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# Contents

## Page 6

Broadway Swings into Macky Auditorium

## Page 8

Upcoming Events

## Page 15

Alan Stanek: Paying it forward

## Page 24

Meet Mihai Marica,  
Takács Quartet cellist designate

## Page 26

Our Supporters

## Page 30

Staff Listing and Venue Policies

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# Broadway *Swings* into Macky Auditorium

*By Henry Michaels*

Michael Feinstein and the Carnegie Hall Ensemble swing into Macky Auditorium this April for an unforgettable night where Broadway meets big band!

It's hard to know where to start with the singer and pianist Michael Feinstein, who is as accomplished and as multifaceted as any musician you're liable to find. Over the course of his distinguished career, Feinstein has been nominated for five Grammys, an Emmy, and won both a Drama Desk Special Award and an ASCAP Deems-Taylor Television Broadcast Award. He is the founder of the Great American Songbook Foundation—Feinstein is known as the “Ambassador of the Great American Songbook”—and has served as a member of the Library of Congress’ National Recording Preservation Board. He is Principal Pops Conductor Emeritus with the Pasadena Symphony and spends his summers as conductor of the Pasadena POPS Series; he is also artistic director of both the Palladium Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, Indiana and of “Standard Time with Michael Feinstein” at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Across his distinguished career, Feinstein has appeared at a laundry list of esteemed stages and landmarks, including The White House, Buckingham Palace, the Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House. Put simply, Michael Feinstein is one of those rare people blessed with seemingly boundless energy—and on April 11, he'll bring his spectacular showmanship and dazzling musical talents to Macky Auditorium with “Big Band Broadway.”



Feinstein will be joined on stage by the Carnegie Hall Ensemble, a big band stocked with the best in contemporary jazz talent. Together they'll bring a big band twist to hit Broadway showtunes from multiple decades, including songs from the likes of *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Into the Woods*, *The Wiz* and *Chicago*. The consummate showman and host, Feinstein charmingly weaves stories, history, and other fascinating tidbits into the show about the tunes and musicals from which they originate.

The show is also in many ways a celebration of Carnegie Hall, a cultural institution whose storied history with the big band genre features the likes of Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra and more. Feinstein has a particular way with the music of Tony Bennett, with whom he shared a close friendship.

**Michael Feinstein and the Carnegie Hall Ensemble** perform on the Artist Series at Macky Auditorium on **April 11, 2026**.



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**Michael Feinstein in  
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April 11

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At the 68th Annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 1, *Intelligence*—a contemporary opera by composer Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer—won the Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording. Commissioned by the Houston Grand Opera (HGO), the opera—based on a true story—centers on Civil War-era spies and was praised for its artistic excellence and focus on Black voices. Of note, Heggie and Scheer workshopped *Intelligence* with the innovative CU New Opera Workshop (CU NOW) in 2021, their third CU NOW collaboration, in advance of its HGO premiere in October 2023. Congratulations to CU NOW Founder + Director Leigh Holman, former CU NOW Music Director Jeremy Reger (2015-2022), and all involved voice faculty and alumni!

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## Celebrate a Legacy, Support the Next Generation of String Players

This June, András Fejér, cellist, Ralph E. and Barbara L. Christoffersen Faculty Fellow and founding member of the Takács Quartet, will retire at the end of his 51st season on stage and in the classroom. András has shaped the artistry of hundreds of young musicians at the University of Colorado Boulder College of Music since 1986 and has helped build an international chamber music tradition in Boulder that continues to inspire audiences around the globe.

In recognition of his remarkable career, longtime arts supporters Richard Replin and Elissa Stein have established the András Fejér String Scholarship Fund. A native Coloradan, Richard and Elissa first heard the Takács Quartet perform in 1983, and he and Elissa have been passionate advocates for chamber music for decades. Their gift honors András' artistic legacy and humanity.

The fund provides scholarship support for violin, viola and cello students enrolled in performance degree programs at the College of Music. These awards help young artists focus on their studies, refine their craft and prepare for professional careers as performers, teachers and ensemble leaders.

In the spirit of encouraging broad community participation, Richard and Elissa will generously match all contributions to the fund, dollar for dollar.



