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## Northport Music Theater preps to open

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NORTHPORT — The new Northport Music Theater, Route 1, will open Saturday, June 16, with a gala production of its first show, "The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)."

The premiere season's second show, "Golf: The Musical," will follow in July. The final show, "Six Women with Brain Death, or Enquiring Minds Want to Know," will run in August. Each show will have 15 performances. A complete schedule is available online at [www.northportmusictheater.com](http://www.northportmusictheater.com).

The theater is located halfway between Belfast and Lincolnville Beach. Tucked under towering pines and beside a lovely pond, it sits back from the road and has plenty of parking. All facilities are handicapped accessible. At intermission, audience members can enjoy a glass of wine or a beer, coffee, iced tea and sodas along with a delicious piece of strawberry or blueberry pie from Weaver's Bakery of Belfast.

The first show of the season is a hilarious satire of musical theater that takes one plot — evil landlord and sweet young tenant — and plays it five different ways, each in the style of a famous Broadway composer or composing team.

Directing "Musical!" is Tobin Malone, who is returning to the theater after a five-year hiatus, during which time she was heavily involved at the state and national levels of the real estate industry in her role as president of the Maine Association of Realtors.

"I'm thrilled that Ruth and John (Gelsinger) asked me to direct the premiere production," she said, "Their timing was perfect; I couldn't say no!"

Malone called the show smart and funny, kind of a deconstructed musical and said, "The music is a scream. Whether you like musicals or not, whether you know musicals or not, everybody will 'get' this show."

Starring in "Musical!" will be Thomaston resident [Dagney Ernest](#), who has performed as an actress, singer and dancer in many Midcoast productions; Roger Marcotte of Rockland, a musical theater major at the University of Southern Maine; Caitlin Whalen of Augusta, a singer who teaches choral music at Winthrop Public Schools; Jason Wilkes, a vocal performance major at the University of Maine at Orono; and Ruth Gelsinger, pianist.



Pianist Ruth Gelsinger rehearses with "Musical!" cast members in preparation for the season-opening show of the new Northport Music Theater. Standing from left are Jason Wilkes, Caitlin Whalen and Roger Marcotte. Dagney C. Ernest

Ruth and John Gelsinger, producers, owners and artistic directors of the Northport Music Theater, are proud of the casts they have assembled for all three shows. Ruth said they have been able to attract professional caliber talent because every position in the theater is paid — except for interns and volunteers — and because the shows they have selected are musically challenging and timely.

“Musical!” will open Saturday night, June 16, with a special performance, followed by a gala champagne and catered light supper party with the cast and crew, to which all audience members are invited. Tickets for this gala event and party are \$35 and can be purchased by phone — 236-8469 or 338-8383 — or online.

The regular run will offer 7:30 p.m. performances Tuesdays through Saturday, plus 3:30 p.m. matinees Thursdays and Saturdays, June 19 through 30. Single ticket prices for all shows, except the gala opening night, are \$25 for evening performances and \$20 for matinees. Group discounts are available.

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