

OUR MISSION

To enrich lives through musical theatre.

OUR VISION

MSMT creates transformative musical theatre experiences that entertain, engage, educate, and inspire.

MSMT enhances the cultural life and economic interests of the communities that we serve.

MSMT instills a lifelong appreciation of and participation in theatre arts.

MSMT preserves, nurtures, and advances musical theatre as an art form.

MSMT cultivates a reputation in the professional theatre community that reflects the organization's artistic values and its respectful treatment of patrons, volunteers, company, and staff.

OUR VALUES

Impact: MSMT supports a meaningful and fulfilling experience for its patrons, volunteers, company, and staff.

Community: MSMT is committed to the broader theater community and collaborates and connects with the communities we serve while honoring the organization's roots in the Mid-coast region.

Inclusion and Diversity: MSMT is committed to creating an inclusive environment for diverse participants in all aspects of theater life.

Education: MSMT provides and promotes numerous opportunities for youth and adults to learn about various aspects of musical theater.

Excellence: MSMT strives for the highest standards of artistry in its musical productions while maintaining economic stability in support of its mission and vision.

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S DESK

I had big plans for the success of Maine State Music Theatre in 2023 I hoped that we would get closer to our pre-pandemic levels in all aspects of what we do, and by and large, we succeeded.

Our Family Theatre Series broke subscription records, and each show seemed to outdo the one before. *Rapunzel, The Three Little Pigs,* and *Alice in Wonderland* all were virtually sold out. These productions remain at the forefront of our responsibility because we are creating the audiences of tomorrow while subtly educating today's children in both the art they consume and the act of attending live performances. The latter has grown in importance in this post-COVID world.

Our Concert Series was sold out, and though all three shows (*Karen as Dolly, The Beatles,* and *Elvis*) were very distinct, the subscription audience devoured each of them. This series proved so popular that people tried to buy 2024 subscriptions after our first concert. We will be looking for ways to expand these offerings in the future. In the meantime, make sure you have your subscription!

Our Mainstage series took a significant step forward after the COVID era, with *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* which closed as the highest-grossing show in our history. *Titanic* was so technically advanced and well-rounded a production that it got us noticed by the national press. *9 to 5* finally graced our stage, and the Pickard rocked with the familiar Dolly Parton tunes. Closing out the summer with *Something Rotten!* was the icing on the cake with laughter ringing throughout the auditorium.

All three series combined helped MSMT grow at a much higher prepandemic rate than the national average. This confirms how lucky we are to operate in the great state of Maine. We are poised to take the next steps necessary to get back to pre-2020 audience levels while filling the mid-coast's collective soul with outstanding theatrical offerings. You have stuck with us through thick and thin, and we intend to give you the best of the best this coming summer as we use the successes of 2023 as a springboard into the future. We will continue putting one foot in front of the other and soon you will be walking through our doors for another fantastic season at Maine State Music Theatre!

Curt Dale Clark, Artistic Director



FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR'S DESK



I know I should be writing about Maine State Music Theatre's 2023 season, but I am celebrating 30 years of working with MSMT as I write this report and must acknowledge what a journey it has been.

On November 29, 1993, I started with this fantastic company. I remember entering our old offices on Middle Street, right across the street from my

current office. I spent the Saturday after Thanksgiving with my predecessor, learning about bookkeeping. Yes, I was hired with no experience in either bookkeeping or theatre. But I loved theatre and could easily conquer numbers.

Within a month, we moved our offices to Fort Andross, in Brunswick. We spent the days after Christmas as a staff huddled in one office because only one space was finished. In those days, the staff shared two phone lines and two computers. We learned to take turns. Fortunately, much has changed since then. For instance, we don't have to tie up a phone line to check our emails.

Throughout these thirty years, there have been two constants— first, the art. Technology will change, and our audience will grow, but creating a magical summer for our audience will always be our goal. Each time I sit in the Pickard Theatre I am awed to be a part of this unique company that brings joy to the community. As a native Mainer, I am incredibly proud to have this artistic treasure in our backyard.

Although art is why we are here, the second constant is the people we work with, and that has had the most significant impact on my life. Through MSMT, I have met "Oscar," "Grammy," and "Tony" winners (I was delighted to see one Tony winner, Maury Yeston, when he attended our production of his musical *Titanic*). When I see a Broadway show, I always check the program and note the many MSMT alumni who worked on the performance onstage and backstage.

