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## **Mosaic ‘Melodies and Memories’ at Performance Network**

### **Founder, Rick Sperling comes home to celebrate 20 years of youth arts**

Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit begins its 20<sup>th</sup> year of programming by looking back – and returning to where it all began – Ann Arbor. [Mosaic’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season](#) is off to a great start beginning with a performance for President Obama at the Labor Day parade and a well attended garden party on the beautiful ground of the Mayor’s Residence. ***Melodies & Memories: Ann Arbor celebrates Mosaic’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season*** will be held at the Performance Network on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The event will feature a performance by Mosaic’s young artists and a dessert reception following the performance. Mosaic’s Founder and CEO Rick Sperling, is an Ann Arbor native who has been teaching teens since he himself was teen at Ann Arbor Community High School. In its early years, each summer Mosaic’s young artists would spend one week in residence on the University of Michigan campus, while presenting their year-end production at the Performance Network. Now, 20 years later, Rick and Mosaic return to The Performance Network to celebrate.

Named *Best-Managed Nonprofit* by *Crain’s Detroit Business* in 2006, Mosaic is a leader in youth development delivering rigorous, high quality performing arts education and connecting that education to a promising future for its young artists. Mosaic’s young artists have toured their critically-acclaimed all-teen performances to Europe, Asia, Africa, more than 25 states throughout the U.S., the White House and The Kennedy Center. Event proceeds will be used to support Mosaic programs which serve more than 500 metro Detroit area youth annually with free and accessible training in acting and vocal music.

Rick Sperling has been a dynamic force for youth and arts in Detroit for more than twenty years. As founder of Mosaic, Sperling was named a *2008 Michiganiaan of the Year* by the *Detroit News* for “*inspiring self-discipline, a sense of teamwork and high personal standards in thousands of Metro Detroit children.*” As a result of his work with Mosaic, Sperling has also received the *Detroit Free Press* award for *Lifetime Achievement in Theatre*. As a professional actor and director, he worked frequently with the Attic Theatre and the Performance Network Theatre of Ann Arbor, where he won the *Ann Arbor News* award for Best Actor in a Comedy in 1991.

Tickets to ***Melodies & Memories: Ann Arbor celebrates Mosaic’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season*** are available online at [www.mosaicdetroit.org](http://www.mosaicdetroit.org) or by calling (313)872-6910. Performance begins at 7:00 pm, Dessert reception immediately following at 8:00 pm. The Performance Network is located at 120 E. Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI.

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