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CONCERT SERIES

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WELCOME

The Needham Bank Great Hall Concert Series is now in its NINTH season of presenting great concerts in Needham. That's more than 30 concerts, and counting! It is hard to convey just how exciting it is for us to launch a new season. The months before the season opens are filled with the anticipation of choosing artists, planning shows, and nailing down all of the details that make a concert season happen. But even though we have done this now for nine seasons, every show is just as exciting to us as the first, and we still get butterflies before each performance.

This year, we are especially grateful to be back, after two years of COVID postponements. We have been looking forward to this season for a long time. We are very happy to have you back in our audience, and are very grateful for your patience and consistent support as we worked through the challenges of the past two years.

We hope that you share this same excitement! Help us spread the word about the Series – tell your friends, or invite someone along to enjoy the concert with you. Go to our website and sign up for our mailing list for news and updates. And find us on Facebook for the most up-to-date announcements, and additional information about our season's performers. We promise not to overload your inbox, and we never ever ever share our list.

One of the best things about this Series is the way that it brings the community together. Needham has a strong community spirit in all of its activities, and it shows here too. From the individuals and businesses who sponsor us, to the restaurants that fill up before the concerts, to the talented high school musicians who open our shows – this series is a joyful community effort.

We thank our outstanding Board for all their work and planning. We thank the Sponsors, who got us off the ground and keep us going. And we thank you, our Audience, for the support, enthusiasm, and trust that make this all so much fun.

Michael Greis

Gloria Greis

Co-Presidents,

Great Hall Performance Foundation



*"Music is the universal
language of humankind."*

~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow~

We are grateful to the Great Hall
Concert Series for enriching our
community, and for its contribution
to the education of our children.

~Cliff Hayden & Kim Marie Nicols~



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ABOUT GHPF

The Needham Bank Great Hall Concert Series is brought to you by The Great Hall Performance Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation pledged to continue the good work of its predecessor, Citizens for the Preservation of Town Hall. Our mission focuses on providing great music close to home, while supporting local economic development, music education, and building a vibrant community.

The GHPF works closely with the Needham Town Manager, the local business community, and allied arts organizations to provide outstanding but affordable concerts in our beautifully-restored Town Hall. We also seek to highlight and support the excellent performing arts programs in the Needham Public Schools. As part of this effort, Needham students are involved in every performance. Furthermore, a donation from the proceeds of each season is contributed annually to support the participation of the Needham Schools' Fine and Performing Arts Program.

We are now starting our Ninth Season of performances! Each season features a world-class artist from the pop, folk, classical, and jazz genres. Join our mailing list to stay informed about our concerts and plans. And if you are interested in volunteering to help out, we would be happy to have you.

Sign up for our mailing list or find us on Facebook for updates, announcements, and additional information about our season's performers. Contact us anytime via email at info@greathallperformance.org or by mail at Great Hall Performance Foundation, PO Box 920063, Needham, MA 02492.

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Jackie & Steve Peck



NEEDHAM TOWN HALL AND THE JAMES HUGH POWERS HALL: *a Brief History*

For Needham's first 130 years, town meetings were held wherever there was a large enough space. Most often, this meant at the Parish Meeting House, the town's only public building. In 1838, Town Meeting looked into erecting a "town house" as a location for conducting town business. The result was a large room added to the town poorhouse, on the dividing line between Needham's East and West Parishes. This arrangement lasted until the West Parish split off in 1881 to become Wellesley, and Needham lost the building.

The new town center needed a focal point, and in 1901, Town Meeting authorized a Town Hall to meet the increasingly urgent need for "proper and fitting accommodations" from which to conduct town business. The new Town Hall was completed in 1903 as a civic monument to Needham's Twentieth Century identity.

For its first 50 years, the Town Hall's large second-floor hall was the community's meeting place – not only for Town Meeting and official business, but also for community celebrations, military recruiting, theatrical and dance performances, and balls. These functions scattered to school gyms and auditoriums after the second floor was partitioned for office space in the 1950s.

By 2009 the Town Hall was in need of repair and critically short of space. Town Meeting approved the cost of a renovation and expansion, much of it paid for with Community Preservation Act funding. A large addition to the building created office and meeting space and allowed the second floor "Great Hall" to be returned to its original function as a meeting and event hall. As part of Needham's Tercentennial celebrations in the fall of 2011, the Great Hall was dedicated as the James Hugh Powers Hall, in honor of Mr. Powers' long and energetic service to Needham. The Hall now serves again as the site of town services, meetings and celebrations, including the Needham Bank Great Hall Concert Series, helping to expand the cultural and economic life of Needham. Now into its second century, Needham Town Hall is more than ever the civic and emotional heart of our town.



THE BULFINCH GROUP

is proud to be a sponsor of the

Great Hall Concert Series

The Bulfinch Group is pleased to help underwrite the Great Hall Concert Series and this season's exciting lineup of exceptional artists. We support the Great Hall Performance Series Foundation's mission to preserve the Great Hall landmark, assist the Needham High School Music Program, and provide vibrant concert programming for the enjoyment of our community.

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FEATURED PROGRAM

Peter Cincotti

November 5, 2022 at 8:00 pm

88 keys, a bench and a mic. Give those things to Peter Cincotti and he can take you anywhere. Whether he is soloing over a song that showcases his jazz roots, or playing a catchy hook from one of his popular originals, Peter Cincotti blends genres while bringing active, rhythmic piano playing back into the landscape of modern music.



