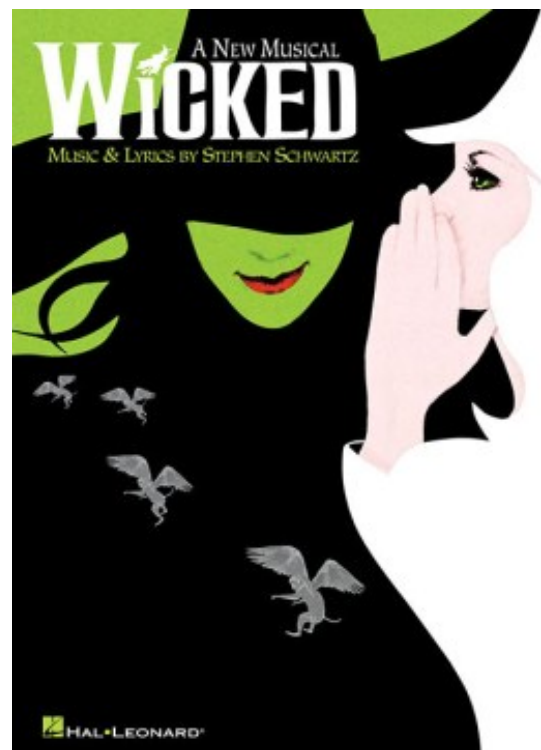


Wicked at 20: Taking Flight Into Cinema

Tuesday, April 2nd * 6:30pm
Fairfield Public Library
Memorial Room



Set in the fantastical world of L. Frank Baum's "Wonderful Wizard of Oz", *Wicked* would become one of the most successful Broadway blockbusters of the early 21st century. Told from the perspective of the witches of Oz, *Wicked* focuses on Elphaba (the fabled "Wicked Witch of the West") and Glinda ("the Good Witch"). Meeting in the years prior to Dorothy Gale's arrival in Oz, the relationship between them is the beating heart of a musical which addresses themes including power, ego, façade and friendship. Having earned more than \$1.5 billion, it has the distinction of being one of the most financially successful works in Broadway history. The *Wicked* legacy continues to evolve as audiences anticipate the first of a two-part movie adaptation, slated for release in late 2024.

Join Professor Gil Harel as he considers the elements of the show that have contributed to its exceptional success.



Dr. Gil Harel (PhD, Brandeis University) is a musicologist and music theorist whose interests include styles ranging from western art music to contemporary musical theater. Previously, he served on the faculty at CUNY Baruch College (where he was awarded the prestigious "Presidential Excellence Award for Distinguished Teaching"). Currently, he is Full Professor of Music at CT State Naugatuck Valley, where he has been presented with the AFT "Merit Award for Exemplary Service to the College" for 6 consecutive years. In 2020, he was honored with the coveted Connecticut Board of Regents (BOR) Teaching Award. At NVCC, Dr. Harel conducts the college chorale, a cappella ensemble, teaches music history and theory, and serves as musical director of theater productions.



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