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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***Rodgers & Hammerstein's The Sound of Music* Breaks Box Office Records as the Most Attended Holiday Show in 5th Avenue History, Must Close Sunday, January 3, 2016**

(Wednesday, December 30, 2015 – SEATTLE, WA) ***Rodgers & Hammerstein's The Sound of Music*** has joined the ranks of blockbuster musicals at The 5th Avenue Theatre, becoming the most-attended holiday show in box office history. In the last month, 77,202 patrons have made their way through the historic lobby to take their seats at one of the best loved musicals of all time, many of whom have made a trip to The 5th a part of their annual holiday traditions with family. The holiday show is almost always the most attended show in The 5th's season and this year's production has proven to be the most popular of them all, grossing over \$4 million in ticket sales to date. Excellent seats are available for most remaining performances.

The consistent popularity of the holiday shows allows The 5th to give back to the community in a number of ways. An annual contributor to The Seattle Times Fund for the Needy, this year 5th Avenue audiences contributed \$33,100 to help care for area families, with additional audience, staff and cast drives supporting Treehouse and Make a Wish. Nearly ninety community partners were invited to early performances of the show, receiving over 700 complimentary tickets. This year, The 5th mounted a student matinee of the show which sold out within weeks of its announcement and saw the attendance of over three dozen schools bringing students from as far away as Yakima.

***Rodgers & Hammerstein's The Sound of Music*** plays through this Sunday, **January 3, 2016** at The 5th Avenue Theatre (1308 5th Avenue, Seattle). For single tickets (starting at \$34) and information, please visit [www.5thavenue.org](http://www.5thavenue.org), call the Box Office at (206) 625-1900 or visit the Box Office at 1308 5th Avenue in Downtown Seattle. Tickets may also be purchased at (888) 5TH-4TIX. Group tickets buyers (10 or more) may call (888) 625-1418.

#### **About the Show**

**The 5th Avenue Theatre** proudly presents the exultant classic musical, ***Rodgers & Hammerstein's The Sound of Music***, directed by **David Bennett** and choreographed by **Trina Mills**. The story of the young governess, Maria, who brings much-needed tenderness

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and joy to the von Trapp family, this iconic piece of musical theater has everything—romance, danger, bravery and love. This sumptuous production has mounted with typical 5th Avenue care and dedication, with a full orchestra, stunning sets and costumes, and of course, a stellar cast of Seattle favorites including **Kirsten deLohr Helland** as Maria, with **Hans Altwies** as Captain Von Trapp, **Anne Allgood** as the Mother Abbess, **David Pichette** as Max and **Jessica Skerritt** as the Baroness. One of the most beloved musicals in the Rodgers & Hammerstein canon, the show features such memorable songs as “My Favorite Things,” “Do Re Mi,” “Climb Ev’ry Mountain,” and of course, “The Sound of Music.”

Special thanks to The 5th Avenue Theatre’s 2015/16 season sponsors Artsfund, U.S. Bank and *The Seattle Times*, and official airline Delta Air Lines. Additional thanks to production sponsor Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, contributing sponsor Macy’s, and restaurant sponsor Il Fornaio.

### **About The 5th Avenue Theatre**

The non-profit 5th Avenue Theatre is acclaimed as one of the nation’s leading musical theater companies and is especially renowned for its production and development of new works. Since 2002, the Seattle-based company has produced 17 new musicals. To date, nine (including the sensational hit *Disney’s Aladdin*) have moved on to Broadway premieres, earning a combined 15 Tony Awards, including two for Best Musical (*Hairspray* and *Memphis*). The 5th Avenue Theatre is also known for its world class, critically acclaimed productions of musicals chosen from both the contemporary canon and the Golden Age of Broadway.

Unique in its Chinese-inspired design, this exquisite theater opened in 1926 as a venue for vaudeville and film. Today, under the leadership of Executive Producer and Artistic Director David Armstrong, Managing Director Bernadine C. Griffin and Producing Artistic Director Bill Berry, this non-profit theater company attracts an annual attendance of more than 300,000, including over 25,000 subscribers – one of the largest theater subscriptions in North America.

In addition to its main stage productions, The 5th Avenue Theatre is also committed to encouraging the next generation of theatergoers through its extensive educational outreach programs. For more information about The 5th Avenue Theatre, its season and its programs, please visit [www.5thavenue.org](http://www.5thavenue.org).

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