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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Downtown Frederick Theaters Join Forces for Fundraiser Concert at Fairgrounds

FREDERICK, MD, October 21, 2020 — As part of the nationwide “Save Our Stages” fundraising effort, Weinberg Center for the Arts, Maryland Ensemble Theatre and New Spire Arts present bluegrass sensations, The Seldom Scene with opener Hogslop String Band as part of [Showtime at the Drive-In](#) Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 4:00 PM at the Frederick Fairgrounds.

Tickets for this fundraising event go on sale to members of these organizations today at 10:00 AM and to the public this Friday, October 23 at 10:00 AM. Tickets are sold by the car and start at \$150 for up to four people per car. Complete details and ticketing information for this event can be found at [WeinbergCenter.org](http://WeinbergCenter.org).

The idea for this fundraiser grew out of conversations between Weinberg Center Executive Theater Manager, John Healey, MET Managing Director, Kathryn Vicere and New Spire Arts Executive Director, Gerard Gibbs over the past several months. All three were looking for a way to present programming to a community starved for live entertainment in a safe and socially distant way. But with the continuing health crisis, none of their organizations had been able to open their doors.

John Healey noted, “Many businesses in the Frederick area have been greatly impacted by COVID-19 including the service and entertainment industries. Our theaters have joined forces to produce this family friendly fundraising event as an effort to not only support the arts but also with the hopes of attracting visitors to the Downtown area as well as surrounding hotels and motels. With the loss of many summer festivals this past year, this concert featuring two great bluegrass bands will provide fans the opportunity to whoop and holler in a safe and socially distanced environment before the winter months set in.”

When asked about her motivation for moving forward with this event, Kathryn Vicere noted, “It’s been rough-going for the arts for the last 7 months, and we still have a long way to go before our three venues on Theatre Row can get back to fully serving their mission to bring the community high-quality live programs in the way we are used to seeing them. This concert hits all the right spots: it will give our patrons and the public something to look forward to and will help our venues and the live performing arts in Frederick to keep the ghost light on during this intermission.”

Gerard Gibbs with New Spire Arts said, “I look forward to this opportunity to provide both a safe form of fun and entertainment and give members of our community the chance to support us financially at this special event. When the time comes to leave this hibernation and we seek to elevate our thoughts once

again, art will play a central role in that pursuit. I eagerly anticipate the day which we see people who crave the emotional and psychological fulfillment of live performance returning to New Spire Stages.”

The headliner for the event, The Seldom Scene, hail from Bethesda Maryland and have been instrumental in starting the progressive bluegrass movement with shows that include bluegrass versions of country music, rock and even pop. Musical talent, a signature sound, a solid repertoire and a sheer sense of fun have been The Seldom Scene’s recipe for success for more almost 50 years. The opening act, Hogslop String Band, is based out of Nashville and creates & performs cross-genre music that pushes the boundaries of what Old Time music could be, blending country, psych, and astounding stamina for an energetic performance.

For your convenience below are links to photos and video of the artists.

The Seldom Scene <https://mediakits.concord.com/p/changes/index.html>

Hogslop String Band <http://www.hogslopstringband.com/presskit>

**Generous support for this event is provided by:**

