

MECHANICS' HALL
evening of wonder
March 26, 2026 - 6PM to 9PM
519 Congress Street, Portland ME

Illustration by Andrew DeGraff



evening of wonder

A celebration of literary arts, music, and performance to benefit Mechanics' Hall
THURSDAY MARCH 26TH

Evening of Wonder is an immersive and evocative celebration of literary arts, music and performance at Mechanics' Hall, one of Portland's oldest and most creative-centered buildings.

This special night brings together our vast creative community for an evening of surprise, discovery, and delight to benefit Mechanics' Hall. In just one evening, and with your help, we hope to reveal everything that's possible within our walls.

FEATURING AMAZING ARTISTS

Typewriters with Jessica Esch

A collaboration with USM Book Arts to use vintage books from the MH collections to create new works of art.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS!



ALL ARE WELCOME.



BE A PART OF WHAT THE
PORTLAND PRESS HERALD IS CALLING
*“A MAJOR PLAYER IN THE DOWNTOWN
ARTS AND CULTURE SCENE.”*

Not just a host, The “Committee of Wonder” is a group of dedicated friends of Mechanics’ Hall who are inspired and excited about our work to ensure that Mechanics’ Hall continues to be a valued cultural resource in the heart of Portland’s Art District.

ENCHANTING HOST (4 PEOPLE) \$5,000

- All benefits of Marvelous Host, plus you support a free ticket to an artist or community partner who would not otherwise be able to attend the event
- By joining at this level, you help Mechanics’ Hall host three book launches in 2026!

MARVELOUS HOST (2 PEOPLE) \$1,000

- All benefits of Wonderful Host plus add/renew a
- Mechanics’ Hall Sustaining Membership (\$300 value) for one year
- A pre-event champagne toast in the Mechanics’ Hall Library

WONDERFUL HOST (2 PEOPLE) \$550

- 2 tickets to Evening of Wonder
- Designation as a Committee of Wonder member on all benefit materials

WONDROUS HOST (1 PERSON) \$275

- 1 ticket to Evening of Wonder
- Designation as a Committee of Wonder member on all benefit materials

For more information and to sponsor Evening of Wonder, contact Brooke Baerman, Development Manager, brooke@mainemechanics.org

*Mechanics’ Hall is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and your gift is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by the law.
Maine Charitable Mechanic Association/DBA Mechanics’ Hall Tax ID: #01-0248533*

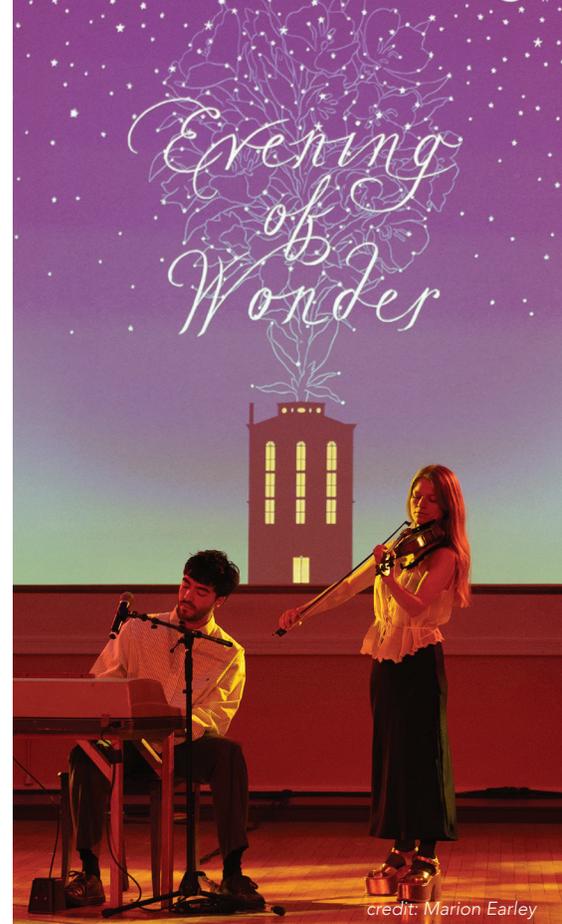
ABOUT MECHANICS' HALL

In 1815, the Maine Charitable Mechanic Association was formed to support Maine's earliest creative class—"the mechanics." Between 1857 and 1859, these blacksmiths, coopers, artists, innovators, and creators built Mechanics' Hall in Portland—a communal gathering space with a stunning ballroom and a lending library at its center. Today, Mechanics' Hall is a member-supported historic cultural hub and library that brings together big ideas, bold creativity, and vibrant community. We connect exceptional thinkers and artists—spanning writers, performers, and curious minds of all ages—to enrich intellectual life, celebrate the arts, and spark meaningful connection.

Each year, Mechanics' Hall collaborates with 30+ community partners to present over 150 literary events, craft workshops, and artistic and musical performances.

YOUR SPONSORSHIP DIRECTLY SUPPORTS:

- 50+ FREE EVENTS
- 50+ LITERARY EVENTS
- 12,000+ EVENT ATTENDEES & VISITORS
- 260+ ARTISTS SUPPORTED



WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT US

Performing at Mechanics' Hall was such a wonderful experience. Connecting with the community through music, dance, and storytelling made us remember the power that we all have when we come together in joy, respect, and unity. It is truly the way in which we can make this world a little better!

—Fabiola Méndez, cuatrista, singer, composer & educator



There was a moment at Mechanics' Hall when the whole room exhaled at once.

It reminded me why humans gather together: the recognition that we're not alone.

A beautiful place, made better by the people in it.

—Kate Baer, author & poet



Mechanics' Hall is one of the most magical spaces I've played in anywhere in New England. The devoted staff, broad community of supporters, and uniquely beautiful and interesting building all make for ideal concert conditions — for performers and audiences alike. It's hard to think of many other venues in Maine that simultaneously feel so intimate and impressive.

—Ben Cosgrove, pianist and composer



The historic space seems to breathe with its own rhythm, elevating every step, lyric, and note. The warmth of the library, the immensity of the hall, the thoughtful care given to artists, and the attentiveness of the audience create a sense of connection that makes each performance memorable and deeply enjoyable. It's truly a place where artistry is honored.

—Lindsey Bourassa, Director of FLOR (Flamenco & its Origins)



MECHANICS' HALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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