

PIPESTONE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The First Ten Years . . .

1993 – 2003

When the task force first met in 1992, the thought was to create a new space in the community for presentations and productions. The Opland Singers needed a home base for their shows and community theater had been tried over the years, never finding an adequate space. A presenter series was added to fill in the programming and this was the beginning of the new Pipestone Performing Arts Center.

Looking back over the past ten years, it is amazing the caliber of programming that has occurred. The Opland Singers opened the first year with a show, "Hooray For Hollywood". They have produced two shows each year, one in the spring and one at Christmas.

The first season, 1993 included a show from New York, "Mark Twain". "Dino" made his first of three appearances. The Calumet Players produced "Other Peoples Money", their first of three productions annually.

1994-95 included Michael Johnson, The Cardigans, The Liebowitz Sisters, and Phil Bruns who brought jazz pianist Johnny Varro to the Center. The Calumet Players did "The Nerd", "Bus Stop", and "Mornings at Seven".

1995-96 The Calumet Players did the huge production of "The Diary of Anne Frank" with holocaust exhibits and all. Rounding out the season was "Christmas Carol", and the musical "The Fantastics" concluded the season.

In 1996-97 the Center presented Opera on the Farm, "The Tenderland" from the music department of the U of M. The national media covered it on all three networks. It was the first of three Opera on the Farm productions that were produced at the Les and Lany Kallsen farm near Ihlen. Wendall Harris Jazz duo from Detroit, Kimmel & Rosenstein, bluegrass, Laurie Franks from LA and The Augustana Brass Choir rounded out the season.

1997-98 included the first of two appearances of the "Ink Spots", Mike Bishop Country, Joannie Morris as "Patsy Cline", the Ted Mann Players from the U of M, and "I Hate Hamlet", "Quilters", and "All My Sons" rounded out the year.

1998-99 "Always Patsy Cline", "C. J. Ruskin Big

Band", the "Switch Backs", with "Lend me a Tenor", and "She Loves Me" highlighted the year.

1999-00 "Pop Wagner" cowboy poet, "Classically Cool" from Poland, "Lake Wobegon Brass Band", "Steel Magnolias", and "Then There were None".

2000-01 The Guthrie Touring Co. brought "Molly Sweeney" to the stage. "SW Community Orchestra", "Sun Rush", "Dare to Breathe", "Minnesota Scandinavian Band", "Love, Sex and the IRS" and, "Uncle George's Suitcase" were also highlights.

2001-02 "Patsy Cline" returned, "John Phillipczak" polka band, "Tribute" gospel, "Voges Brothers", "Sweet Adelines and Cord Hustlers", the "Baumann Brothers", the Habbestad Ensemble from Norway, "Faith County", and "Love Rides the Rails" were highlights.

2002-03 Highlights were the "Minnesota Orchestra", presented by the Center to dedicate the new High School Auditorium. The return of the Guthrie Touring Co. and the production of "Stuff of Dreams" were features of the year. Our first real fundraiser with dinner/show with Scottish singer "Bruce Davies"; "Picnic", "Cemetery Club", "Barefoot In The Park" and "Something to Hide", were other events.

The Calumet Players Children's Theater has been active from the beginning with two productions each year. They produce a play from scratch in six weeks with rehearsals daily after school, and a week long production from The Missoula Children's theater in the summer. They have done such plays as "School House Rock Live", "Emperor's New Clothes", "Charlotte's Web", "Fairy Tale Courtroom", "Pinocchio", and "Aladdin" to name a few.

In September 1999, "Main St. Jamboree" made its debut. It's our version of the popular "Prairie Home Companion". It is broadcast on KLOH Radio Sundays from 4 to 6 pm and showcases national, regional and local country and folk artists. It started broadcasting bi-monthly and now airs two or three times a year.

Well known national performer comedienne Dorothy Stager, "Granny", has graced our stage many times over the years.

Faith Community Christmas Specials have been a wonderful addition to community Christmas events.

The Sagio Club Art Show has been a yearly event. The 4-H Fashion Review and Fun Fest as well as National Honor Society Ceremonies, graduation and wedding receptions have found a home and space for events.

Much has been omitted from this brief history but it is hoped that this has given some overview of what the Center has been to the community. We hope the next ten years will be as rewarding as the last 10 years.

