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For Immediate Release

AMHERST HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO PRESENT AN ENCORE PERFORMANCE OF JOHN BECHTOLD'S IMMERSIVE THEATER PIECE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

AMHERST, MA (SEPTEMBER 4, 2026) - Having debuted in July 2026, *common* returns to downtown Amherst on Saturday, September 19, 2026 through a special collaboration with the award-winning Amherst Regional High School Theater Company and Eggtooth Productions. Originally commissioned by the Amherst Historical Society as part of the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the work brings Amherst together on the Town Common once again, for an unforgettable auditory adventure through Amherst's storied past.

The audio/promenade piece was created by John Bechtold, Creative Director of Eggtooth Productions (eggtooth.org) with sound by Samuel V. Perry and made possible by support from the Amherst Cultural Council, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Amherst Business Improvement District, Amherst Center Cultural District and MassHumanities.

After participating in the experience in July, Representative Mindy Domb (D-Amherst) encourage the creators to offer it again when the students are back in Amherst. "*common* is a gift to our community - an unexpected and inspiring time travel where participation feels like an Amherst Meditation. It's a valuable addition to our community's cultural assets and our commonwealth's 250th celebrations. I continue to be grateful to John Bechtold for dedicating his immense talents to our community and our students, and appreciate the support of the Amherst Historical Society, the Amherst and Massachusetts Cultural Councils, the BID and Mass Humanities in making this production a reality," said Domb.

Bechtold was inspired by the Common's history and the early works of Thornton Wilder and his piece *common* offers participants an imaginative reorientation of the town common while building a communal experience for all. Featuring a simple, web-based soundtrack that leads you through the piece, audience members will be able to

pocket their devices for the entire piece after tapping “Begin” so that they can attend to the world around them.

This free, participatory event will require headphones and a connection to the internet while on the Amherst Town Common. Participants will need to scan a QR code prior to the start time to access the piece, then gather on the grassy south section of the common to wait for the experience to begin. Information on how to access the program will be available at the Amherst Historical Society’s Hands on History table at the Amherst Farmer’s Market that morning. The program will be run 3 times: at 10:30, 11:15 and 12:00.

Though some walking is desirable, the piece may be experienced without ambulation and is fully accessible to those with disabilities. Length: ~20 minutes. Appropriate for ages 12+.