



# HARRINGTON OPERA HOUSE SOCIETY

*Preserving Our Heritage*

PO Box 618, Harrington, WA 99134 [www.harringtonoperahouse.org](http://www.harringtonoperahouse.org)

## 2015 Review

2015 brought an accelerated momentum towards achieving the goals of the Harrington Opera House Society to rehabilitate our historic 1904 treasure and create a venue to share arts, culture, and entertainment not only for Harrington, but for the region.

### Events at the Opera House

During 2015 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.

**The Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band with pianist Dave McClure** had a return engagement on Saturday, March 20. Community organizations met in the Art Room on April 9 to discuss opportunities to work together for the betterment of Harrington. **A benefit concert for the piano fund** was held at the Steinway Gallery on Saturday, April 18. Beautiful spring weather welcomed in the annual community Spring Fest on Saturday, May 16. Originally scheduled in the Opera House auditorium were a concert the jazz group, **Riley and Friends**, and a **quilt show**. Due to construction in the auditorium, these events were moved to the Community Church.

On August 29, the annual **Dog Wash Elevator Fundraiser** was once again a success and despite a horrible dust storm, the talented North Carolina bluegrass group, **Nu-Blu**, finally made it to the Opera House for a wonderful evening of music and entertainment.

September was a busy time as **The Needhams** returned for a performance of their inspirational gospel music on September 22; **The Spokane Magic Club** entertained us with a benefit performance of magic and illusions on Friday, September 25 during Fall Festival Weekend; and the Opera House was open for tours on Saturday, September 26.

The wedding of **Andrew Bennett and Jaymie Wilcox** was held in the auditorium on Saturday, October 24. **Director of the National UFO Reporting Center, Peter Davenport**, spoke to a full house on Friday, October 30. The Opera House Society sponsored this event as a benefit for the Harrington PDA.

**Davenport Theatrical** performed a stage reading of the play, *“Our Town,”* on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and **Santa** arrived for his annual visit on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Promotion & Marketing

A variety of methods continued to be employed to promote the Harrington Opera House and events including paid advertising, news releases, and two direct mailing efforts. Some HOH benefit concerts were also promoted via radio public service announcements. A major component of the marketing strategy continues to be online via the web and Facebook.

### Museum

The HOHS museum, open on special days and by appointment and curated by Ed Haugan, acquired Dr. Wagner’s examining chair, last used sometime in the 1960’s.

### The Art Room and Music Program

The 2014-2015 season culminated with a piano recital featuring the students of Heather Safe and Rebecca Hardy on May 30. Due to the Opera House auditorium floor refinishing in progress, it was held at the Nazarene Church. Piano classes for 2015-2016 resumed in September with Heather Safe as the instructor and supervised art activities continued to be offered during piano lesson times.

The three year effort to acquire a concert grade piano for the auditorium resulted in the November 2015 purchase of a 7’1” Steinway Boston grand piano to be delivered in 2016.

The Artisan in the Art Room program featured several local photographers & artisans displaying their work in the gallery. The room continues to serve as a meeting room for organizations, as the dressing room suite for weddings, and as a live



performance video viewing area for those unable to climb the stairs. An 1889 Kimball pump organ, gifted to the museum, has taken up temporary residence in The Art Room.

### Building Progress

This year's completed projects brought dramatic changes to our building. The Building Committee would like to thank everyone for their encouragement, support and hundreds of hours of labor provided this year to make all these projects happen.

- A new main stage curtain was altered and installed improving the look of the stage dramatically.
- The walls of the auditorium were painted after the proscenium and wall plaster were repaired and the millwork, including the doors under the stage and window trim, was cleaned, repaired, refinished & reinstalled.
- The auditorium and stage floors were repaired, resurfaced, and refinished.
- New sun blocking shades were installed on all windows in the auditorium and blackout shades were installed in The Art Room.
- A new ADA compliant restroom was framed, wired and plumbed on the second floor and awaits L&I inspection before completion.
- Plumbing and wiring was roughed in to the snack area and also awaits inspection before completion.
- Elevator/ADA project architectural, engineering work and contractor selection was completed.
- Deconstruction of existing structures to make room for the elevator and ADA access began in December in readiness for the construction phase to be begun in January 2016.

### Finances

Financial activity, both income and expenditures, was quite active in 2015. Total General Fund receipts for the year amounted to \$39,626.20 and expenditures came to \$40,739.35, a difference of - \$1,112.15. Sources of income included donations for gallery, class & music lesson activities in the The Art Room; honorary plaques; program/event attendance; intermission snacks; Opera House/Museum tours; and miscellaneous gifts including memorials. Additional General Fund income derived from membership dues and grants: N.W Farm Credit

Services Rural Grant Award, U.S. Bank (music lesson subsidies) and Building for the Arts Grant remaining funds. Expenditures included advertising, utilities, insurance, event/performer fees, music instructor fees, miscellaneous, and the largest category; building repairs, rehabilitation & supplies.

Additional accounts are The Piano Fund and The Elevator Fund. The Piano Fund added \$22,626.00 in 2015 donations to the beginning balance. After the purchase of the Steinway Boston Grand Piano and a loan from the General Fund to maintain the money market fund balance & to cover anticipated moving and additional expenses, the Piano Fund's ending balance was \$1,807.

With 2015 donations of \$2,951.80 plus minimal interest and after expenses of \$1,774.06, the Elevator Fund ended the year with a balance of \$17,300.01. The "heavy lifting" for the Elevator Project will be in the next 5 months with expenditures expected to be approximately \$350,000. Thanks to reimbursements from the WA Commerce Community Capital Facilities Direct Appropriation grant the majority of the expenses for the elevator and ADA access project should be covered.

### Summary

2015 was a highly productive year, and the Opera House Society recognizes and is thankful for the many individuals, organizations, businesses, artists, entertainers, legislators, and public servants who have supported our efforts by donating their time, talents, money, and resources. Only through this continued support has the Society been able to achieve substantial success and progress towards our mission and goals.

In 2016, we are looking forward to the addition of the 7'1" Boston grand piano to our stage, and the completion of the elevator and ADA access project in time to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year as the Harrington Opera House Society in 2017!

We hope you and others will continue to actively support our efforts in providing programs and a historic venue to enrich our area opportunities for arts, culture, and entertainment.

Visit us online at [www.harringtonoperahouse.org](http://www.harringtonoperahouse.org)  
on Facebook [www.facebook.com/HarringtonOperaHouse](https://www.facebook.com/HarringtonOperaHouse)  
email: [info@harringtonoperahouse.org](mailto:info@harringtonoperahouse.org)  
or call Linda Wagner, HOHS Secretary, at 509-253-4719



Grand Curtain installation crew 1/10/2015



Nu-Blu 8/29/2015



Wedding - October 2014



HOHS volunteers on Santa Visit Day - 12/5/2015



Bronn & Katherine Journey 12/6/2008



Peter Davenport - UFO Presentation 10/30/2015



We've come a LONG way!

**HARRINGTON OPERA HOUSE SOCIETY**  
**MEMORIALS • HONORARIUMS • DONATIONS • MEMBERSHIPS**  
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