

PERFORMING ARTS IN MAINE

# Maine Performs!

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The Maine Office of Tourism

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and



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COMMISSION

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# Maine Performs!

Amidst natural splendor, picturesque villages and historic downtowns, Maine is a place where creativity flourishes. You'll find it everywhere you turn: in small cafés, in art museums, in crafts gallery windows, and in performance halls throughout our state. In fact, there's nothing like a live performance to make your Maine vacation simply unforgettable. Your visit can include spectacular outdoor adventures, award-winning cuisine, fabulous local shopping and inspiring performances—all in the same weekend!

For generations, musicians and performers have helped to shape Maine as a renowned, four-season arts and cultural destination. **Maine Performs** will introduce you to some of our best-known and most innovative performing arts organizations and venues for dance, theater, music, film and performances of all kinds. This guide will get you started—but there's much more to explore!

For a comprehensive listing of Maine's performing arts organizations and venues, as well as festivals and events happening here throughout the year, check out **MainePerforms.com**. Join us in celebrating the performing arts in Maine.

Shoestring Theater, Old Port Festival, Portland



# Maine Performs!



## Map locator #

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## Acadian Festival

Aroostook County Region

[www.acadianfestival.com](http://www.acadianfestival.com)

207-728-6250

Madawaska, ME 04756

Event (August)



For over 33 years, the town of Madawaska has celebrated the rich Acadian heritage of the St. John Valley during the Madawaska Acadian Festival. The festival commemorates the arrival of the first Acadian settlers in 1785. Internationally renowned Acadian bands join a full roster of musicians and performers during the four-day event, which also features Acadian food, parades, bed races, historical reenactments, crafts shows and the annual "family reunion," each year honoring a different founding family.

## Multicultural Traditions

Maine is home to a welcoming mix of cultures and communities: French Acadians who settled the St. John Valley, Swedish immigrants who founded the village of New Sweden, the Micmac Tribe in Presque Isle, and the Houlton Band of Maliseets. The traditions and heritage of Maine come alive at festivals like the Native American Festival held in Bar Harbor and the Portland Festival of Nations that celebrates cultural traditions across America. The Franco-American Festival in Waterville and the Maine Celtic Celebration in Belfast celebrate the respective heritage of those communities. For more information go to [www.VisitMaine.com](http://www.VisitMaine.com).

**Maine's traditions and heritage come alive at festivals and cultural celebrations.**





## Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival DownEast & Acadia Region

[www.kneisel.org](http://www.kneisel.org)  
207-374-2203  
54 Main Street  
Blue Hill, ME 04614  
Seasonal

Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival is often called the “cradle of chamber music teaching in America.” Dating back to 1885, it is the oldest and among the most distinguished chamber music programs in the United States. Located in the coastal village of Blue Hill, it hosts a 10-week series of public concerts presented by a world-renowned faculty and guest artists. In addition to the concert series, the Festival is a music school for some of the most promising international pre-professional young artists.

## Opera House Arts

DownEast & Acadia Region

[www.operahousearts.org](http://www.operahousearts.org)  
207-367-2788  
1 Opera House Lane  
Stonington, ME 04681  
Year-round

Opera House Arts (OHA) is an Actors Equity Small Professional Theater that offers a year-round schedule of theater, film, dance and music. The company is also known for producing newly commissioned Maine performances in multiple genres as well as site-specific works. OHA operates out of the restored 1912 Stonington Opera House, which is in the National Register of Historic Places and located in one of DownEast’s busiest and prettiest fishing villages. The mission of OHA is to use the performing arts to foster and promote excellence in all the ways we perform our lives: Incite Art, Create Community!





# PORTLAND OVATIONS

great performances since 1931

## Portland Ovation

Greater Portland & Casco Bay Region

[www.portlandovations.org](http://www.portlandovations.org)

207-773-3150  
50 Monument Square  
Portland, ME 04101  
Year-round

Portland Ovation brings exceptional performing artists from around the world to the historic Merrill Auditorium as well as other venues in the greater Portland area. Since 1931 Portland Ovation has contributed to the arts scene in Portland with dynamic music, opera, dance, theater and national tours. In addition to their excellent programming, Portland Ovation arranges pre-curtain lectures, masterclasses with visiting artists and post-performance discussions to enrich the enjoyment of performing arts by people of all ages.



