WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

NEWS RELEASE

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Westport Country Playhouse Presents Benefit Concert Featuring Westport Native and Singer-Songwriter George Barrett

Joined by a band of world-class musicians and special guests Sarah Gross and Brian Keane, Barrett will perform new original music and familiar favorites, in a Nov. 21 concert benefiting the Playhouse's Playwrights Project.

Westport Country Playhouse will welcome musician, singer-songwriter, and Westport, Connecticut native George Barrett on Saturday, November 21, at 7 p.m., for an evening of new original music and familiar favorites. Barrett will be joined by Nashville-based singer-songwriter Sarah Gross, a rising star in indie folk and country music; Brian Keane, a Westport native who is an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning composer, Grammy Award-winning producer, and internationally acclaimed guitarist; and backed by a dynamic band including keyboard, guitar, bass, drums, organ, pedal steel, and backing vocalists.

Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Playhouse Playwright's Project, which discovers, nurtures, and showcases original theatrical works by writers at every stage of their careers, from readings and workshops to full productions.

"George Barrett's story is a wonderful reminder that no matter where life takes us, the things we love have a way of bringing us home," said Ben Frimmer, a member of the Playhouse board of trustees and teacher of theatre arts for the Westport Public Schools. "A lifelong musician and decorated three-sport athlete at Staples High School, George's journey has taken him from Westport to New York City to serving as CEO of one of the nation's largest companies, all while maintaining his connection to music. We're delighted to welcome him back to the Playhouse for an evening that celebrates his musical journey and the community that helped shape it."

George Barrett has lived many lives – musician, singer-songwriter, teacher, athlete, coach, business leader – and he puts them all into his music and songwriting. Barrett's unique path from musician to business leader and back to music has endowed him with a perspective as diverse as his musical influences. Barrett grew up in a family of artists (his mother Lou was a beloved Staples English teacher and poet) in a home filled with the sounds of classical, folk, rock, blues, and jazz. His diverse musical upbringing, combined with his buttery voice and natural comfort on guitar and piano, laid the foundation for an eclectic and rich music journey. After honing his skills as a session singer and performer in the vibrant clubs of NYC's Greenwich Village, Barrett took a detour, embarking on what would become an extensive business career without ever letting go of his musical roots. His life took a significant turn in 2022 when he reconnected with acclaimed musician, composer, and producer Brian Keane. The reunion sparked the creation of "Not Alone," Barrett's debut album. Barrett and Keane joined forces again on Barrett's second album, "Rearrange Things."

Sarah Gross, Nashville-based, Long Island-raised, blends country, Americana, and folk with sharp lyricism, grounded storytelling, and an unmistakably East Coast point of view. She sang onstage with

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Zach Bryan at UBS Arena and was featured on “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon.” Her recent album, “The Old Side of Being Young,” features themes of growth, nostalgia, and uncertainty with her distinctly powerful voice and signature wit.

Brian Keane, who grew up in Westport, is a multiple Emmy, Peabody, and Academy award-winning composer, Grammy Award-winning producer, and world renowned guitarist. He has scored hundreds of films and television shows, and produced over 180 albums, mostly from his studio in the woods of Connecticut.

“We’re truly grateful to have a hometown hero like George Barrett joining us at the Playhouse,” said Mark Shanahan, Playhouse artistic director. “George and his friends are generously sharing their talents in support of our Playhouse Playwright’s Project, helping us create exciting new work on the Playhouse stage. This night of incredible music allows us to champion new plays like this season’s productions of ‘Pride & Prejudice, Part 2: Napoleon at Pemberley’ and ‘The Pancake Club,’ as well as the new work we develop through our Script in Hand and Barnstormer series. It’s a wonderful way for artists to support other artists, and help bring new stories and new voices to the stage. We couldn’t be happier to welcome George and his friends for a night of music we all love, in support of a great cause!”

Fundraiser tickets are $50, $75, and $100. Running time is 75 minutes.

For full details, visit: https://www.westportplayhouse.org/show/george-barrett/

2026 Programming and Season Sponsor is Barbara Streicker. Media sponsors are Moffly Media and WSHU Public Radio. Westport Country Playhouse is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

A complete schedule of Playhouse events is available at westportplayhouse.org. All play titles, artists, dates, and times are subject to change.

For Westport Country Playhouse information and tickets, visit westportplayhouse.org or call the box office at (203) 227-4177, toll-free at 1-888-927-7529. Stay connected to the Playhouse on Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse), Instagram (wcplayhouse), and YouTube (WestportPlayhouse). Westport Country Playhouse is located at 25 Powers Court, off Route 1, Westport.

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