**We invite friends, alumni and supporters of the Takács Quartet to make a gift in András' honor. Your contribution will celebrate a lifetime of music making and support the next generation of string players at CU Boulder.**

For further information, please contact Assistant Dean for Advancement Andrew Todd at [atodd@colorado.edu](mailto:atodd@colorado.edu).

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# Alan Stanek

## Paying it forward

*By Adam Goldstein and Sabine Kortals Stein*

Academic scholarships looked a little different when Alan Stanek was a student at the University of Colorado Boulder College of Music.

Stanek—who earned a bachelor’s in music education at CU Boulder in 1961, followed by an MM degree from the Eastman School of Music and a DMA in clarinet performance from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance—relied on some financial assistance on his academic journey.

Before enrolling at CU Boulder, Stanek had been considering other schools in the state; but encouragement from then-Band Director Hugh McMillen, in addition to the prospect of scholarship support, brought him to the College of Music.

“The scholarship was \$54 a year—\$27 a semester—for four years,” recalls Stanek, currently based in Omaha, Nebraska following his retirement in 2001 from an illustrious career as an educator, academic administrator and professional musician. “It paid for books and helped me pay my expenses to go to college.”

Slight as an annual sum of \$54 seems today, that boost left a strong impression on Stanek who established the Valentine Henrich Memorial Endowed Clarinet Scholarship Fund, named for one of Stanek’s most influential instructors at CU Boulder from 1957 to 1961. The fund has provided financial support to musicians in training at the College of Music for more than a decade, serving as a critical resource for the college’s woodwind department.

Stanek attributes his continued contributions in part to his family legacy; he also notes his deep ties to his unique experience in Boulder, a place where he found support and inspiration around every corner.

“I was given every opportunity at CU Boulder,” adds Stanek who went on to garner numerous awards and prestigious recognitions including his induction into the Idaho Music Educators Hall of Fame. “By my second



year, I was principal clarinet in the band, librarian for the band department and playing in the orchestra. “Hugh McMillen was a father figure to me. He came to my high school to talk about the CU Boulder bands program.”

Henrich, an adjunct professor at the College of Music during Stanek’s undergraduate tenure, also left a deep impression. “I thought it would be nice to honor him as my mentor and the mentor of many,” says Stanek. “I was able. I called and said I’d like to establish a scholarship in his name.”

That scholarship has helped countless students, reflecting Stanek’s decades-long commitment to music education.



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# Michael Feinstein in Big Band Broadway

## with special guest star Bobby Daye

featuring the Carnegie Hall Ensemble

April 11 2026  
Macky Auditorium

Broadway never sounds better than when it swings. With the greatest contemporary jazz musicians, Michael Feinstein swings the songbook into the 21st Century.

Featuring music from quintessential shows such as *Cabaret*, *Hello Dolly*, and *Fiddler on the Roof* to *Into the Woods*, *Chicago*, *Dreamgirls*, *MJ The Musical*, *The Wiz*, and *The Lion King*, Big Band Broadway delivers modern and classic showtunes with the timeless tradition of Carnegie Hall in a way that only Michael Feinstein can do.

The show also brings to bear the history of Carnegie Hall, which has been connected to the American big band for decades. Icons from across the 20th and 21st Century have graced the stage of Carnegie Hall, from Benny Goodman to Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong to Ella Fitzgerald and from Frank Sinatra to of course, Tony Bennett. A multi-media element of the show will help to bring this history to life onstage.

## Michael Feinstein

In addition to his recognition as one of the leading musical entertainers and piano virtuosi of recent decades, Michael Feinstein's work as an educator, archivist, interpreter, and Ambassador of the Great American Songbook have established the popular and honored musician as a pre-eminent force in contemporary music. His dazzling career as a top-selling and critically acclaimed recording artist and a star performer on Broadway, and the world's great concert stages has earned him five GRAMMY® Award nominations, a special Tony Award for Excellence in Theatre for his Feinstein's New York venue, two Emmy nominations of his television specials, and acclaim for his NPR series. His live concerts have spanned the globe including such iconic venues such as The White House, Buckingham Palace, Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House.