During my tenure, I have had the opportunity to work with many amazing volunteers and board members. Their support of this organization is part of our magic. The treasures (whether time, talent, or financial) they give to MSMT are inspiring. I must single out two special board members who have been with MSMT the longest. Tom Pierce was president when I was hired and then served as treasurer for many years, and Sandy Morrell Rooney joined the board a few years after I was hired. They have earned Trustee Emeritus status, and MSMT is better thanks to their care and guidance.

But the group of people that I admire the most is the annual staff. Though faces have changed over the years, I have had the opportunity to work with some truly dedicated individuals. We have shared life's ups and downs. Each time we bring someone new on board, I am motivated by their ideas and energy. Speaking of energy, no one has more energy than my partner, Curt Dale Clark. Curt-thank you for agreeing to lead this company with me. We are very different people with different styles, but our partnership works, and I can't imagine doing this with anyone else. We have gone beyond work partners to practically family. And last but by no means least, I must talk about Kathi Kacinski. She joined our team 23 years ago (23 years together is longer than most marriages!). Kathi-you are the model of a great Company Manager, which is confirmed by your many former assistants who work in this field. But beyond professionally, you have been my friend. We have been through family joys and sorrows together, September 11, COVID-19, many crazy human resource issues, union negotiations, not to mention the ceiling literally falling on us. Thanks for your friendship and support over the years.

Thirty years is in the book, and now I enter my 4th decade at MSMT. I can't wait to see what the future brings. Thank you for letting me be part of this amazing company.

Stephanie Dupal, Managing Director

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MSMT ANGELS

The MSMT Angels, a dedicated volunteer organization, is crucial in supporting our operations. Their contributions encompass various activities to bolster the theater's operations. A significant part of their involvement includes working closely with the ushering staff to ensure smooth theater experiences for audiences.

Beyond ushering duties, the Angels actively support the theater company in various ways. They arrange transportation for cast members and production staff, facilitating their arrival at and departure from the airport, bus terminal, and train station. Additionally, Angels help promote MSMT by distributing posters and brochures throughout Brunswick and neighboring areas, ensuring a strong presence in the community.

While the MSMT Angels operate independently of MSMT in financial and administrative matters, their dedication and efforts are instrumental in making the theater season a reality.



TITANIC

JUNE 7 - 24, 2023

A Co-Production with

FULTONTHEATRE

"A sensational cast in a dazzling visual production..."

Carla Maria Verdino-Süllwold, Broadway World Maine

> SUBSCRIPTIONS 62%

> > TITANIC AUDIENCE OVERVIEW
> > 11,809 ATTENDEES

COMPS 4.2%

SHOW SPONSORS





*Discounts were applicable for Student Rush and Pay What You Will performances in 2023.

FULL PRICE 32.9%

DISCOUNTED 4.9%*

"Ambitious visual effects rarely seen in Maine..."

