



HARRINGTON OPERA HOUSE SOCIETY

Preserving Our Heritage

PO Box 618, Harrington, WA 99134 www.harringtonoperahouse.org

Events at the Opera House - 2016

By Linda Wagner

During 2016 the Harrington Opera House held and the Society sponsored numerous events that supported the arts and provided a venue for a variety of community activities. Due to the installation of the elevator, the events season did not begin until May. This wonderful addition to the Opera House made it possible for many more people to attend.

The Stitchin' Chicks' were the first ones to hold an event following the much-anticipated elevator installation. On May 21st during Cruizin' Harrington Days, beautiful hand-crafted items as well as artwork filled the auditorium. Special music on the new Steinway-designed Boston grand piano added to the enjoyment of the day.

The recital for the **piano students** of Heather Safe, including those enrolled in the HOHS music program, was held on May 22 in the auditorium with all of them performing on the Boston.

On June 4, Bluegrass group, **Bridges Home**, performed a wonderful concert of traditional folk & Celtic standards as well as incredible original music before an appreciative crowd. Bel Canto of Yakima, including former Harrington resident, Jayne Ottmar, returned to the Opera House on June 25, 2016 to present a concert titled "Music is What Feelings Sound Like". They last performed here with the Tapestry choral group in April 2010. A small but enthusiastic audience enjoyed their collection of patriotic, American standards, spiritual, and show tunes.

On August 14 Sky McCauley and her instructor, Jeanne Bourgeois, held a private violin recital.

Nu-Blu, country bluegrass group from North Carolina, made a return visit on August 19 and entertained everyone with their talented instrumental and vocal performance.

The Needhams returned for a performance of their inspirational gospel music on Friday, September 23 during Fall Festival and the **Opera House was open for tours for friends and alumni** the following day.

October was an especially busy and exciting month. Following much planning and anticipation, **our special gala event** was held on Saturday, October 1 to dedicate the elevator and the 7'1" **Steinway-designed Boston grand piano**. Special guests were Representatives Tom Dent and Matt Manweller as well as Senator Judy Warnick. All three were instrumental in helping the Opera House Society procure a state capital projects grant for the elevator installation. Linda Zellmer, Rebecca Hardy and Heather Safe entertained those in attendance with beautiful piano selections. Delicious appetizers as well as wine and other beverages served in commemorative glasses lent a special touch to the day.

Lance Strite and Jessica Siberian were united in marriage in the auditorium on October 8.

Pianist and composer, John Nilsen from Portland, performed on October 22 playing many of his original compositions as well as familiar songs. It was a fantastic way to showcase the Boston.

On November 19, **pianist and multi-media artist, Scott Kirby from Colorado**, performed in front of a large and very appreciative crowd. Known as one of the premier ragtime pianists in the United States, he played well-known as well as original compositions while showcasing vintage videos, photographs and original artwork on a large screen. The entire Harrington school student body had the opportunity to see a portion of his program in the auditorium the day before as well. It was an amazing concert.

December 3 **Santa Clause** (aka Charley Colbert!) made a return visit for pictures and visits with old and young alike. Karen Robertson once again volunteered her photography talents.

Rounding out 2016, **the Parks Family and The Dion Family** performed on December 9. They brought the sounds of the Christmas season with their Country Christmas concert.

Throughout the year volunteers had the opportunity to give tours to visiting groups and individuals.

A variety of sumptuous hor d'oeuvres accompanied by seasonal beverages were served at many of these events. We are looking forward to another successful year of events and entertainment in the Opera House for 2017. A big thank you is extended to all those who have attended and financially supported our events!