

Dear friend of The Bradley Playhouse

Our community, nation, and world continue to be challenged by COVID-19 and its many repercussions. Even as the State and region take steps to re-open, and life begins to return to some sense of normal, significant disruptions—personal, societal, and economic—remain and will for some time to come. For The Bradley Playhouse, which exists to bring people together and celebrate the human spirit through artistic expression, social distancing requirements have made it impossible for us to open our doors and offer our programming to the community. We have been shuttered and dark since March 12.

We have not been inactive, however. Under the leadership of board members Kris and Barry Brandriff, the Bradley Playhouse *Virtual Variety Hour* has been broadcast each Friday evening over Facebook Live, and both our artistic and programming committees are hard at work exploring ways to keep the arts available to a hungry public. We are horrified by recent events erupting on the evening news that reveal the inequity of systems and widespread indifference, and this further reinforces the need for conversations about experiences and the sharing of stories that build understanding and empathy. That's what we do best.

Many have reached out to offer support and to inquire about our next steps. Thank you for the community hugs and donations that we have recently received, some from unexpected sources. As to our future, The Theatre of Northeastern Connecticut (TNECT) intends to continue to serve the greater-Putnam community for another 27 years and beyond. **To ensure that bright future, the TNECT board of directors met recently and reached the decision to cancel the remainder of our 2020 season.** Health practices, capacity limitations, and public reluctance to gather *en masse* all reinforce this inescapable conclusion. Safety remains our top priority, both for our patrons and our performers. We are working hard to preserve our resources so that we can resume operation in 2021 and again invite thousands to downtown Putnam and into our beautiful theatre.

While we are resolute in our commitment to the future and to our community, we know that we cannot do it alone. It is an expensive proposition to secure and host programming and build shows that offer the variety, spectacle, and quality that you have come to expect from TNECT and The Bradley Playhouse. It is similarly expensive to operate our theatre space and manage the myriad details that support our good work. Unsurprisingly, our budget has been turned on its head as revenue streams have dried up. Many in our community are feeling the same financial challenges and uncertainties. Rest assured we are working to recover royalties, trim expenses, and secure grants, and we will make good on our promises to ticket and season pass holders so that they are made whole. We invite you to work with us to explore options to donate the value of your tickets, secure a refund, or convert this year's Season/Flex and Laugh Passes into vouchers for the 2021 season (see details below).

The Bradley Playhouse has been a destination and a cultural icon in Putnam for nearly 120 years. The building has survived fires and ceiling failures; it was in operation throughout The Great Depression and when America was at war; and time and time again, with the help of the broader community, it has overcome great obstacles to bounce back and emerge stronger than ever. We are all in this together and we thank you for your support.

On behalf of all in the TNECT family, I thank you for standing with us and for your encouragement as we navigate this pandemic and stage a triumphant return.

### **Ticket Refund and Exchange Details**

TNECT announces the cancellation of all 2020 season programming, including musical concerts and NE Comedy All-Stars events scheduled at The Bradley Playhouse through December 31, 2020. If you hold tickets to any 2020 season show, concert, or comedy night, a representative from TNECT

will begin processing refunds immediately. TNECT is committed to honoring the wishes of ticket holders and will work swiftly to process requests.

**Holders of individual tickets for 2020 Season Shows, Comedy Nights, and Musical:**

TNECT at The Bradley Playhouse will begin to issue refunds to ticket holders. Whenever possible, we will reverse charges on credit card purchases. We will begin this process by first resolving tickets for *School of Rock* and *Mamma Mia*, then work through the remaining calendar of events.

If you are inclined to donate the value of your purchased ticket to TNECT and The Bradley Playhouse, please connect with us via email ([office@thebradleyplayhouse.org](mailto:office@thebradleyplayhouse.org)) or by phone (860-928-7887). Please include the name as it appears on your ticket order, the show and performance date of interest, your contact information, and detailed instructions outlining how we should process your request.

**Holders of 2020 Season/Flex and Laugh Passes:**

TNECT at The Bradley Playhouse will issue any 2020 Season/Flex or Laugh Pass holder a comparable pass good for the 2021 season. Further, we will extend to pass holders the opportunity to select show dates and seating before ticket sales are made available to the general public. The 2021 season, to be announced later this year, will offer one additional show (a total of seven) compared to the 2020 season.

Thank you for helping to make The Bradley Playhouse a perennial fan favorite and the place to see the stars come out in Northeastern Connecticut!