**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:**

Kate Moore, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations

(616) 929-1713; kmoore@grpm.org

**Grand Rapids Public Museum Continues**

 **2017 Mighty Wurlitzer Organ Concert Series**

**Grand Rapids, MI** – Join the Grand Rapids Public Museum (GRPM) for the third installment of the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ concert of the series with performances by Justin Stahl on November 17 and 18 to hear classics from the 20th century.

Justin will perform a variety of well-known melodies beginning in the early 1900s up through the 1990s. Justin has performed for various audiences at the GRPM on the 1928 Mighty Wurlitzer Theater Organ over the years.

Aa native of Beech Grove, Indiana, Justin began playing at age five with the encouragement of his great-grandfather. He was mostly self-taught in piano and organ.  His passion for music has reached many venues that have included accompanying for several choral departments, contributing as his church's music director, playing for community theatre, and serving for nearly fifteen years in the Indiana Army National Guard's 38th Infantry Division Band.

Stahl has most recently entertained thousands of patrons of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in the last five productions of their annual Yuletide Celebration, playing the 3/24 Wurlitzer installed at the Hilbert Circle Theatre. Theatre organ has always been a passion of Justin's and has taken him to performance venues across the country. He was a featured artist at the 59th ATOS Convention held in Indianapolis.

A graduate of Marian University with a Bachelor's degree in piano performance, Justin presently serves as the director of music for the Horizon Science Academy High School in Columbus, Ohio, while writing choral/instrumental arrangements for several choir departments.  His approach and philosophy includes the continued

promotion of the theatre organ by using a wide base of musical genres.

Shows will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, November 17 and at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 18 in the Meijer Theater at the GRPM.

Tickets for individual concerts are $8 for Museum member adults, $4 for Museum member children, $10 for non-member adults and $5 for non-member children. Tickets are available by visiting [www.grpm.org/Organ](http://www.grpm.org/Organ) or by calling 616.929.1700.

The final concert of the series will be *Holiday Classics* on Friday, December 15 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 16 at 2 p.m. by John Lauter. This holiday classic is a sellout show, great for the entire family. Tickets are recommended to be purchased early.

**The Mighty Wurlitzer Organ**

The Wurlitzer Company of North Tonawanda, New York, manufactured and shipped Opus #1836, a “3 manual special”, to the Stanley Theater of Jersey City, New Jersey, on February 9, 1928. The Mighty Wurlitzer Organ spent two decades entertaining customers at the Roaring 20’s Pizza Parlor on 28th Street in Grand Rapids, before it was moved to its current location at the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

**Grand Rapids Public Museum**

The Grand Rapids Public Museum is an invaluable, publicly-owned institution that is home to more than 250,000 unique artifacts that tell the history of Kent County and beyond, houses the only planetarium in the region, and is responsible for protecting the Norton Indian Mounds, a national historic landmark. The Grand Rapids Public Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, with its main location in downtown Grand Rapids, MI at 272 Pearl Street, NW. For additional information including hours of operation, admission fees and exhibit/event listings, please visit [www.grpm.org](http://www.grpm.org/).

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