



MEDIA ALERT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hochstein Celebrates Reopening of Hochstein Performance Hall

ROCHESTER, NY — The Hochstein School celebrates the reopening of **Hochstein Performance Hall** on **Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 2:00 pm**. A special event for community partners, supporters, media, and guests, “**Hochstein Presents**” includes performances by Hochstein student Noah Busch, violin, and Kearstin Piper Brown, soprano. Speakers include:

- Hochstein President & Executive Director **Hilary Respass**;
- New York State Senator **Jeremy Cooney**, who is also an alumnus of The Hochstein School;
- **Mona Seghatoleslami** of WXXI Classical, who hosts the *Live from Hochstein* concert series;
- **Dr. Shirley Green**, Commissioner, Department of Recreation & Human Services, City of Rochester; and
- **Corinda Crossdale**, Deputy County Executive for Health & Human Services, Monroe County.

Please note: Photo ops are possible during the event. Hilary Respass will be available for interviews from 1:45-1:55 pm and after the presentation.

Built in 1890 as the “auditorium” of the Central Presbyterian Church, what is now the Performance Hall was the site of funerals for Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony. Hochstein purchased the building in 1978. Hochstein Performance Hall underwent its largest renovation in 1999 to include state-of-the-art acoustics, theatre seating, and stage and house lighting.

After 23 years of use, and extensive water damage, roof repairs were completed this spring and the renovation to the Hall commenced during the summer of 2022. The 2022 renovations/repairs included:

- Extensive repairs to the ceiling plaster
- Repairs to certain architectural details on the ceiling and moldings surrounding the stage
- New treads installed on the stairs for safer access to the balcony
- New decorative ceiling tiles installed on one of the balcony outer stairwells

- All of the seats were removed to facilitate the refinishing of the floors and the installation of new carpeting. Every seat in the Hall was number coded before removal and taken to a storage facility off-site. The coding made sure that all seats were returned to their exact position.
- The stage floor was refinished as well as all the wood floors on the main and balcony levels, with repairs as needed.
- The Acanthus Vine mural – on the ceiling over the stage – was repainted completely by hand. (Fun Fact: The Acanthus Vine can be seen throughout the building on stair railings, banisters, and wood carvings on the stage back wall.)
- The entire hall has been repainted. The difference in color can be seen framing the historical displays on either side of the hall in the rear corners.

About Hochstein: The Hochstein School was founded in commemoration of genius and is dedicated to providing access to opportunity regardless of age, level of skill, ethnicity, or ability to pay. Hochstein's vibrant community of musicians, dancers, and supporters choose to come together to develop the ability to speak and communicate through music, dance, and expressive arts (music, art, and dance therapy). Established in 1920 as The David Hochstein Memorial Music School, today Hochstein serves approximately 3,500 students annually from a 12-county region surrounding Rochester, NY, and continues its commitment to the Rochester community by offering a variety of free and low-cost concerts and performances in the Hochstein Performance Hall—and locations around our city—throughout the year. For more information, visit www.hochstein.org.

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