207 NewsCenter Maine





MEDIA SPONSOR

PAY-WHAT-YOU-WILL SPONSOR

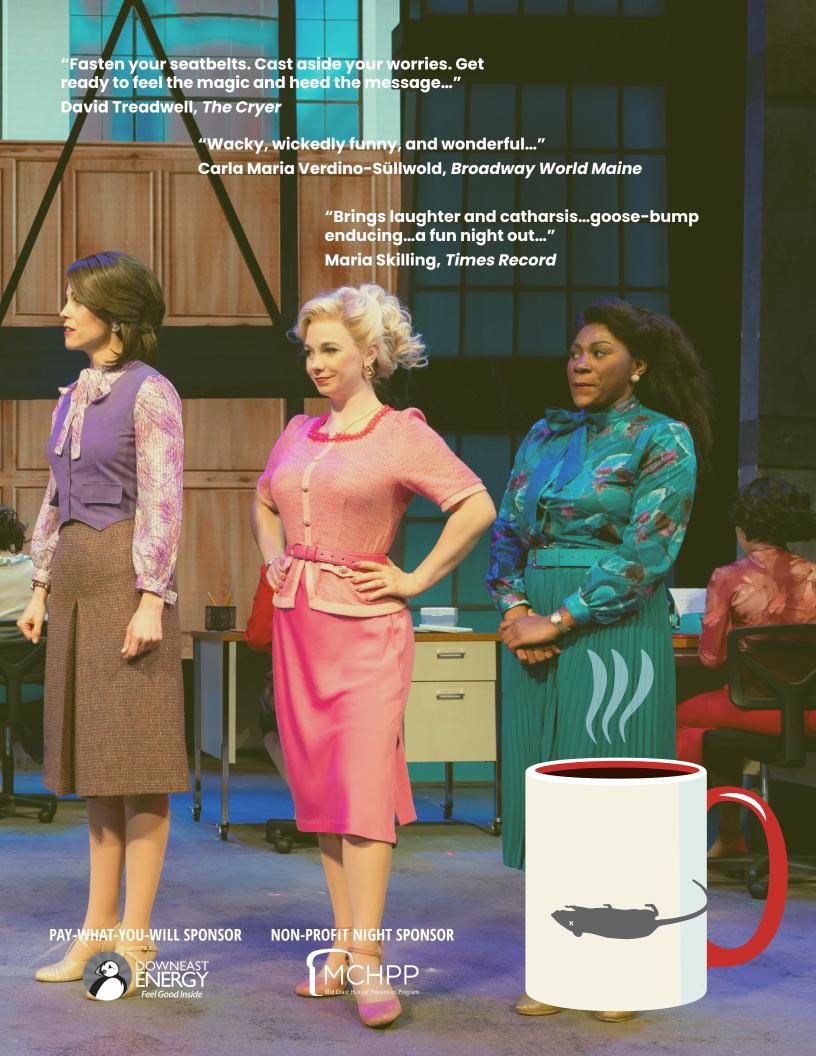






BUDDY AUDIENCE OVERVIEW 12,996 ATTENDEES COMPS 2.4% JUNE 28 - JULY 15, 2023 FULL PRICE SUBSCRIPTIONS 35.7% 56.4% **DISCOUNTED 5.6%*** NON-PROFIT NIGHT SPONSOR PAY-WHAT-YOU-WILL SPONSOR *Discounts were applicable for Student Rush and Pay What You Will performances in 2023.







SOMETHING ROTTEN! AUDIENCE OVERVIEW 12,268 ATTENDEES **COMPS 3.8%** FULL PRICE 29.9% **SUBSCRIPTIONS** 56.4% DISCOUNTED *Discounts were applicable for Student Rush and Pay What You Will performances in 2023.

MUSIC CONCERTS



KAREN AS DOLLY 1,470 ATTENDEES

IMAGINE: THE BEATLES SOLO YEARS 1,734 Attendees



KING IN CONCERT 1,768 Attendees

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES



Sensory Friendly performances are specially created for families with children with autism or other cognitive or physical disabilities. The hourlong, admission-free presentations are designed to be interactive and to engage the children in the imaginative creative process.

Maine State Music Theatre presented Sensory
Friendly performances of both *Rapunzel* and The *Three Little Pigs* during the summer of 2023 in the
wheelchair-accessible and ADA-compliant Pickard
Theatre on the Bowdoin College campus. The theater

offers a nurturing, welcoming environment suitable for children and families with special needs, as well as increased seating capacity.

Rapunzel: 150 attendees

Three Little Pigs: 277 attendees

30% increase over 2022

Audience members attended from across the state, including counties as far away as Oxford, Penobscot, and Aroostook.

The MSMT Sensory Friendly Family Theatre program is supported with generous gifts from Androscoggin Bank, the Davis Family Foundation, the Onion Foundation, the Sam L. Cohen Foundation, the Alfred M. Senter Fund, and the Elsie & William Viles Foundation.



The MSMT Singers of 2023 burst onto the stage with an electrifying blend of talent and youthful exuberance, setting the summer season ablaze with their exceptional performances. This extraordinary ensemble of eight rising stars: Colin Flanagan, Jasmine Gillenwaters, Jalen Kirkman, Elijah James, Chelsea Peña, Camila V. Romero, Albert Sterner, and Cari Walton, were handpicked from a pool of over 2,000 auditioners, a true testament to their remarkable abilities and potential in the world of professional theater.