In 2022, Feinstein released to rave reviews, *Gershwin Country*, an album of standards in duet with some of the biggest names in Country Music from Dolly Parton and Alison Krauss to Brad Paisley and Amy Grant. This same year he made his debut at the legendary Café Carlyle in New York to rave reviews and sell-out performances. (*Continues on next page*)

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In 2007, as an extension of his work as a legendary performer and passionate guardian of his nation's greatest musical traditions, Feinstein founded the Great American Songbook Foundation. The Foundation works to preserve and elevate America's rich musical legacy by curating physical artifacts of its creators and performers; offering programs for the public and research opportunities for scholars, historians and performers; and providing educational opportunities for student musicians, including the annual high school Songbook Academy®. For more than a decade,

Feinstein served as a Founding Member on the Library of Congress' National Recording Preservation Board; an organization dedicated to ensuring the survival, conservation, and increased public availability of America's sound recording heritage.

Feinstein earned his fifth Grammy Award nomination in 2009 for *The Sinatra Project*, his CD celebrating the music of "Ol' Blue Eyes." *The Sinatra Project, Volume II: The Good Life* was released in 2011. He released the CDs *The Power Of Two*—collaborating with *Glee* and

30 Rock star Cheyenne Jackson—and *Cheek To Cheek*, recorded with Broadway legend Barbara Cook. For Feinstein's CD, *We Dreamed These Days*, he co-wrote the title song with Maya Angelou.

His Emmy Award-nominated TV special *Michael Feinstein—The Sinatra Legacy*, which was taped live at the Palladium in Carmel, Indiana, aired across the country in 2011. The PBS series, *Michael Feinstein's American Songbook*, was the recipient of the ASCAP Deems-Taylor Television Broadcast Award, was broadcast for three seasons, and is available on DVD. His most recent primetime PBS-TV Special, *New Year's Eve at The Rainbow Room*—written and directed by Desperate Housewives creator Marc Cherry—aired in 2014. For his nationally syndicated public radio program, *Song Travels*, Feinstein interviewed and performed alongside of music luminaries such as Bette Midler, Neil Sedaka, Liza Minnelli, Rickie Lee Jones, David Hyde Pierce and more.

Feinstein was named Principal Pops Conductor for the Pasadena Symphony in 2012 and made his conducting debut in June 2013 to celebrated critical acclaim. Under Feinstein's leadership, the Pasadena Pops has quickly become a premier orchestral presenter of the Great American Songbook with definitive performances of rare orchestrations and classic arrangements. He launched an additional pops series at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in Palm Beach, Florida in 2014. Michael's book *The Gershwins and Me*—the Los Angeles Times best-seller from Simon & Schuster—features a new CD of Gershwin standards performed with Cyrus Chestnut at the piano.

Feinstein serves as Artistic Director of the Center for the Performing Arts, a \$170 million, three-theatre venue in Carmel, Indiana, which opened in January 2011. The theater is home to diverse live programming and a museum for his rare memorabilia and manuscripts. Since 1999, he has served as Artistic Director for Carnegie Hall's "Standard Time with Michael Feinstein" in conjunction with ASCAP. In 2010 he became the director of the Jazz and Popular Song Series at New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Feinstein's at the Nikko, his nightclub at San Francisco's Nikko Hotel, has presented the top talents of pop and jazz since 2013. His first venue in New York, Feinstein's at the Regency, featured major entertainers such as Rosemary Clooney, Glen Campbell, Barbara Cook, Diahann Carroll, Jane Krakowski, Lea Michele, Cyndi Lauper, Jason Mraz and Alan Cumming from 1999 to 2012. Feinstein

opened his Los Angeles location, Feinstein's at Vitello's in June of 2019 and most recently launched Feinstein's at the Hotel Carmichael in Carmel, Indiana. He has designed a new piano for Steinway called "The First Ladies," inspired by the White House piano and signed by several former First Ladies. It was first played to commemorate the Ronald Reagan centennial on Feb. 6th, 2011.

