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“101 is a very good age to be”

The Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association will celebrate the acquisition of a fully restored 1916 Mason & Hamlin grand piano with a concert featuring internationally acclaimed pianist Garrick Ohlsson on July 15 at the Beaver Island Community Center auditorium.

BICAA's grand concert piano was purchased with the aide of considerable Island support. Anne Glendon, BICAA Chair Emeritus, spearheaded the fundraising drive and she did so in record time, said BICAA Chair, Frank D'Andraia.

“This is truly a special moment for the Association and for Beaver Island,” D'Andraia noted and then added: “Mason & Hamlin pianos are legendary for their artistry in craftsmanship and luscious depth of sound. The Association is delighted to acquire an instrument that was built during the golden age of the piano. Owning a Mason & Hamlin will give BICAA artists the opportunity to use equipment of the caliber they encounter in concert halls on the mainland and will definitely enhance the listening pleasure of audiences who attend the Association's Baroque on Beaver Music Festival.”

Founded in 1854, Mason & Hamlin is one of America's oldest and most respected piano manufacturers. Of the hundreds of American piano companies that flourished in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Mason & Hamlin is one of only a handful that survive today.

Mason & Hamlin is headquartered in Haverhill, Massachusetts, not far from its original location in Boston, the birthplace of American piano design and manufacturing

To mark the acquisition and to pay tribute to the many donors who made the piano purchase possible, the BICAA Board of Directors has arranged for a special piano concert featuring the renowned pianist Garrick Ohlsson. The concert will take place on July 15th at the Beaver Island Community Center auditorium and tickets may be purchased at the Community Center information desk or by calling (231) 448-2022.

Garrick Ohlsson is one of the world's leading interpreters of the music of Frédéric Chopin and has come to be noted for his masterly performances of the works of Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert, as well as the Romantic repertoire. Ohlsson can be heard on the Arabesque, RCA Victor Red Seal, Angel, BMG, Delos, Hänssler, Nonesuch, Telarc, Hyperion and Virgin Classics labels.

A native of White Plains, New York, Garrick Ohlsson began his piano studies at the age of 8, at the Westchester Conservatory of Music; at 13 he entered The Juilliard School in New York City. His musical development has been influenced in completely different ways by a succession of distinguished teachers. Although he won First Prizes at the 1966 Busoni Competition in Italy and the 1968 Montréal Piano Competition, it was his 1970 triumph at the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, where he won the Gold Medal (and remains the only American to have done so), that brought him worldwide recognition as one of the finest pianists of his generation. Mr. Ohlsson was awarded the Avery Fisher Prize in 1994; He received the 1998 University Musical Society Distinguished Artist Award in Ann Arbor; and in 2014 he was the recipient of the Jean Gimbel Lane Prize in Piano Performance from the Northwestern University Bienen School of Music. He makes his home in San Francisco.

ABOUT THE BEAVER ISLAND CULTURAL ARTS ASSOCIATION

The Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association was formalized as a 501c3 corporation in 2006. BICAA's mission is "To serve the Beaver Island community by promoting and supporting the cultural arts, including the annual Baroque on Beaver Festival." The Baroque on Beaver Festival

runs over a 10 day span, this year from July 28 through August 6. For information about Baroque on Beaver, please see: <http://www.baroqueonbeaver.org/> or by calling 8885115189.