These gifted artists graced various productions throughout the summer, including *Titanic* and 9 to 5: The Musical, Rapunzel, and Alice in Wonderland, bringing their

enchanting voices and dynamic stage presence to life. From the Pickard Theater to Fryeburg Academy's Leura Hill Eastman Performing Arts Center, and Freeport's Cadanza, as well as the many special events held during the summer, the 2023 MSMT Singers left an indelivble mark on all of us.

Their undeniable passion for the performing arts lit up every stage they stepped onto, leaving a lasting and joyful impression on everyone who had the privilege of experiencing their incredible talents. In their bright future, we see stars that will continue to shine brightly in the world of Broadway and beyond.



Top row: Jalen Kirkman, Camila V. Romero. Second row: Elijah James, Colin Flanagan, Chelsea Peña. Bottom row: Albert Sterner, Cari Walton, Jasmine Gillenwaters.



Liz Patton, Curt Dale Clark, and the MSMT Singers congratulate Jalen Kirkman on receiving the Kenison Award for Outstanding Performance Intern.

MSMT EXPERIENCES

TEASER TUESDAYS

As a part of our commitment to offering enriching MSMT experiences, we were delighted to, once again, host Teaser Tuesdays in May of 2023. This exceptional program presents a free film series featuring movies closely related to our upcoming mainstage musicals. Audiences not only enjoyed these cinematic treats but also had the chance to engage in insightful talkbacks with MSMT's esteemed Artistic Director, Curt Dale Clark. To add a sprinkle of fun, attendees dined on complimentary popcorn while putting their knowledge to the test in a thrilling trivia quiz, with the exciting prize of two tickets to one of our mesmerizing MSMT stage productions. Teaser Tuesdays proved a resounding success, offering a delightful taste of what awaited audiences in our main stage shows.





Carla Maria Verdino-Süllwold, Michael Nigro, and Carolyn Anne Miller answer questions at the Peek Behind the Curtain series for Titanic.

In the summer of 2023, we continued to offer exceptional experiences with MSMT's Peek Behind the Curtain. This series was comprised of four enlightening panel discussions, one accompanying each of our main stage productions, and provided a unique opportunity to delve into the intricate process of bringing these productions to life. Our guests included the talented cast members, creative and tech team experts, and MSMT Artistic Director Curt Dale Clark. These illuminating

discussions were expertly moderated by Broadway World Maine Editor Carla Maria Verdino-Süllwold. Peek Behind the Curtain allowed our patrons to gain a deeper understanding of the magic that happens backstage, enriching their connection to our productions and enhancing their overall MSMT experience.

ook by Karey Kirkpatrick & John O'Fatrell and Lyrics by Karey Kirkpatrick

& Wayne Kirkpatrick

The Power Behind The Throne

Be sure to check the calendar on our website for upcoming exciting MSMT Experiences. msmt.org/events.



THE 2023 GALA WAS SOMETHING SPECTACULAR!



Left to right: Angel's President Cindy Lemieux, Maine Governor Janet Mills, and Something Rotten cast member David Buergler.



Left to right: Michael Di Liberto, Jo and Ed Bradley, Julie Ann Emery and Kevin Early.

Maine State Music Theatre pulled out all the stops on August 21, 2023, with a remarkable Something Spectacular! Gala at the picturesque Harraseeket Inn in Freeport, Maine. The event marked a momentous occasion, celebrating the conclusion of the 2023 season with over 200 esteemed attendees in a night of glamour, entertainment, and philanthropy.

Dressed to the nines, attendees gathered in an atmosphere of elegance and excitement, with a black-tie-optional dress code adding an air of sophistication to the evening.

The evening became even more illustrious with the honored attendance of Maine's esteemed Governor, Janet T. Mills, whose presence added a layer of significance to the evening's festivities.

The Something Spectacular! Gala served not only as a vibrant celebration but also as a fundraising endeavor to support the Maine State Music Theatre's ongoing commitment to enriching the cultural landscape of Maine.