A born and bred New Yorker, Cincotti spent much of his childhood going to school during the day and playing clubs at night. Legendary music producer Phil Ramone was there one of those nights, a discovery that led Ramone to produce Peter's debut album which reached #1 on the Billboard jazz charts, making 18-year old Cincotti the youngest artist ever to do so.

Since then, Peter has performed in some of the world's most prestigious venues from Carnegie Hall to L'Olympia in Paris, collaborated with artists ranging from Andrea Bocelli to David Guetta, has been featured in blockbuster films such as Spiderman 2, represented the global fashion brands Ermenegildo Zegna and Tod's, and even appeared as himself in Season 3 of the hit Netflix series House of Cards.

Peter's experiences have shaped his music through the years, changing the layers of his sound and the dimensions of his style. Peter currently hosts a live stream show called 'That Friday Feeling with Peter' from his apartment in New York, where fans from around the world join him each week for drinks, talk, music and more, every Friday night at 6pm EST.

Peter's newest album, 88 Keys & Me, will mark his first record honoring some of the most influential piano men and women of all time, as well as some autobiographical originals. Whether he is blending influences from Nat King Cole to Billy Joel, Lady Gaga to John Lennon, or Bill Evans to Coldplay, Cincotti creates a kind of crazy glue between genres, revealing the hidden harmonies behind the songs we thought we knew.



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Wednesday - Sunday, 12 pm to 12 am

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2022-2023 SEASON

CANADIAN BRASS

September 24, 2022 at 8:00 pm

With an international reputation as one of the most popular brass ensembles today, Canadian Brass has truly earned the distinction of “the world’s most famous brass group.” Masters of concert presentations, Canadian Brass has developed a uniquely engaging stage presence and rapport with audiences.

Each of their concerts shows their full range, from trademark Baroque and Dixieland tunes, to new compositions and arrangements created especially for them, from formal classical presentation to music served up with lively dialogue and theatrical effects. With a discography of over 130 albums (and more than 2 million sold), and an extensive world-wide touring schedule, Canadian Brass is an important pioneer in bringing brass music to audiences everywhere.



PETER CINCOTTI

November 5, 2022 at 8:00 pm

88 keys, a bench and a mic. Give those things to Peter Cincotti and he can take you anywhere. Whether he is soloing over a song that showcases his jazz roots, or playing a catchy hook from one of his popular originals, Peter Cincotti blends genres while bringing active, rhythmic piano playing back into the landscape of modern music. Peter’s experiences have shaped his music through the years, changing the layers of his sound and the dimensions of his style. His fans eagerly await each new album. Peter’s newest album, 88 Keys & Me, will mark his first record honoring some of the most influential piano men and women of all time.



RUTHIE FOSTER

March 4, 2023 at 8:00 pm

Award-winning artist Ruthie Foster has been nominated for (among others!) a Best Blues Album Grammy — three times in a row — seven Blues Music Awards, three Austin Music Awards, a Living Blues Critics' Award for Female Blues Artist of the Year, and “inspiring American Artist” as a United States Artists 2018 Fellow. Drawing influence from legendary acts like Mavis Staples and Aretha Franklin, Foster developed a unique sound unable to be contained within a single genre. As Ruthie wraps her impeccably nuanced voice around each song, the wisdom of her selections, the strength of each arrangement, their near-seamless flow converge into yet another reminder that Foster's artistry really is in a league of its own.



AZTEC TWO-STEP 2.0

April 22, 2023 at 8:00 pm

Originating from a chance meeting at an “open mic night” in a Boston folk club in 1971, Rex Fowler and Neal Shulman formed Aztec Two-Step. Their albums helped usher the music of the 60's into the 1970's and beyond, leaving an indelible mark on the musical genre. For over forty years, Rex and Neal impressed audiences with intelligent songwriting, dazzling acoustic lead guitar, and soaring two-part harmonies. Neal retired in 2018, but Rex continues to expand the band's legacy with fan favorites, forgotten gems and new compositions with the members of his new ensemble.





NEEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

The Fine and Performing Arts Department is an integral component to the comprehensive, standards-based educational experience of every child enrolled in Needham Public Schools.

All elementary students receive foundational instruction in both visual arts and music with an option to enroll in the Instrumental Program starting in Third Grade. At the Middle School level, instruction continues in the visual arts and music, with added opportunities in theater arts and the ability to focus on a specific discipline. At the High School level, students are able to choose from a wide variety of course offerings allowing them to either focus on a specific area or explore a variety of course offerings.

Performing Arts students at the High School are specifically involved with the Great Hall Concert Program through the Great Hall's Community Arts Internship Program. Students from the High School Ensembles and the Middle School Honors Ensembles also are provided the unique opportunity to open each of the Great Hall Concerts this upcoming season. Students are excited to share the stage with world renowned artists and be able to showcase their talents to the greater Needham Community.

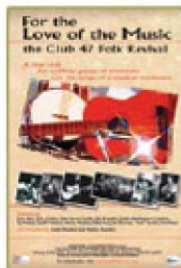
PERFORMING ARTS SCHEDULE

October 28-20, 2022	SAMD Musical
November 10 & 17	Choral and Ensemble Concerts
December 2	WinterFest
January 20 & 27, 2023	Jazz Night
March 10-12	NHS Musical
May 12-13	Middle School Play
May 19-20	High School Play
June 9-10	NHS Senior-Directed Show

For the complete performance schedule, see tiny.cc/needhamfpa



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