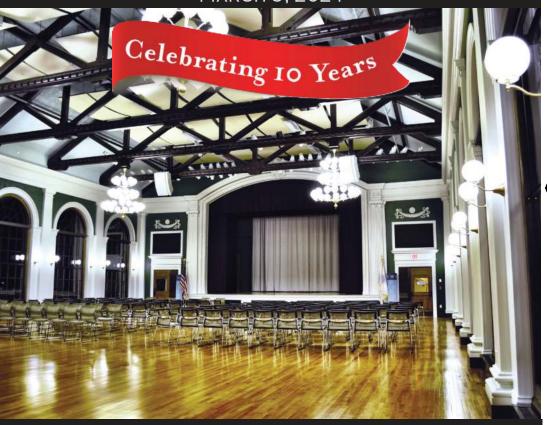


MARCH 9, 2024



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We are as grateful for the sights and sounds of nature as we are for the performances at the Great Hall Concert Series.



Artie Crocker • 781-444-7020 • Artie@NEC-Solar.com

## Welcome

The Needham Bank Great Hall Concert Series is now in its TENTH season of presenting great concerts in Needham. That's more than 35 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 ten seasons, every show is just as exciting to us as the first, and we still get butterflies before each performance!

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.

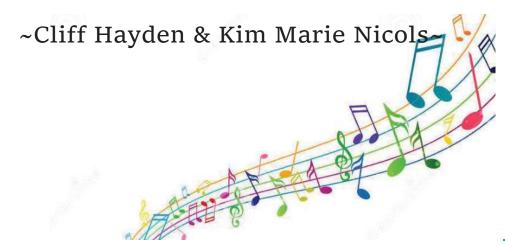
Michael Greis Gloria Greis Co-Presidents Great Hall Performance Foundation



# "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.





# We don't sell financial products. We sit on your side of the table.

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## About GHPF

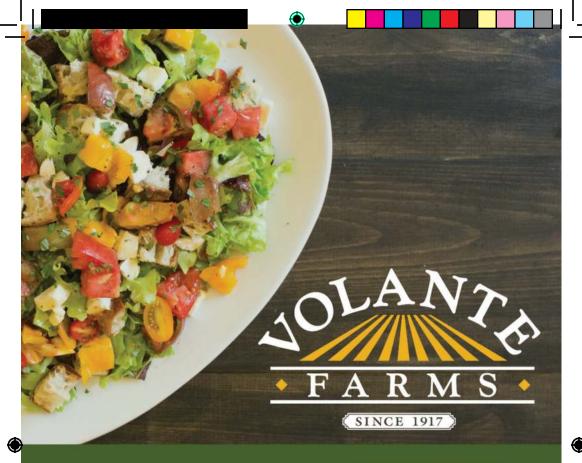
There is a big, wide world of music out there, and the Great Hall Concert Series wants to bring you all of it! We are now starting our Tenth Season of performances. Each season, we seek out a diverse array of world-class artists playing pop, folk, classical, and jazz. Take a look at our concert roster from past seasons – a rich mix of well-known pop stars, straight-up classical, blues, folk, sexy jazz, and a host of voices from all over the world.

The Needham Bank Great Hall Concert Series is brought to you by The Great Hall Performance Foundation, a nonprofit 50I(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 local community.

The GHPF works closely with the Needham community and 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, and a donation from the proceeds of each season is contributed annually to support the participation of the Needham Schools' Fine and Performing Arts Program.

Sign up for our mailing list to stay informed about our concerts and plans, or find us on Facebook for updates, announcements, and additional. Contact us anytime via email at info@greathallperfomance.org or by mail at Great Hall Performance Foundation, PO Box 920063, Needham, MA 02492.

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Michael Greis, Co-President
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Moe & Elizabeth Handel





# 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 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.

The Bulfinch Group is a comprehensive financial services firm committed to helping you improve your long-term financial success. Our customized programs are designed to grow, protect, and conserve wealth by delivering a high level of personalized service and experience.





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# Sweet Honey In The Rock®

March 9, 2024 at 8:00 pm

SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK® remains among the most vibrant, versatile and relevant musical collectives in music today. They are a performance ensemble and an ambassadorial African American organization founded on the triumvirate

missions of Empowerment, Education and Entertainment. Their current membership includes Carol Maillard, Louise Robinson, Nitanju Bolade Casel, Aisha Kahlil, Barbara Hunt, Christie Dashiell, Rochelle Rice, and features Romeir Mendez on upright acoustic bass and electric bass. Sweet Honey In The Rock is a



powerful and unique concert entity that fuses the elastic 360 degree possibilities of the human voice with a theatrical flair that keeps avid audiences returning for more year after year. Kinetic, cultured and connected, this internationally renowned, Grammy Award® nominated, female a cappella vocal quartet has a history of over four decades of distinguished service.

Since its 1973 inception in Washington, DC (founded by Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon as part of the D.C. Black Repertory Theater Company with Carol Maillard, Louise Robinson and Mie), Sweet Honey In The Rock has continuously evolved into international ambassadors of a cappella vocal and lyrical excellence and musical missionaries of equality, empowerment and education, peace, love, solidarity and nondenominational spirituality. Sweet Honey In The Rock has performed in many of the world's most prestigious venues on almost every continent for royal command concerts and festivals, including an astounding 32 performances at Carnegie Hall.