## PORTLANDSTAGE

where great theater lives

### Portland Stage

Greater Portland & Casco Bay Region

[www.portlandstage.org](http://www.portlandstage.org)

207-774-0465  
25A Forest Avenue  
Portland, ME 04101  
Year-round

Portland Stage is one of New England's most prolific and professional theatrical arts organizations. Combining artistic excellence, intellectual vitality and a commitment to community, productions are brought to life on both the Main Stage and in the experimental Studio Theater. New works are developed through *Little Festival of the Unexpected* and *From Away*, which celebrates international playwrights. Portland Stage also offers exciting new programming in Theater for Kids which engages children in the theater arts and literature.



# PORTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

## ROBERT MOODY, MUSIC DIRECTOR

### Portland Symphony Orchestra

Greater Portland & Casco Bay Region

[www.portlandsymphony.org](http://www.portlandsymphony.org)

207-842-0800

20 Myrtle Street

Portland, ME 04101

Year-round

Serving the city of Portland, the state of Maine, and northern New England, the Portland Symphony Orchestra (PSO) is the largest performing arts organization in Maine. With critically acclaimed performances and broad community engagement, the PSO is a musical hub for 82 of New England's finest professional musicians and teachers. Established in 1923, the organization recently celebrated its 85th anniversary season under the baton of Music Director Robert Moody.



## SPACE GALLERY

ARTS • ARTISTS • IDEAS

### SPACE Gallery

Greater Portland & Casco Bay Region

[www.space538.org](http://www.space538.org)

207-828-5600

538 Congress Street

Portland, ME 04101

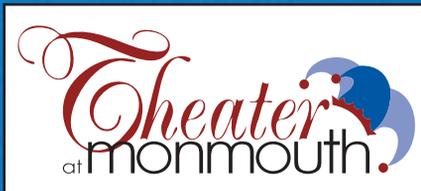
Year-round

SPACE Gallery is a multidisciplinary gallery and performance space in the center of the Portland arts district. Dedicated to presenting contemporary, emerging and unconventional arts and ideas, SPACE features live music performances, documentary and independent films, visual art exhibitions, artist lectures, community events and much more. With 10 exhibitions and more than 200 events each year, there's sure to be something to pique your interest at SPACE.

## The Theater at Monmouth Kennebec & Moose River Valleys Region

[www.theateratmonmouth.org](http://www.theateratmonmouth.org)  
207-933-9999  
796 Main Street  
Monmouth, ME 04259  
Seasonal

In 1975 the Theater at Monmouth was named The Shakespearean Theater of Maine by the State Legislature. Devoted to innovative approaches in producing Shakespeare and the classics, the theater is a repertory company of professionals from Maine and across the country. Summer and fall performances are held in beautiful Cumston Hall, listed in the National Register of Historic Buildings since 1976. Group rates are available, as well as pre/post show discussions and tours of Cumston Hall.



## Maine International Film Festival

Kennebec & Moose River Valleys Region

[www.miff.org](http://www.miff.org)  
207-861-8138  
177 Main Street  
Waterville, ME 04901  
Event (July)

Held at the historic Waterville Opera House and Railroad Square Cinema, the Maine International Film Festival (MIFF) is a 10-day celebration of film that presents the very best of



American independent and international cinema and spotlights some of Maine and New England's most exciting and innovative filmmakers.

MIFF also provides audience members with the unique

opportunity to interact with directors, screenwriters, actors, musicians and others in the industry through intimate Q&As, workshops and lively receptions.



