

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 26<sup>TH</sup>**

*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. Attended by over 180 of our community's most avid arts and culture supporters, sponsoring Evening of Wonder is a great way to get your business in front of an eager audience while also uplifting your community.*

## 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!

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

## 2025 EVENING OF WONDER - A ROUSING SUCCESS -

***In 2025, the event sold out in under 48 hours  
for the third year in a row.***

Our annual fundraiser provides vital support for programming at Mechanics' Hall and exposes your company to 7,000 households digitally and 180+ event attendees.

*"Mechanics' Hall is at the heart of Portland and, as metaphors go, it is almost too good to be true. I am so delighted that we have such a supportive space in which to gather and celebrate each other."* —AUTHOR PHUC TRAN

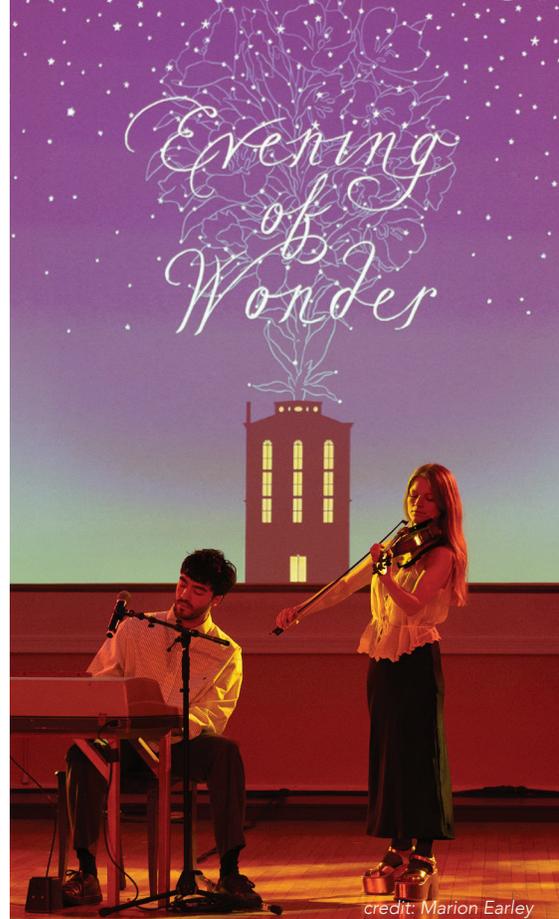
## ABOUT MECHANICS' HALL

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

Bill Stauffer • Chandra Leister • Trevor Laverriere • Tom Haushalter • Hilary Bassett • Suzette Bois • Darcy Brennan Poor • Brian J Evans • Pamela Hawkes • Taffy Field • Kristopher Kleva • Caite McNeil • John Napolitano • Stuart "Tuck" O'Brien • C.J. Opperthausen • Leah Rachin • Richard Spencer • Paul Stevens EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Annie Leahy

# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

BENEFITS & VISIBILITY	LANDMARK SPONSOR \$10,000	CLERESTORY SPONSOR \$5,000	BALLROOM SPONSOR \$2,500	LIBRARY SPONSOR \$1,500
Social Media Post and Newsletter Highlight in advance of the event				
Private tour of Mechanics' Hall <i>(to be scheduled separately from the event)</i>				
Opportunity to have printed material at the event				
Logo on Mechanics' Hall event website				
Ticket(s) to Evening of Wonder	4 tickets	3 tickets	2 tickets	1 tickets
Invitation to pre-event champagne toast in the Mechanics' Hall Library				
Logo on all program communications, sent to over 7,000 households				
Verbal and graphic recognition at the event				
Recognition in Mechanics' Hall Annual Report				



credit: Marion Earley

Musical storyteller ym creates a collaborative song with attendees at 2025's Evening of Wonder at Mechanics' Hall

For more information and to sponsor Evening of Wonder, contact Brooke Baerman, Development Manager, at [brooke@mainemechanics.org](mailto: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*