Total Raised: \$70,680

2ND ANNUAL YARD SALE



All-volunteer produced event



Two days + Preview Sale



Total Raised: \$35,450

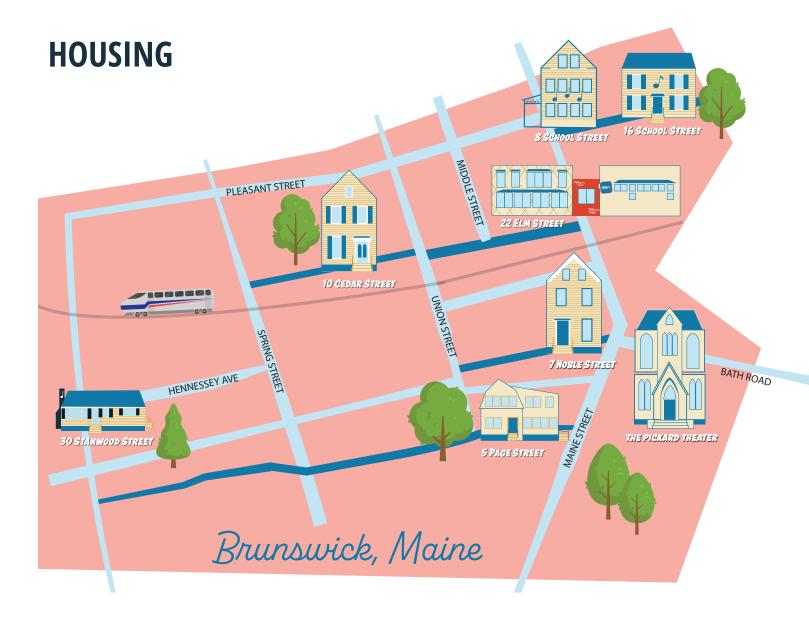


COSTUME



- Highly requested community event
- Provides affordable, creative alternatives to traditional storebought costumes
- A great opportunity to purge retired costume stock

Total Raised: \$9,282



STANWOOD STREET DEDICATED



The new MSMT property on Stanwood Street would not be possible without the generous support of a longtime friend of MSMT, Margy Burroughs. Margy has chosen to dedicate this home as "Clark Cottage" in honor of Curt Dale Clark who is celebrating his 10th year as Artistic Director. Burroughs and Clark are joined by Sandy Morrell Rooney (right), a steadfast member of the MSMT community and current Trustee Emeritus on our board. Sandy has dedicated the living space in the new property in memory of her father, Richard "Dick" Morrell.

Every season, MSMT houses over 200 artists, technicians, and theatre practitioners traveling from all over the country to work in Brunswick for the summer. This recent purchase is our seventh MSMT property, and each one plays a vital role in ensuring we have a place for each of our summer staff members. From September to May MSMT rents these properties to community members needing a temporary housing solution. Although we are a non-profit, we pay full property taxes on all our buildings, allowing us to contribute to the local economy beyond our ticket sales.

SUSIE SHARP APARTMENT DEDICATED

On June 1st, the MSMT community came together to dedicate an apartment in our Page Street property to acknowledge 30 years of service by Susie Sharp. Susie served as a volunteer, Board Member and Board President, and Audience Services Manager for over a decade. She still works remotely, selling subscriptions and tickets.

The apartment is just a short walk from the Pickard Theater, downtown Brunswick, and all its amenities, and will serve as a summer residence for MSMT guest artists and technical staff.

Susie's devotion to MSMT is legendary, and the staff and Board were thrilled to name this apartment in her honor.





"A decade ago, Maine State Music Theatre was the proud owner of an assortment of aging vehicles—a used minivan, an old pickup truck, and a vintage lift truck dating back to 1972. I vividly recall these days, not only as the Artistic Director since 2013 but also from my earlier days as an actor, when I was encouraged to bring my own car because MSMT lacked adequate transportation options." – Curt Dale Clark

Fast forward to today, thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors and sponsors, we now boast an impressive fleet of essentially brand-new vehicles. Our inventory includes a Costume Van, a spacious Pickup Truck, a 12-passenger Van, an 8-passenger van, and a state-of-the-art Lift Truck. The MSMT audience played a pivotal role in helping us acquire this essential piece of equipment a few years ago, as it enables us to efficiently load our sets from our 22 Elm Street Technical Studios

into our home at the Pickard Theatre, where the loading door sits a remarkable 16 feet above the ground.