The Strand Theatre, historic downtown Rockland

## Historic Venues

In Maine you can watch a Shakespearean production in a century-old Victorian gem like Cumston Hall in Monmouth. You can see productions in classic playhouses from the Summer Stock era at Lakewood Theater and Deertrees Theatre. You can marvel at meticulously restored opera houses and historic theaters that preserve grand architectural styles in towns such as Boothbay Harbor, Biddeford, Waterville, Bangor and Dover-Foxcroft. And, you can delight in the offbeat, whimsical flavor of renovated churches, barns and movie houses in the communities of Rockland, Bucksport, Lille and others. Some of Maine's most treasured performing arts spaces are in the National Register of Historic Buildings—another aspect of the arts to appreciate while you wait for the show to begin.

**Some of Maine's most treasured performing arts spaces are in the National Register of Historic Buildings.**



## Bates Dance Festival

### Bates Dance Festival

Maine's Lakes & Mountains Region

[www.batesdancefestival.org](http://www.batesdancefestival.org)

207-786-6381  
31 Frye Street  
Lewiston, ME 04240  
Event (July/August)

The Bates Dance Festival is a nationally recognized presenter of world-class contemporary dance. Each July/August the Festival features a six-week season of performances and lectures. The Festival is held in intimately scaled venues on and around the Bates College campus in Lewiston.

For over a quarter century the Festival, a program of Bates College, has been bringing together a creative community of over 290 choreographers, performers, educators and students to learn, develop new work and perform.

### The Oddfellow Theater

Maine's Lakes & Mountains Region

[www.oddfellow.com](http://www.oddfellow.com)

207-336-3306  
Route 117  
Buckfield, ME 04220  
Year-round



In 1996, international variety artist and Buckfield native Michael Miclon purchased the old Odd Fellow's Hall from the town of Buckfield, transforming it into the elegant and intimate Oddfellow Theater. The Theater has become well known as a presenter of unique, original live performances. The Theater received national recognition when it was a feature story on *CBS Sunday Morning*.



### Celebration Barn Theater

Maine's Lakes & Mountains Region

[www.celebrationbarn.com](http://www.celebrationbarn.com)

207-743-8452  
190 Stock Farm Road  
South Paris, ME 04281  
Seasonal



**Celebration Barn**  
Creating Original Theater

From inventive physical comedy to powerful storytelling, from off-the-wall improvisation to unforgettable spectacle, Celebration Barn Theater's summer performance series brings world-class touring artists to the foothills of western Maine.

An internationally renowned center for creating original theater, Celebration Barn provides workshops and residencies in improvisation, character, movement, voice, mask and creative collaboration. Founded in 1972 by Tony Montanaro, The Barn has helped to nurture some of America's finest touring artists, actors, dancers, mimes, jugglers and storytellers.





## Ossipee Valley Music Festival

Maine's Lakes & Mountains Region

[www.ossipeevalley.com](http://www.ossipeevalley.com)

207-625-8656  
91 South Hiram Road  
South Hiram, ME 04020  
Event (July)

On the banks of the Ossipee River, nestled in the tall pines, the Ossipee Valley Music Festival brings top-name acts and their fans together for a four-day acoustic music event with live music from two stages. Bluegrass predominates, but other acoustic-based music like Gypsy Jazz, Old Time Country, Honky Tonk, Irish and Cape Breton can be heard. The Festival is host to the New England Flatpicking, Banjo and Songwriting Contests. It also hosts numerous workshops and dances and a children's music academy, Roots & Sprouts. Camping and RV hookups are available on site, plus craft, food and music vendors.



## The Public Theatre

Maine's Lakes & Mountains Region

[www.thepublictheatre.org](http://www.thepublictheatre.org)

207-782-3200  
31 Maple Street  
Lewiston, ME 04240  
Seasonal

Nationally recognized for its artistic excellence, and voted "Best Theatre Company" four times by the *Portland Phoenix*, The Public Theatre in Lewiston is a professional Equity theatre dedicated to producing quality theatre for the people in Maine at an affordable price. A cornerstone in the cultural life of Lewiston/Auburn, The Public Theatre produces an exciting selection of contemporary plays, featuring the finest professional actors from New York to Los Angeles.