In 2013, Feinstein released *Change of Heart: The Songs of Andre Previn* in collaboration with four-time Oscar and eleven-time Grammy Award-winning composer-conductor-pianist Andre Previn. The album celebrates Previn's pop songs and motion picture classics. Earlier album highlights include *Hopeless Romantics*, a songbook of classics by Michael's late friend Harry Warren, recording with legendary jazz pianist George Shearing. His album with songwriting icon Jimmy Webb, *Only One Life—The Songs of Jimmy Webb*, was named one of the "10 Best CDs of the Year" by USA Today.

Feinstein received his fourth Grammy nomination for *Michael Feinstein with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra*, his first recording with a symphony orchestra. The year before, Rhino/Elektra Music released *The Michael Feinstein Anthology*, a two-disc compilation spanning 1987 to 1996 and featuring old favorites and previously unreleased tracks.

Feinstein was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, where he started playing piano by ear as a 5-year-old. After graduating from high school, he moved to Los Angeles when he was 20. The widow of legendary concert pianist-actor Oscar Levant introduced him to Ira Gershwin in July 1977. Feinstein became Gershwin's assistant for six years, which earned him access to numerous unpublished Gershwin songs, many of which he has since performed and recorded. Gershwin's influence provided a solid base upon which Feinstein evolved into a captivating performer, composer and arranger of his own original music. He also has become an unparalleled interpreter of music legends such as Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Johnny Mercer, Duke Ellington and Harry Warren. Feinstein has received three honorary doctorates. Through his live performances, recordings, film and television appearances, and his songwriting (in collaboration with Alan and Marilyn Bergman, Lindy Robbins, Bob Merrill, and Marshall Barer), Feinstein is an all-star force in American music. For more information, please visit [MichaelFeinstein.com](http://MichaelFeinstein.com).



## Bobby Daye

Bobby Daye's career has spanned stage, film, tv and radio. As a songwriter, he writes for the long running *The Young And The Restless* on CBS/Paramount. He has written the music and lyrics for the new musical *Southern D!Scomfort* with book by Monica L. Patton. He is also proud of his work with JustOneStepForDemocracy.com, an organization founded by Arnetia Walker and Stephen Nachamie to promote voting through the arts. Hear his song *For America* as well as *This Voice* which was co-written by Sylvia McCalla and Yvette Cason. He also writes for *The Young And The Restless* with writing partner Tom Kochan and he penned the theme song to the ABC-TV soap *Loving*, which was performed by Johnny Mathis.

His Broadway credits include *Our Town*, *Moulin Rouge*, *Aladdin*, *After Midnight*, *Book of Mormon*, *Shrek the Musical*, *The Color Purple*, *The Lion King*, *Smokey Joe Cafe*, *Dreamgirls* and *The Wiz*.

He is a recipient of an Outstanding Individual Performance Award for his work in the 2010 NYMF production of *The Great Unknown*.

He was a nine-time male vocalist winner on Ed McMahon's *Star Search* where he used all of his own music and has appeared on television in *Chicago PD*, *Empire*, *Law and Order* and *ED* (among others).

Daye has had the distinct pleasure of teaching a class he developed with Alan Nussbaum at TVI Actor Studio, which aids performers in finding what unique qualities they can bring to auditions, and help them stand out and land the job through song choices, to going in with the confidence, so that their own unique skills will help them stand out.

You can also catch Daye in numerous television commercials, as well as hear his voice on radio voiceovers such as the husband and wife series of Lowe's.



