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## **LOCAL PLAYWRIGHT/COMPOSER RELEASES ORIGINAL MUSICAL THEATRE ALBUM**

### ***THE WRONG BOX*, BASED ON A ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON NOVEL, FEATURES 24 CAPITAL REGION PERFORMERS**

**LATHAM** – A new locally written and produced musical theatre album, *The Wrong Box*, will be released Saturday August 17. Written and composed by Niskayuna native Kit Goldstein Grant, *The Wrong Box* is a Victorian black comedy based on the novel of the same name by Robert Louis Stevenson (*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Treasure Island*) and his stepson, Lloyd Osbourne. The novel was written largely in Upstate New York when Stevenson and his family came to Saranac Lake seeking a change of climate for his tuberculosis. It was previously adapted in 1966 as a film starring Michael Caine and Peter Sellers. The musical premiered as a student production at Union College in 2002, and excerpts were performed at Manhattan's Golden Fleece Ltd Composers' Chamber Theater in 2006. A new production will be mounted at Proctors' Fenimore Gallery as part of the Classic Theater Guild's 2013-14 season.

*The Wrong Box* tells the story of two branches of the conniving Finsbury family desperately competing to "win" a tontine, an investment scheme in which a group of parents pay into a fund on behalf of their children, the last survivor of whom – by then quite elderly – collects the money. Things get thick when one of the elderly gentlemen appears to have died in a train wreck, and his heirs scramble to conceal his apparent corpse to keep their stake in the tontine.

The CD cast features many veterans of Capital Region musical theatre, familiar to local audiences from shows at NYSTI, SLOC, Park Playhouse, C-R Productions, Capital Rep, and more. The lead role is performed by NYC-based singer/actor John Anthony Lopez, who originally hails from the Schenectady area, and has been seen in NYC at FringeNYC, Irish Repertory, and in Broadway concert appearances. Supporting roles are sung by Bill Hickman, Adam Coons, Lesley O'Donnell, Brendan Dwyer, David Michael Benjamin, Jr., Eric Shovah, Marc Andrzejewski, Joe Phillips, Heather D'Arcy, Allison McArdle, Richard Cross, and Laura Darling, with vocal direction by Maria Elmer. They are accompanied by an orchestra of thirteen experienced musicians under the direction of conductor/orchestrator Barret Germain.

This will be Ms. Goldstein Grant's second widely available album, following children's musical *It's Raining Tamales*, third prize winner of the Jackie White Memorial National Children's Play Writing Contest. Ms. Goldstein Grant is a Niskayuna native and graduate of Union College. She has been writing for local theater since 1998, and more than a dozen of her plays and musicals have been produced in the area. Ms. Goldstein Grant is an alumna of the BMI Musical Theatre Writing Workshop and a member of the Dramatists Guild.

A release party, open to the public, will be held on Saturday August 17 from 6-9 PM at Professor Java's Coffee Sanctuary in Colonie. Free desserts and coffee will be provided, and selected songs will be performed live by members of the cast. CDs will be available for sale and signing at the party, and the album will be sold through Amazon, iTunes and CD Baby. For more information and cast and crew bios visit [www.KitGoldstein.com](http://www.KitGoldstein.com).