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Finding humor in today's politics

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Capitol
Steps



CAPITOL STEPS

'Equal opportunity offenders'

Capitol-izing on political satire:

The Capitol Steps begins 10th year at Cranwell

By BENJAMIN CASSIDY
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LENOX — “I see at least a million people here,” Mike Thornton told a room of less than 200 at the Cranwell Spa & Golf Resort’s Harvest Barn on a recent Thursday night. Thornton was referencing President Donald Trump’s comments about crowd size at his inauguration, wearing what has become familiar get-up for actors parodying the current leader of U.S. politics: a wig, suit and long red tie.

While Trump, a republican, was the victim of this particular sketch, Thornton and the rest of The Capitol Steps — a musical political satire group that has been

performing for more than 25 years around the country — targeted members on both sides of the political aisle as they mixed skits with some songs from their latest album, “Orange Is the New Barack.” Thornton, for example, also played former Democratic leaders Bill Clinton, Joe Biden and Al Gore on this particular evening.

“We try to be equal opportunity offenders,” Thornton, a Steps member since 1997, said in an interview after the show.

But with much of the content focusing on the current administration, the appetite for such comedy isn’t so bipartisan at the moment; liberals tend to dominate the group’s recent audiences,



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CAPITOL STEPS

Capitol Steps is playing at the Harvest Barn at the Cranwell Spa & Golf Resort in Lenox now through Sept. 1.

Thornton said, and they have expressed more gratitude for the jokes than in prior years.

“What’s changed the most is we have people coming up to us now and saying, ‘I needed this laughter so much. It

feels like therapy,’ ” Thornton said.

This summer is the group’s 10th at Cranwell. Since arriving June 30, the group has been on stage six nights per week, drawing about 135

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MIKE THORNTON,
comedian

“IF YOU’RE LOOKING FOR BELLY LAUGHS, TAKING STEPS WILL DELIVER.”
—EVENING STANDARD

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