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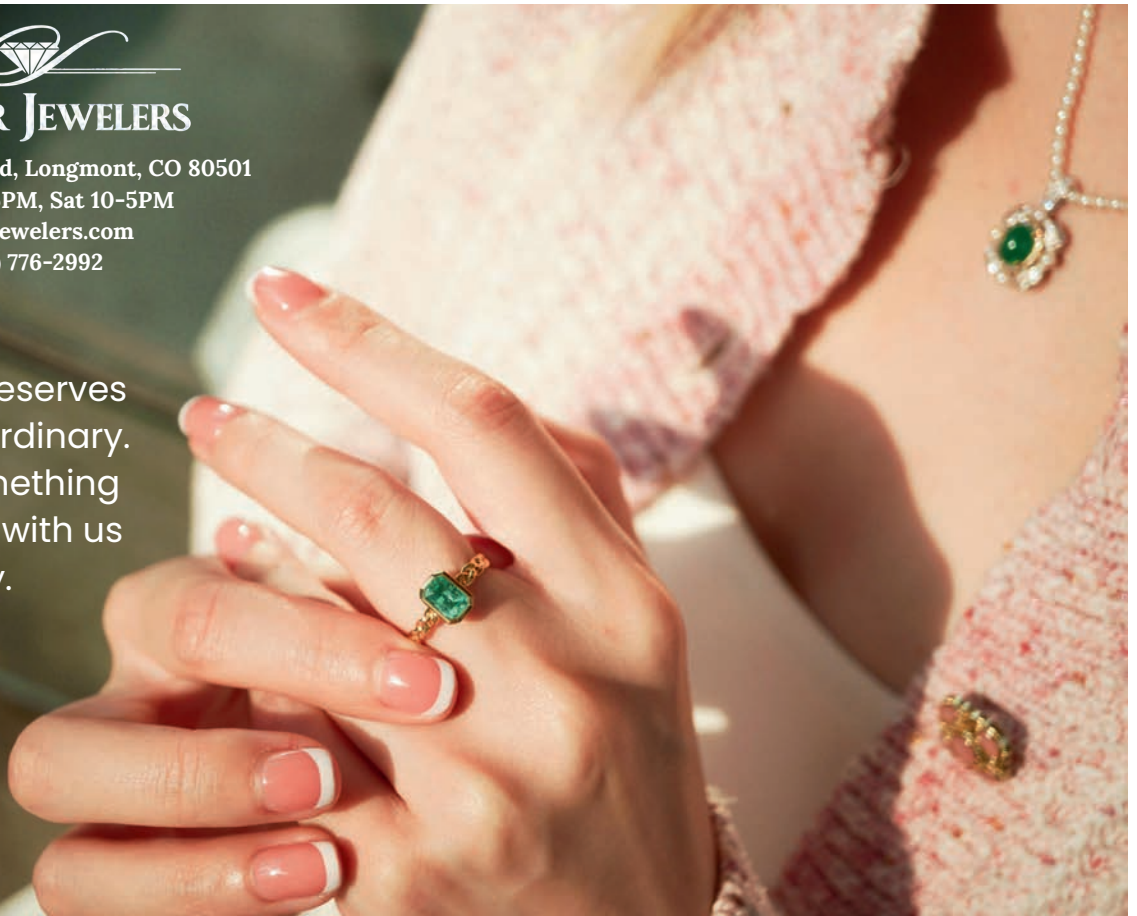


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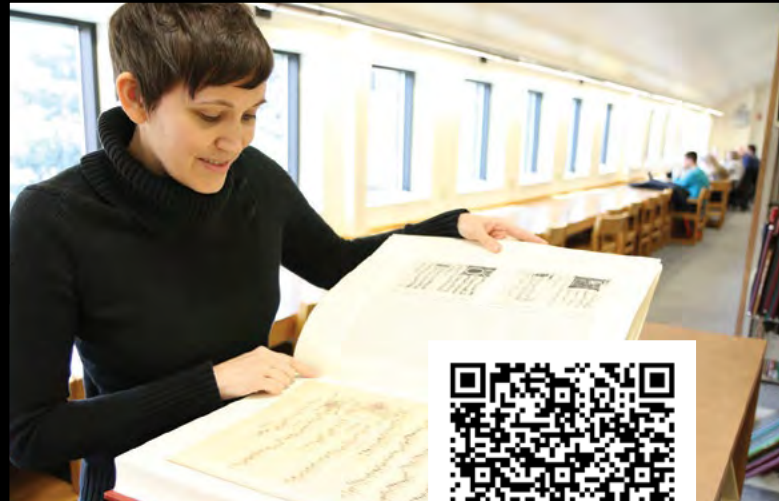
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*Meet*

# Mihai Marica

*Takács Quartet cellist designate*

*By Adam Goldstein*

Mihai Marica has plenty of musical memories of the CU Boulder College of Music's Takács Quartet-in-residence.