We are immensely grateful for the completion of our vehicle fleet this year, made possible by a Board-approved purchase of the 8-passenger vehicle. This addition greatly enhances the efficiency of our Company Management team. A heartfelt thanks go out to all who contributed to our monumental success in this area!



MSMT SEES THE WORLD



E. Faye Butler and the cast of The Play That Goes Wrong at the Fulton Theatre for a private talkback.



Bob and Cynthia McGuire at the Fulton Theatre, Lancaster, PA



MSMT Artistic Director Curt Dale Clark introduces Mark Hoebee the Artistic Director of Paper Mill Playhouse before the regional tour group watches the world premiere of *Hercules: The Musical.*



Board member Bunny Andrews enjoys dinner at The Carriage House Restaurant on the regional tour.



Marriot Theater Lincolnshire, IL

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING OUR MSMT EXPERIENCES IN 2024, VISIT OUR WEBSITE.



An MSMT group at the Walnut Theatre in Philadelphia to see Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.



Eagerly awaiting the opening curtain at Neil Diamond: A Beautiful Noise, NYC



Outside MJ The Musical at the Nederlander Theatre in Chicago.



Ready to rock at The Mercury Theater, Chicago



London trip attendees get a behind-the-scenes tour of the National Theatre.



FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S DESK

A RISING TIDE LIFTS ALL BOATS

Your support of MSMT helps us support other local organizations. This year we were able to partner with 68 different local organizations by donating tickets to use in auctions, fundraisers, and raffles contributing to more than \$13,000 in funds across these organizations from our tickets alone.



Another year at MSMT has come to a close, and I am delighted to share the news that, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our donors and patrons, the Turn up the Limelight Campaign has been a resounding success! This initiative, launched at the beginning of our 2023 fiscal year with a bold goal of \$500,000, has surpassed all expectations and has become a testament to the unwavering support of our community.

In a year filled with uncertainty, the funds raised through this campaign have been instrumental in addressing vital repairs and updates to our infrastructure. We've secured new technology to keep MSMT moving forward, and your contributions bridged the financial gap between the costs of producing live theater before the pandemic and today, ensuring that MSMT continues to be a place where we can all come together to enjoy the arts.

Part of our goal this year was to show precisely what goes into bringing these stories to life. Through each tour and Q&A session, we saw the curiosity of our community grow as they saw how all of the pieces of this puzzle come together. The artists and actors who call Brunswick home each summer leave a mark on this place, making it better each year. Their hard work and your continued support are the true driving force behind MSMT.

Thank you so much to all our patrons and donors for being part of this journey. Your dedication has sustained our organization and allowed us to grow and thrive in the face of challenges. We are so grateful for your help turning up the Limelight this year!

All my best,

Morgan Rodgers Development Director

Morgan Rodgers



OH, WHAT A YEAR!



DONORS

Every effort has been made to ensure that names are listed accurately. If you notice a problem with your name please contact gifts@msmt.org and we will ensure our records are corrected.

*Indicates MSMT Trustee

** Indicates MSMT Advisor

*** Indicates MSMT Employee

Gifts of \$100 or more received between November 1, 2022 & October 31, 2023.

VICTORIA CRANDALL CIRCLE \$20,000 +

Buddy Holly Audience
Margy Burroughs
Janie & Donald Griffin
Marge* & Bob Healing
Jane & Arnold Klugman
David B. Osborne

Kirby Pilcher & Lissa Hunter

Sandy Morrell Rooney* & Chuck Rooney

Deborah Schall

PRODUCER \$10,000-\$19,999

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Harold & Anne Berry
Sally Clifford
Paul & Dale Cronin
Liz & Steven Goldstone
Nancy & Sam Ladd
Richard & Eleanor Morrell

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Cherie Scott* Lynn Shipway Pamela White* Sheila Wiken

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Anonymous Elizabeth Astor

Marie Barbieri & Emma Tweed

Ed* & Jo Bradley Elizabeth B. Childs Stevan Cote

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Ralph Perry & Mary Louise Seldenfleur

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David & Anne Taft David Terrio

