



Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

## Six Peaceful Picks to say Hello, 2021

1 message

Collins Center for the Arts <CCA@cca.collinscenterforthearts.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 8:00 AM

To: "Matthew," <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

Be sure to check out this week's special bonus feature...

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Dear Matthew,

Here are this week's **Six Picks** to keep you connected to the world of performing arts. Find more links like these on our website. Enjoy!



**What I Miss About Broadway, by Marsha Mason**  
Jan. 2 & 3

In an exclusive interview with TheaterMania, Marsha Mason, the four-time Oscar nominee and veteran stage actor/director, describes what she misses most about working in the theater during this period of extended closure.



**The Shows Must Go On - Featuring Michael Ball**  
Jan. 8, 2 p.m. for 48 hours

Relive Michael Ball's sold-out Heroes Tour, featuring solid gold, classic songs which were originally big hits for legendary artists such as Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis, Frank Sinatra, Neil Diamond, Billy Joel, Tom Jones and more. Hear hits some of the biggest hits from the 1950s, 60s and 70s, plus some truly iconic show tunes!



**David Bowie's Lazarus**  
Jan. 8 & 9, 9 p.m., Jan. 10, 4 p.m.

Watch the London production of David Bowie's 'Lazarus,' filmed live onstage in 2016. The musical, which weaves together music from the iconic singer's lengthy and diverse catalog, will be live streamed for the first time to mark both the late singer's 74th birthday as well as the fifth anniversary of his death.



### Martha Matinees: *Dark Meadow*

Sat., Jan. 9, 2:30 p.m.

The Martha Graham Dance Company presents clips of Graham performing an exquisite work from 1946 alongside a performance of the current Company. This recent arrangement features highlights of the work, particularly Graham's unmatched choreography for the ensemble.



### Live Artery Primetime: Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company - *What Problem?*

Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.

The Company's latest work provokes the tension between belonging to a community and feelings of isolation that many feel during these divisive political times. Jones conceived of this highly personal work with a cast of local community members, a deconstructed text from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech and Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*.



### Richard Strauss: *Metamorphosen for Two Violins, Two Violas, Two Cellos and Bass* *Moment: Mozart's Divertimento in D Major* Listen anytime

Watch the beautiful performance of Strauss: *Metamorphosen* played by Bella Hristova and Arnaud Sussmann, Violin; Richard O'Neill and Mark Holloway, Viola; Dmitri Atapine and David Requiro, Cello and Xavier Foley, Bass, courtesy of the Chamber Music Society at Lincoln Center.



### BONUS PICK! *Take Care of This House: A Brief History of a Showtune We Should All Listen to Today*

In 1976, Leonard Bernstein and Alan Jay Lerner debuted their musical *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue* on Broadway at the Mark Hellinger Theatre (now the Times Square Church). It was Bernstein's last original Broadway score, and the show, co-directed and co-choreographed by Gilbert Moses and George Faison after the original creative team departed out-of-town, was a massive flop, closing after 13 previews and seven performances.

*1600 Pennsylvania Avenue* is a retelling of the first 100 years of White House through the eyes of its main residents: the presidents and first ladies, and three generations of their Black serving staff. One actor plays all of the presidents, one actor plays all of the first ladies, one actor plays male servant Lud, one actor plays female servant Seena. Presented in a bicentennial year, audiences expected a rah-rah show of patriotism; what they got was an ahead-of-its-time indictment of the racism that has pervaded the United States since its creation. Critics, naturally, thought it was too preachy and superficial.

Though the show disappeared awfully fast, several of its songs have survived to become seminal texts in the "Great American Songbook." Chief among them is a song I've been thinking about a lot over the past 24 hours, "Take Care of This House." In the context of the show, the song finds Abigail Adams (originally played by Patricia Routledge) giving instructions to Lud (Gilbert Price) on the day-to-day care of the White House. But, naturally, it's a metaphor for preserving the sanctity

of the Republic:

*Take care of this house  
Keep it from harm  
If bandits break in sound the alarm  
Care for this house  
Shine it by hand  
And keep it so clean  
The glow can be seen all over the land.*

After the shameful events yesterday at the Capitol, the message of this song has never felt timelier. History will not look kindly on what took place, but the beacon of light that is our country still stands. And while it might seem dark now, there is a new day ahead.

Click on the link to watch Cynthia Erivo perform this number from Leonard Bernstein and Alan Jay Lerner's 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

*This content was reprinted from the website TheaterMania.*

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