Recent milestones and accomplishments include being commissioned by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Company to compose a score for its 50th anniversary 2008 program, "Go In Grace." In 2012, they debuted their first orchestral collaboration, writing original lyrics for composer William Banfield's, "Symphony IO: Affirmations for a New World." The group also had the honor of performing at the National Memorial Service for Nelson Mandela at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, and performed by request at the White House for President and Mrs Obama.

Ever evolving, Sweet Honey retains its adventurous spirit, keeping up with the times and reaching greater numbers of like-minded spirits. Fans stay abreast of their travels on Facebook, Twitter and on their website, sweethoneyintherock.org.





# Please Join Us After The Concert





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# Asian Fusion Sushi Bar Traditional



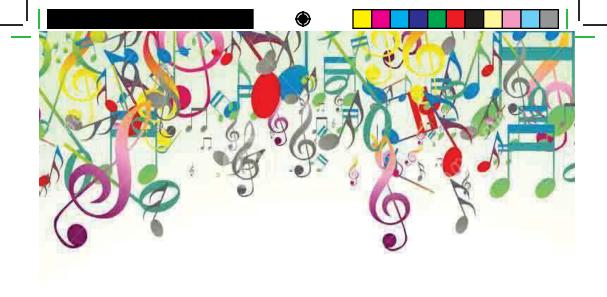
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Dine In - Take Out



The GHPF thanks

# Steve & Susan Tanner



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# 2023-2024 Season

# Ann Hampton Callaway, with Billy Stritch

September 23, 2023 at 8:00 pm

"Fever: A Peggy Lee Celebration." Ann has created an exciting night of songs and stories in celebration of one of America's most beloved artists, Peggy Lee. This show celebrates the IOOth birthday of the trailblazing woman who gave the world "Fever" through six decades of iconic songs from sultry to siz-



zling. Fall under the spell of love songs from Peggy's swinging Benny Goodman days through decades of hits from film and recordings that earned this iconic singer songwriter her powerhouse nickname, "The female Frank Sinatra."

#### Boston Baroque X-tet

November 4, 2023 at 8:00 pm

Boston Baroque believes that Baroque and Classical music is music for all times. Founded in 1973 by Music Director Martin Pearlman, Boston Baroque is a trailblazer in the field of early music, and has garnered a global reputation for its lively, groundbreaking, emotionally-charged performances that bring the music to life for



modern audiences. Boston Baroque is composed of some of the finest period instrumentalists performing today. The X-Tet: Drawing membership from Boston Baroque's world-renowned orchestra roster, the X-tet is the organization's first-ever period string chamber ensemble.

### Sweet Honey In The Rock®

March 9, 2024 at 8:00 pm

Sweet Honey In The Rock® remains among the most vibrant, versatile and relevant musical collectives in music today. They are founded on the triumvirate missions of Empowerment, Education and Entertainment. Sweet Honey In The Rock is a powerful and unique concert entity that fuses the elastic 360 degree



possibilities of the human voice with a theatrical flair that keeps avid audiences returning for more year after year. This internationally-renowned, Grammy Award-nominated, female a cappella vocal quartet has a history of over four decades of performance and service.

#### Veronica Robles

April 27, 2024 at 8:00 pm

Discover the vibrant world of Mariachi with Veronica Robles, the icon of Mexican culture in New England. Originating in the rural areas of western Mexico, mariachi proudly embodies the heart and soul of a proud nation. With its distinctive blend of brass, strings, and vocals, this unifying art form has become synonymous with both celebration and poignant



moments. Whether you are a lifelong fan or a curious newcomer, this centuries-old tradition will captivate your senses and transport you to a world filled with passion, joy, and profound artistry.





# Needham Public Schools Fine and Performing Arts

The Needham Public Schools Fine and Performing Arts Department comprehensive, standards based arts education that is an integral and core component to the educational experience of every child in the Needham Public Schools (K-12).

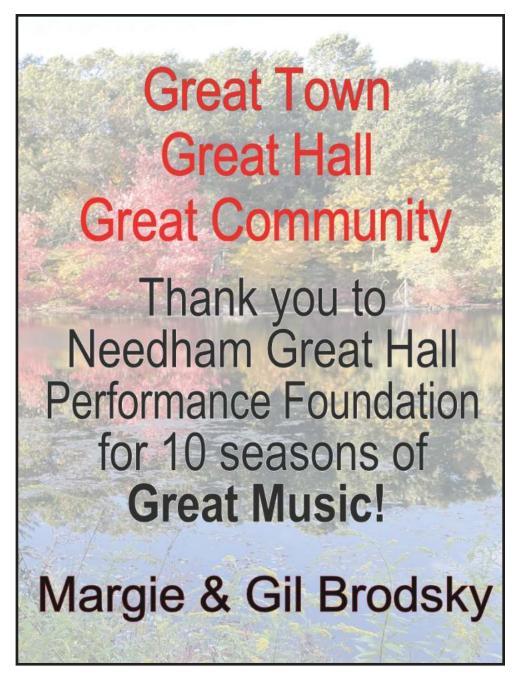
All elementary students receive foundational instruction in both visual arts and music with an option to enroll in the Instrumental Program

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.









for updates, features and the latest news:

## **Facebook:**

Needham Bank Great Hall Concert Series <a href="https://www.facebook.com/needhamgreathall">https://www.facebook.com/needhamgreathall</a>

# **Instagram:**

NeedhamGreatHall

https://www.instagram.com/needhamgreathall/



# Become a Sponsor of the Concert Series!

Your sponsorship helps to bring great music to Needham, supports the local economy, and brings the community together. Contact Contact Moe Handel at mph35@cornell.edu

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