The Romanian-born cellist can easily rattle off moments he fondly associates with the internationally renowned quartet, currently in its 51st season: Obsessively listening to Takács recordings of the Beethoven cycle with fellow musicians; watching the Takács perform as part of the prestigious Cliburn Competition 20 years ago and being “completely mesmerized”; playing alongside Takács' violist Richard O'Neill at the Lincoln Center in New York ... and more.

“They're such an honest and natural-sounding group,” Marica notes. “The musical tastes of the Takács Quartet through the eras somehow align with what I like musically, too.”

Starting this fall, Marica will have many opportunities to create more memories with the critically acclaimed group called “the essential quartet of our time” by The New York Times; that's when Marica succeeds cellist András Fejér—the last remaining member of the original Takács Quartet, who will retire at the end of the current season. Leading up to the transition, Marica will join the quartet for its final Boulder performance this season in Franz Schubert's String Quintet in C Major, D. 956; on Sept. 1, he'll step into his role as a full-fledged member, signing on for a season that includes high-profile performances in Boulder and worldwide.

For Marica, his new position is the latest in a long string of prestigious musical roles. He started studying cello at the age of 7 in his hometown Cluj/Kolozsvár, Romania, with Gabriela Todor and later Mihály Guttman, who taught chamber music. “The school of cello playing that I was brought up in was a mix between the old Soviet school and the Hungarian school,” he says. “We were kind of right in the middle of those huge entities.”



From these roots, Marica became a chamber music luminary with a global reach: After studying at Yale University with Aldo Parisot, he went on to collaborate with orchestras and ensembles globally—from Chile to Mexico and from Switzerland to Russia. An alumnus of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Bowers Program, Marica has kept up a presence in that program and on that stage, and he's called New York home for the past 15 years.

Moving to Boulder will be just one of many big shifts to come as part of joining the Takács Quartet, but Marica never hesitated in saying 'yes' to the invitation. "I still can't believe my luck, that I was given this opportunity," Marica says. "When I think about it, it's a bit like the moment when Mr. Parisot said, 'Why don't you come and study with me at Yale?,'" Marica adds, referencing another seminal point in his career,

*"It's life-changing."*

The Takács Quartet's 2026-27 season will include works by Gabriela Lena Frank as well as more selections by Schubert, Carlos Simon, Johannes Brahms and Joseph Haydn. Beyond Boulder, the quartet will also bring its signature musical style to Carnegie Hall and embark on a North American tour with pianist Jeremy Denk.

While the composers, concerts and touring aren't new for Marica, the chance to play with such an iconic ensemble feels novel. Stepping in for Fejér, whom Marica cites as a "model," will carry its own significance; and aligning with the Takács' dynamic approach onstage stands as a specific responsibility. "My ambition is to match their energy," Marica says. "They've always blown me away on stage—they're so direct in their music making, all qualities that I'm aiming to keep in the group dynamic."

### **Takács Quartet 2026-27 Season:**

*All performances in Grusin Music Hall and streamed online.*

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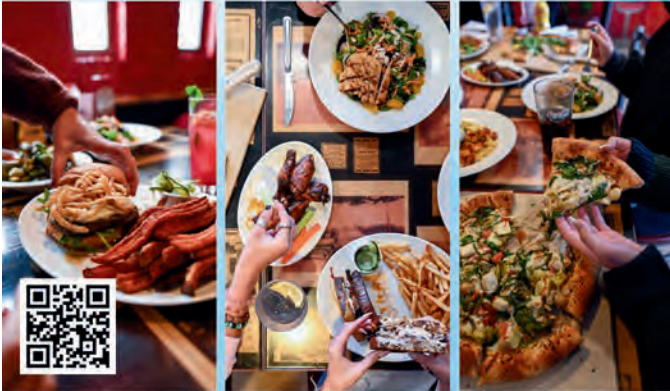
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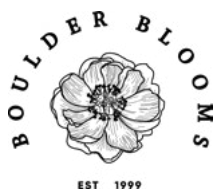
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