Elena D. Vandervoort* Timothy & Elizabeth Williams

Judy & Allen Zern

MUSIC DIRECTOR \$1,000-\$2,499

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Cheryl Boulos

James & Kathryn Bridge

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DESIGNER \$500-\$999

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Anonymous

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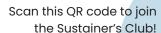
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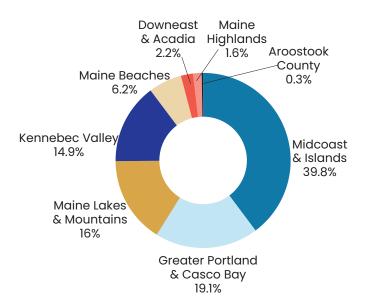
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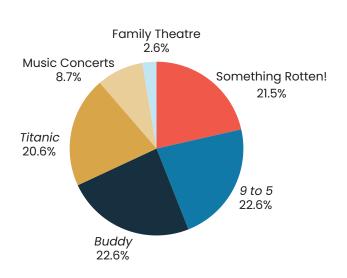


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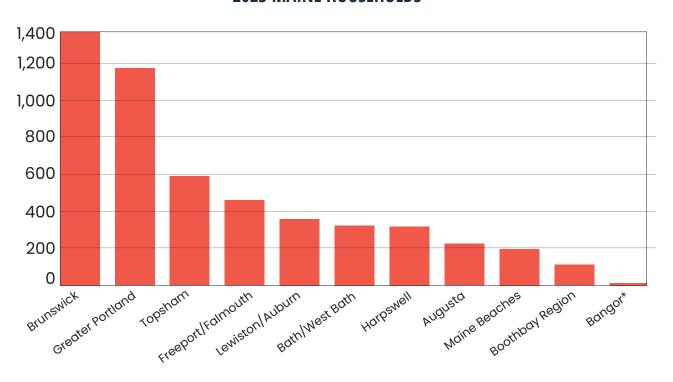
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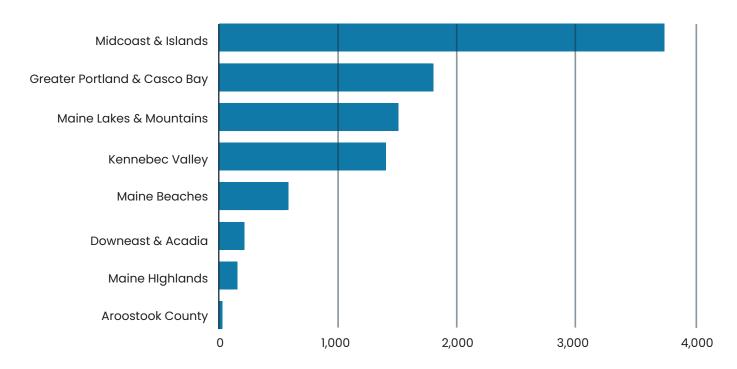
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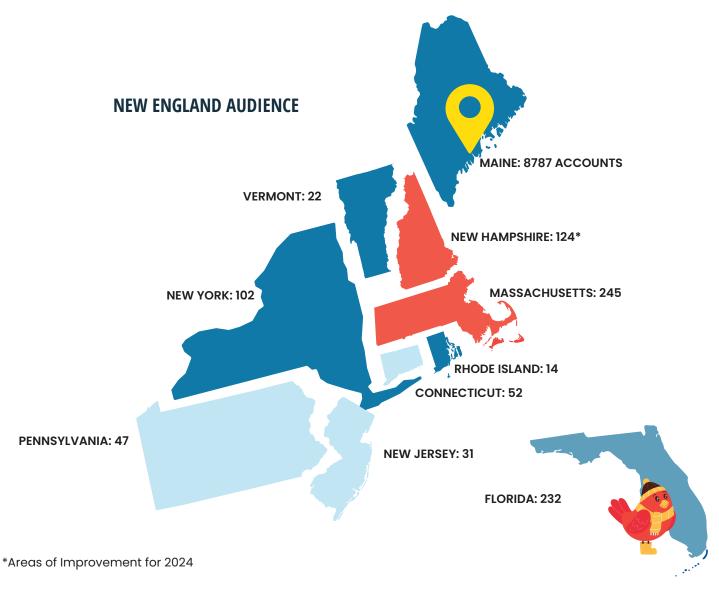


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