



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Highfield Hall & Gardens Installs the Musical Garden, a New Experience to
Enjoy Music, Art and Nature**

Year-round, permanent installation of outdoor musical instruments for ages

(Falmouth, Massachusetts – August 1, 2018) There’s a new musical garden at Highfield Hall & Gardens, another great reason to “go outside and play” on the lush grounds of this historic Falmouth estate.

The unique outdoor musical instruments, located among the meandering Beech Tree Path, are designed to bring art, music and nature together in perfect harmony. They’re the brainchild of Grammy-award winner Richard Cooke, a self-described “spontaneous music-maker,” who wanted to create instruments that people of all ages and abilities could step up to and play with abandon. His company, Free Notes Harmony Park in Colorado, is the industry leader in outdoor musical instruments. His creations are everywhere from the Riverwalk in New Orleans and the Florida Botanical Gardens to beautiful outdoor spaces in Canada and China.

The five-instrument ensemble at Highfield includes a chime with soprano and alto tones, seven contrabass chimes ranging in height from 7 to 9 feet that resonate like a gong, a xylophone, drum set and an *imbarimba*. This pentatonic instrument combines elements of two African classics: the marimba (a resonated xylophone) and the *kalimba* (a thumb piano). The ensemble delivers maximum pitch range with texture and pure distinct tones that blend into soothing sounds. The instruments are also highly durable and will never need re-tuning.

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“Some people have been quite surprised to find these incredible musical instruments along the wooded path;” said Executive Director Peter Franklin. “Yet, I haven’t run across anyone who could resist playing them. I’ve heard some great solos and impromptu group jam sessions while walking around the estate this summer.”

Franklin said he is always looking for ways to bring unique, interactive experiences to Highfield. “The Musical Garden, which was made possible by a generous gift from the Mezzacappa family, is something that members of the community and visitors can enjoy for years to come,” he added.

Highfield Hall & Gardens is located at 56 Highfield Drive in Falmouth. The grounds are open to the public free of charge every day from dawn to dusk. Visitors can also tour the historic 1878 Victorian mansion, once the summer home of the Beebe family, and its current art exhibitions Tuesday to Friday from 10 am – 4 pm and weekends and holidays from 10 am – 2 pm. Admission is \$8 adults; \$5 seniors; members and children are free. For more information, visit highfieldhall.org.