# Summer Chamber Music Festivals

Maine is home to some of the most distinguished chamber music festivals in the country, attracting world-class performers, gifted students and appreciative audiences every summer. Three notable festivals draw music lovers to the MidCoast: the Bowdoin International Music Festival in Brunswick, the Salt Bay Chamberfest in Damariscotta and Bay Chamber Concerts Summer Music Festival in Rockland and Rockport. Southern Maine enjoys the Portland Chamber Music Festival, and in Blue Hill, the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival is one of the oldest in the country. Plus, catch great performances at the Atlantic Music Festival in Waterville and the Sebago-Long Lake Music Festival in Harrison.

**Maine chamber festivals attract world-class performers and gifted students**



Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi  
Bowdoin International Music Festival



*Bay Chamber*  
concerts and community music school

## **Bay Chamber Concerts** **MidCoast Region**

[www.baychamberconcerts.org](http://www.baychamberconcerts.org)  
207-236-2823  
18 Central Street  
Rockport, ME 04843  
Year-round

Bay Chamber Concerts began in 1961 under the direction of brothers Andrew and Thomas Wolf. Born from a Maine summer conservatory program in the 1930s, Bay Chamber Concerts brings world-renowned artists to Maine's MidCoast. During July and August, the Summer Music Festival hosts classical concerts, jazz and film events at the historic Rockport Opera House, Strand Theatre in Rockland and the Bok Amphitheatre in Camden Harbor Park. The rest of the year, the Bay Chamber Performing Arts Series features classical, jazz and world music, plus dance events.

## Bowdoin International Music Festival

MidCoast Region

[www.bowdoinfestival.org](http://www.bowdoinfestival.org)

207-373-1400

181 Park Row

Brunswick, ME 04011

Seasonal

The Bowdoin International Music Festival is a renowned concert series that has been held on the Bowdoin College campus since 1964. The summer festival presents more than 90 concerts, offering a full range of classical works in six concert series and a long weekend of contemporary music.



Programming includes lectures, public master classes, and concerts in communities from Bath to Portland. Performers include teaching artists, top young musicians from around the world and professionals from groups such as the New York Philharmonic and major conservatories including Juilliard, Eastman and Indiana.



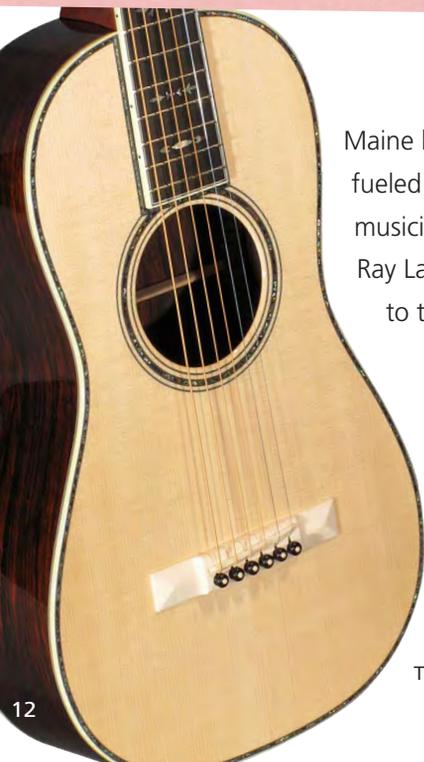
## Homegrown Talent

Maine has a reputation for creativity, ingenuity and independence. This is a reputation fueled by the many performing artists who call our state home—from late, great musicians such as Rudy Vallée and Dick Curless to contemporary recording artists like Ray LaMontagne, Ellis Paul and Patty Griffin. Performers from actor Patrick Dempsey to the late world-renowned mime Tony Montanaro highlight Maine's remarkable

**Maine's ability to "home grow" performing artists is remarkable.**

ability to cultivate performing artists. Characteristic of the fertile ground Maine provides for musicians are the many talented acoustic instrument makers who live and work here. Among them is Dana Bourgeois of Pantheon Guitars, who designs and builds instruments in Lewiston, including the guitars LaMontagne plays on stages all around the world.

The one-of-a-kind *Bourgeois Victoria* from Pantheon Guitars





## Maine State Music Theatre

MidCoast Region

[www.msmt.org](http://www.msmt.org)  
 207-725-8769  
 Pickard Theater  
 1 Bath Road  
 Brunswick, ME 04011  
 Seasonal



Maine State Music Theatre is America's only resident summer theatre that exclusively produces musicals. Performances take place at the historic Pickard Theater on the beautiful Bowdoin College campus in Brunswick. With over 52 years of history, the Theatre offers live professional performances and outreach opportunities that entertain, educate and enrich lives with power and passion!

## John Lane's OGUNQUIT PLAYHOUSE

*"America's Foremost Summer Theatre"*

### John Lane's Ogunquit Playhouse

The Maine Beaches Region

[www.ogunquitplayhouse.org](http://www.ogunquitplayhouse.org)  
 207-646-2402  
 10 Main Street  
 Ogunquit, ME 03907  
 Seasonal

The Ogunquit Playhouse opened in 1933 and quickly became "America's Foremost Summer Theatre." The oceanside playhouse produces shows during the summer season and has an unparalleled commitment to providing the highest quality musical theatre. Using some of the brightest talent in the industry, performances at the Ogunquit Playhouse are comparable to the best Broadway has to offer for less than half the New York price.



## American Folk Festival

The Maine Highlands Region

[www.americanfolkfestival.com](http://www.americanfolkfestival.com)

207-992-2630

40 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04401

Event (August)



The Bangor Waterfront hosts an exciting series of concerts and events throughout the summer. The high point comes every August with the American Folk Festival. Over 100,000 people attend this three-day celebration of traditional music, dance, and art from cultures across America and around the world. Dozens of artists on multiple stages offer diverse music styles, including blues, Irish, Cajun, Native American and more. Add in crafts demonstrations, children's activities, food vendors and art sales and you have one of Maine's must-attend events.

## Bangor Symphony Orchestra

The Maine Highlands Region

[www.bangorsymphony.org](http://www.bangorsymphony.org)

207-942-5555

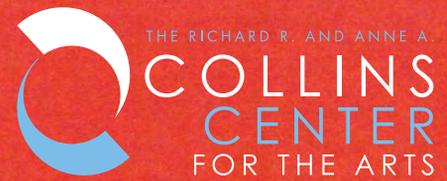
P.O. Box 1441, Bangor, ME 04402

Year-round

The BSO was founded in 1896, making it one of the oldest orchestras in the nation. The BSO, which performs at the Collins Center for the Arts in Orono, brings classical and pops concerts to thousands of residents in eastern and northern Maine. With Sugarloaf Mountain as a backdrop, the symphony travels to western Maine each summer to perform at Kingfield Pops. In 2010, the BSO welcomed Lucas Richman as its 10th music director and conductor.

# BAN&OR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA





## The Collins Center for the Arts

The Maine Highlands Region

[www.collinscenterforthearts.com](http://www.collinscenterforthearts.com)

207-581-1755

5746 Collins Center for the Arts

Orono, ME 04469

Year-round

The Collins Center for the Arts on the University of Maine, Orono Campus, offers a grand venue for large-scale world-class performances in the Bangor region. Shows such as CATS, Stomp, Art Garfunkel, Alvin Ailey Dance Company, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and many more have performed at this 1,400-plus seat theatre. The recently renovated facility is also home to the Hudson Museum, which houses an extensive collection of Maine Native American objects.

# PENOBSCOT THEATRE

## Penobscot Theatre

The Maine Highlands Region

[www.penobscottheatre.org](http://www.penobscottheatre.org)

207-947-6618

131 Main Street

Bangor, ME 04401

Year-round

Established in 1973, Penobscot Theatre Company is America's Northeastern-most professional theatre company. Operating out of the historic Bangor Opera House in the heart of the downtown arts district, the theatre offers award-winning productions of plays, musicals, family entertainment, live music and new works throughout the year. Penobscot Theatre is also home to the annual Northern Writes New Play Festival held every summer.

