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COUNT BASIE THEATRE ASSUMES OPERATIONS OF FAMED MONMOUTH CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC; ANNOUNCES MAY 3RD COMMUNITY CONCERT TO HONOR DIRECTORS VLAD AND IRINA KOVALSKY

*Concert event to “welcome” Conservatory into the nonprofit Basie’s family of
musical performance programs*

(APRIL 12, 2017 | RED BANK, NJ) The historic **Count Basie Theatre**, a recognized 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization dedicated to arts education and outreach, announced today that the **Monmouth Conservatory of Music**, which has taught more than 10,000 area students to perform, understand and appreciate classical music for more than 50 years, will become part of the Basie’s family of musical performance programs.

“Adding the Monmouth Conservatory to our repertoire of musical and vocal offerings at the Count Basie Theatre is a dream come true,” said **Basie CEO and President Adam Philipson**. “Our organizations share a similar vision to provide education that enriches individuals and the quality of life through the study and appreciation of music. This addition complements other programs offered at the Basie, from jazz to rock to Broadway vocals, which inspire and illuminate students while promoting the discipline required to succeed.”

Classes in all aspects of classical music – including studies in piano, violin, viola, cello, string bass, guitar, harp, voice, flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, organ, harpsichord, recorder, lute and drums will continue to be offered under the Basie’s stewardship. The conservatory will be housed on the Basie campus at the completion of its current \$20 million expansion.

“We gift our non-profit classical music school and its over 50 year legacy to the Count Basie Theatre knowing that we can trust this historic cultural center to continue the conservatory’s mission of excellence in teaching, performing and the life-long learning and appreciation of great classical music,” said **Vladislav Kovalsky**, the conservatory’s executive director since 1998. “This union is significant not only for our two organizations but for the entire community.”

“We believe that the Count Basie Theatre is destined to become one of New Jersey’s premium cultural centers,” Mr. Kovalsky’s wife and conservatory associate director **Irina Kovalsky** added, “and the Monmouth Conservatory of Music is proud to become a member of its artistic family.”

To honor Mr. and Mrs. Kovalsky, a community concert will be held onstage at the Basie on Wednesday, May 3 at 6:30pm, featuring Conservatory students onstage along with Basie partner programs **Rockit!**, **Phoenix Productions**, **Jazz Arts Academy** and the **Count Basie Theatre Voices** vocal ensemble.

Tickets, priced at just \$5, are on sale now at the Basie box office and theBASIE.org. All proceeds and donations will assist the Count Basie Theatre in establishing a classical music scholarship.

“This is an exciting time for the Basie,” said **Yvonne Scudiery**, the **Basie’s Vice President of Education**. “We’re welcoming the Conservatory to our program and inviting the community to see all of our music programs and some of our friends, live on the Basie stage.”

The Monmouth Conservatory of Music, the only not-for-profit community music school in the area, is dedicated to excellence in music education, performance and life-long learning. The conservatory was founded by Felix Molzer and his wife, Jeanette, in 1964. Professor Molzer was a graduate of the Vienna Academy of Music and director of the Vienna Boys Choir.

For more information about this or other Count Basie Theatre events, contact Jonathan Vena at jvena@countbasietheatre.org.

ABOUT THE COUNT BASIE THEATRE:

The Count Basie Theatre’s primary mission is to serve the people of the State of New Jersey by providing a broad spectrum of quality entertainment and education programs that reflect and celebrate the diversity of the region; foster understanding and appreciation for the ennobling power of the performing arts, creates opportunity for cultural enrichment for people at all economic levels, and honors the memory of Red Bank native and renowned jazz pianist William James “Count” Basie. The Count Basie Theatre has hosted an array of world-class artists, including Bruce Springsteen & The E-Street Band, Jon Bon Jovi, John Legend, Crosby Stills & Nash, Ringo Starr, Tony Bennett and Ariana Grande. Count Basie Theatre programming is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. For more information, visit www.countbasietheatre.org.