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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WGBY to Host a “Victoria”-Themed Ballroom Experience

The WGBY Masterpiece Ball offers a five-course meal, live ballroom orchestra, elegant dancing, and the chance to support public television.



The WGBY Masterpiece Ball is a dress-up ballroom event themed to the series, *Victoria*. Proceeds benefit public television.

**SPRINGFIELD, MASS.** — You don’t have to be from Victorian-era England to feel like royalty. Local public television and PBS station WGBY is extending that opportunity right here at home, at the Log Cabin in Holyoke.

On Saturday, Jan. 27, it’s the return of the [WGBY Masterpiece Ball](#), the period gala that benefits public television in western New England.

This year’s ball is themed to the *Masterpiece* series, “Victoria.” Attendees are encouraged to dress in their

best Victorian ballroom attire to compete for prizes (including best queen, king, and courtier costumes), but many will come in simple evening attire.

### THE ‘CROWNING’ BALLROOM EXPERIENCE

The WGBY Masterpiece Ball begins at 6 p.m. with a Drawing Room reception, where attendees will toast the evening before processing to the main ballroom. A five-course, candlelit dining experience will follow, complete with complimentary wines courtesy of Humboldt Imports.

After a short waltz performance by the Vintage Dance Society, attendees will then sweep across the dancefloor to the festive sounds of the 12-piece WGBY Ballroom Orchestra under the direction of Jeffrey Holmes.

Throughout the evening, attendees will be welcomed to participate in live and silent auctions or take pictures in the Mirror Mirror Interactive Photo Booth.

“We have had so much fun planning this year’s WGBY Masterpiece Ball,” says Marie Waechter, WGBY’s Director of Community Relations and Events. “We closely watched Season One of *Victoria*,

and we teased out hints for the décor, the menu, and a special “Victoria Quiz” element. The evening will evoke the *Masterpiece* experience while also helping support the educational and culturally rich programming of PBS and WGBY.”

For WGBY General Manager Anthony V. Hayes, the night is also about community. “The WGBY Masterpiece Ball is a fun way to get out on the town and share a meaningful experience with the other people in your community,” he says.

## **TICKETS TO THE MASTERPIECE BALL**

There are two ticket levels available for the “Victoria”-themed [WGBY Masterpiece Ball](#):

- **Gentry** (General Admission) — \$125
- **Royalty** (Patron Ticket, includes Special Seating & Gift Bag) — \$200

Tickets are available for purchase online at [wgbj.org/masterpieceball](http://wgbj.org/masterpieceball) or by contacting Marie Waechter at 413-781- 2801, Ext. 1547 or [mwaechter@wgbj.org](mailto:mwaechter@wgbj.org).

The 2018 WGBY Masterpiece Ball is sponsored by PeoplesBank and Clinical & Support Options. AM Lithography is a media sponsor. Special thanks to the Log Cabin, Durocher Florist, Humboldt Imports, Mole Hollow Candles, and the Vintage Dance Society.

“VICTORIA, SEASON 2” is a coproduction of Mammoth Screen and MASTERPIECE. Victoria is distributed internationally by ITV Studios Global Entertainment. Masterpiece funding is provided by Viking, Farmer’s Insurance, and The Masterpiece Trust.

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## **ABOUT WGBY**

WGBY ([wgbj.org](http://wgbj.org)) is a community-supported public broadcasting organization connecting the people of western New England to events, ideas, and each other through national PBS programming and locally produced content. With four digital television channels, video on demand, podcasting, and streaming video, WGBY is one of the region’s most accessible community institutions. WGBY is available over the air on digital channel 57-1 and on cable throughout western Massachusetts and northwestern Connecticut and can be seen in high definition in western Massachusetts at Comcast 857, Time Warner 1807, Charter 782, and over the air on channel 57.