional theatrical credits include *Little Miss Sunshine* (Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical), *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark* (Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play), *They're Playing Our Song* (starring opposite Jason Alexander), *Cats* (St Louis' Kevin Kline Award Nominee Best Actress), *Funny Girl*, *Crazy For You* (L.A. Ovation Award Nominee), *Oliver* (Critics Award Best Actress), James Joyce's *The Dead*, *Triumph Of Love*, *The Grass Harp*, *South Pacific*, *Will Rogers Follies* and the World Premiere of *Wicked*.

Stephanie's solo album, *This Place I Know*, has been received with great praise, lauded by critics as "One of the best debut recordings to come out of the Broadway community in quite some time...6 out of 5 stars." (*BroadwayWorld*) An array of award-winning songwriters assembled to help interpret their music on Stephanie's album. Composers such as Stephen Schwartz, Marvin Hamlisch and the legendary Dolly Parton join forces with Ms. Block to create a thrilling musical experience. Stephanie's voice can be heard on multiple cast recordings, including *The Boy From Oz*, *The Pirate Queen*, *Wicked's 5th Anniversary Album* and *9 To 5: The Musical* (Grammy Nomination).

Television credits include: *Rise* (NBC), *Madame Secretary* (CBS), *Orange Is The New Black* (Netflix), *Homeland* (Showtime) and *It Could Be Worse* (HULU).

Kate Baldwin & Graham Rowat: Dressed Up Again

Colonial Concert Series: Featuring Broadway Favorites

Outside Under The Big Tent

at The Colonial Theatre Parking Lot

Saturday, August 28 at 7pm

Tickets: \$75

ABOUT:

With 14 Broadway shows between them, BTG alums Kate Baldwin and Graham Rowat have

the style it takes to entertain an audience. Come see these married actors share their favorite songs along with thrilling adventures of the stage and quarantine. Expect music by Stephen Sondheim; Bock and Harnick; Frank Loesser; Cole Porter and Jason Robert Brown. They've escaped their webcams and are back on stage, but do the clothes still fit? Kate and Graham are "Dressed Up Again."

BIOS:

Kate Baldwin starred opposite both Bette Midler and Bernadette Peters in the 2017 Tony-winning revival of *Hello Dolly!*, garnering accolades for her sparkling humor and soaring voice. She was nominated for the 2017 Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for her performance as Irene Molloy. Her starring role in the 2009 Broadway revival of Yip Harburg and Burton Lane's hit classic musical *Finian's Rainbow* drew Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations and put her on the map as "a real musical theatre star" (*New York Post*). She received a Drama Desk Award nomination for her role as Jen in Keen Company's 20th Anniversary revival of Andrew Lippa and Tom Greenwald's *John & Jen*. She starred as Sandra Bloom in *Big Fish* on Broadway and earned accolades and a Drama Desk Award nomination for her work as Leslie Lyntonn Benedict in *Giant* at The Public Theater. Off-Broadway, she drew raves in *Songbird* (59E59) and a Lortel Award nomination for her work in *Superhero* (Second Stage). At BTG, Kate starred in *A Little Night Music*, *Bells Are Ringing* and *Constellations*. Television: *Law & Order: SVU* (NBC), *First You Dream: The Music of Kander and Ebb* (PBS) and *Just Beyond* (Disney+).

Graham Rowat has performed on Broadway in Steve Martin's *Meteor Shower*, *Sunset Boulevard* (2017), *Mamma Mia*, *Guys and Dolls*, *LoveMusik*, *Dracula* and *Beauty and the Beast*. He has also been seen Off-Broadway in *The Blue Flower* (Second Stage), *The Boys in the Band* (Transport Group) and *The Minister's Wife* (Lincoln Center Theater). Graham's National Tours include *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* (San Francisco, Detroit, Toronto) and *Les Misérables* (US and China). At BTG, Graham has appeared in *Constellations*, *Bells Are Ringing* and *A Little Night Music* and his other regional performances include *Arcadia* (Yale Rep) and *A Funny Thing...Forum* (Two River Theater, Williamstown Theatre Festival). Television: *Evil*, *Madam Secretary*, *Elementary*, *The Good Wife*, *Law and Order: SVU*. Recordings: *LoveMusik* (Broadway Cast Recording), *Life Begins at 8:40* and *Sweet Bye and Bye* (PS Classics).

An Evening With Rachel Bay Jones

Colonial Concert Series: Featuring Broadway Favorites

Outside Under The Big Tent

at The Colonial Theatre Parking Lot

Saturday, September 4 at 7pm

Tickets: \$75

ABOUT:

Tony, Grammy and Emmy Award-winner Rachel Bay Jones from Broadway's *Dear Evan*

Hansen shares the songs and stories that have shaped her life and career. Rachel's intimate yet soaring voice creates an incredibly dynamic evening, featuring music by Stephen Schwartz, David Yazbeck and Pasek & Paul among others. Musical Direction by Randy Redd.

BIO:

Rachel Bay Jones is best known for originating the role of "Heidi Hansen" in the Original Broadway Cast of *Dear Evan Hansen*, and received a Tony Award, Emmy Award, Grammy Award, Lucille Lortel Award and Drama League Nomination for her performance.

She can be seen on the hit ABC series *Modern Family*, CBS' *God Friended Me* and in the feature film *Ben Is Back* opposite Julia Roberts. She stars in the feature film *Critical Thinking* directed by and opposite John Leguizamo; in the Amazon television series *Panic*; and Season 2 of Paramount Plus' *Why Women Kill*. Additionally, Rachel recently appeared on NBC's *Law & Order: SVU*, ABC's *Grey's Anatomy*, *The Family* and the FX series *Louie*.

Additional Broadway credits include *Pippin*, *Hair* and *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*. Off-Broadway & Regional/National Tour include *Next To Normal* at The Kennedy Center, *Dear Evan Hansen* (Drama Desk Nomination) at Second Stage, *First Daughter Suite* at The Public Theater, *Hello Again*, *A Christmas Story*, *Pippin*, *Sylvia* at BTG, *A Thousand Clowns* at BTG and *The King and I*.

She recently toured her solo concert series, *Something Beautiful*, and her debut solo album *Showfolk* can be purchased on iTunes and Amazon.

CALENDAR BREAKDOWN

Kelli O'Hara: In-Person in the Berkshires, Friday, June 25 at 7pm and Saturday, June 26 at 7pm

Norm Lewis: In Concert, Friday, July 2 at 7pm and Saturday, July 3 at 7pm

Carolee Carmello: My Outside Voice, Friday, July 9, 2021 at 7pm

Krysta Rodriguez: In Concert, Saturday, July 10, 2021 at 7pm

Stephanie J. Block: Returning Home, Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 2pm and 7pm

Kate Baldwin & Graham Rowat: Dressed Up Again, Saturday, August 28, 2021 at 7pm

An Evening With Rachel Bay Jones, Saturday, September 4, 2021 at 7pm

Safety Measures

BTG has outlined procedures and protocols in a manner that is consistent with state and local mandated health and safety guidelines. Contactless ticket scanning will be done for patrons at their point of entry. Free-standing hand sanitizer stations will be placed at various locations throughout the space. Vaccinated patrons are encouraged to wear masks. Non-vaccinated patrons are advised to continue to wear face masks and to continue distancing as recommended by the CDC.

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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. 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 school children annually. In July 2020, Berkshire Theatre was the first company in the United States to earn approval from Actors' Equity Association to produce a musical (*Godspell*) in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic.