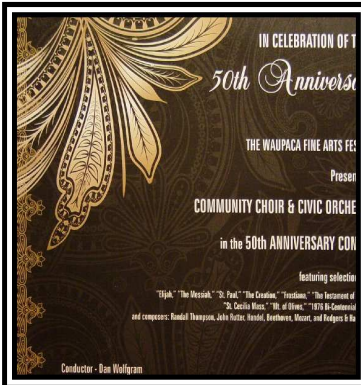


Waupaca Fine Arts Festival

Waupaca, Wisconsin

Celebrating 50 years

1963-2013



Under the direction of Gerald C. Knoepfel and Dan Wolfgram

Waupaca Fine Arts Festival Waupaca, Wisconsin

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In 1990 artist Conny Marchel Parsons, then living in Minnesota, submitted the winning design for a new Waupaca Fine Arts Festival logo. This logo, at left, is still enthusiastically used today. Interestingly, Conny, as a Waupaca High School student in the middle 1960s, also won the design for the original logo shown at the far left.

The Waupaca Fine Arts Festival encompasses the Waupaca Community Choir and Civic Orchestra, the Waupaca Community Theatre, and the Waupaca Art Show.

Reach the Festival via Dan Wolfram, 601 Leighton Road, Waupaca, Wisconsin 54981
dan_wolfram@yahoo.com or FineArtsFestival.org

The Waupaca Fine Arts Festival would especially like to thank the people of the Waupaca area and beyond for their enthusiastic support of, and participation in, the programs the Fine Arts Festival has presented during the past 50 years.



"Mr K"

Photo courtesy Barb Bartel

Edited and compiled by William and Peggy Riemer.
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Front cover: 50th year Choir poster, Cast from Oliver 2004, Art Show 2005
Back cover: Community Choir, Civic Orchestra, Children's Choir 2005



IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR

50th Anniversary

THE WAUPACA FINE ARTS

COMMUNITY CHOIR & CIVIC ORGANIZATION

in the 50th ANNIVERSARY

featuring

"Elijah," "The Messiah," "St. Paul," "The Creation," "Frostiana," "The Test"
"St. Cecilia Mass," "Mt. of Olives," "1976 Bi-Centennial"
and composers: Randall Thompson, John Rutter, Handel, Beethoven, Mozart, and Rod

Conductor - Dan Wolfram
Concert Mistress - Jenny Burton

APRIL 7th, 2013 2:30 p.m.
WAUPACA HIGH SCHOOL
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

TICKETS:

Adults: \$10 in advance \$12 Box Window
Student/Children: \$4 in advance \$6 Box Window

TICKET OUTLETS:

Stratton Drug Store / Waupaca Chamber of Commerce
Waupaca Community Arts Center / Community Choir Members
At the door - box office window at Waupaca High School

www.fineartsfestival.org

The Fine Arts Festival

Presents the

COMMUNITY CHORUS

in

FELIX MENDELSSOHN'S ORATORIO

"Elijah"

SOLOISTS

Mari Taniguchi — Soprano The Widow, The Angel,
The Queen, The Youth
Austin Boncher — Baritone Elijah
George Lorenz — Tenor Obadiah, Ahab
Lois Wescenberg — Contralto An Angel
Conductor Gerald Knoepfel

Accompanists

Piano — Mrs. E. Webster Organ — Aleine Miller

Madrigal Singers — Triple Trio

Madrigal Singers

Mrs. Robert Stange
Mrs. Joe Sadogierski
Mrs. Kenneth Porrey
Mrs. Lucius Anthony
Mrs. Shirley Swan
Mrs. James Mohr
Mrs. Carmen Barnes Hendricks
Miss Dorothy Duff
Mr. Ray Martin
Doctor John Steiner
Mr. Tom Lewis
Mr. John Gusmer
Mr. Richard Shibley
Mr. Jerry Stromberg
Mr. Loyd Nelson
Mr. Kenneth Porrey

Triple Trio — Waupaca High School

Pat Mass
Connie Carlson
Linda Vander Bloomen
Pat Wied
Jan Behm
Margaret McGinnis
Sandra Strike
Sandra Keil
Nancy Keil

The Steinway Piano and Conn
Organ are rented from the Heid
Music Company, Appleton, Wis.

March 15, 1964 8:00 P.M. Gymnasium
Waupaca, Wisconsin





Waupaca Fine Arts Festival -- 50 Years

The Waupaca Fine Arts Festival fosters the arts through promotion and sponsorship of artistic programs and cultural activities for the citizens of the Waupaca, Wisconsin area.

In 1963, the young, newly hired Waupaca High School Choral Director, Gerald C. Knoepfel, conceived the first Festival events. Fresh from an overseas teaching position, Knoepfel was determined to bring to Waupaca opportunities to enjoy fine arts.

The Festival began with his wish to produce Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah* with a community choir and civic orchestra. His dream became a reality in March 1964 when the Waupaca Community Choir presented its initial concert. Since that time, the Fine Arts Festival, through its members, along with generous contributions from the

citizens of Waupaca and beyond, has been responsible for supporting and bringing the Arts to Waupaca.

Dan Wolfram succeeded Jerry Knoepfel as choir director at Waupaca High School in 1991. He assumed leadership of the Fine Arts Festival in 2008.

The three main branches of the Fine Arts Festival include: the Waupaca Community Choir and Civic Orchestra, the Waupaca Community Theatre and Children's Theatre, and the Waupaca Art Show.

The year 2013 marks the Festival's 50th anniversary.



Waupaca Community Choir

The Waupaca Community Choir came into existence on a winter night in January 1964. The *Waupaca County Post* reported Gerald Knoepfel's call for participants as follows:

"There will be a meeting Tuesday night, Jan. 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school music room to organize a Community Choir and a Fine Arts Festival. Any interested citizen of the area is invited to this organizational meeting. The object of these projects is to bring to Waupaca the culture of the arts and to promote the growth and the education of the citizens of the Waupaca area. Gerald Knoepfel, vocal director at the Waupaca

High School, has called the meeting after being approached by various citizens of Waupaca."

The following week the second organizational meeting yielded 50 Waupaca residents. It was at this meeting that the first Fine Arts Festival Board was formed, with Gerald C. Knoepfel as chairman; Carmen Barnes Hendricks, co-chairman. Dick Shibley, Blanche Fanik, Aleine Miller, and Mrs. W. Nelson were elected as board members. The 1964 proposed festival included opening with the performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. The first rehearsal of



the choir would be Tuesday, January 28, at 8:00 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. The press release stated, *".....the only investment each singer is asked to make is the commitment of time, and a dollar and a half for the score."*

Eight weeks later, on March 15, 1964, the Waupaca Community Choir had its debut performance in the Waupaca High School Gymnasium on School Street, which is now the Waupaca Recreation Center. Six hundred patrons were on hand to experience the concert. The Choir boasted a membership of 150 singers along with two accompanists: Mrs. E. Weber at the piano and Aleine Miller at the organ. Soloists of varying backgrounds were brought in to tackle the challenging piece. They included Lawrence Conservatory of Music voice professor Mari Taniguchi singing soprano; Lois Wesenberg, a Wisconsin State College-Oshkosh vocal performance major, singing contralto; Austin Boncher, a 1963 Lawrence Conservatory of Music graduate, singing bass; and Waupaca High School teacher George Lorenz singing tenor. The reviews from the *Waupaca County Post* were nothing short of remarkable:

"The one hundred and fifty voice choir and the four soloists surprised the audience with a performance not anticipated in its

interpretation of this difficult oratorio. The audience was in rapt attention during the entire performance and left at the close with only praises on their lips.....it was a night of triumph especially for Gerald Knoepfel, the conductor, who commanded complete authority over its huge chorus and audience as well."

With such initial success, all expected the Choir would continue. The following year, Mr. Knoepfel proposed a second masterwork: Handel's *Judas Maccabaeus*. Press releases solicited area singers to return and experience this musical event. The director retained the same soloists from the 1964 presentation of *Elijah*, and the concert took place on March 7, 1965, in the Waupaca High School Gymnasium. Again local reviews in the *Waupaca County Post* were more than complimentary:

"...not enough can be said of the sensitive fine direction of Mr. Gerald Knoepfel. His understanding of the works and the feeling of the struggles of the people in the story, gave him the inspiration and insight he had to have to bring forth such a fine professional performance from so large a group of amateurs."

The third year for the Waupaca Community Choir ushered in one of its most performed works, Handel's *Messiah*. This year is

significant in that the choir performed the masterwork twice. The first presentation was on March 13, 1966, and the second performance was on March 21 accompanied by a fifty piece orchestra. Miss Margery Aber, a string professor at the Wisconsin State University-Stevens Point, was the concert-mistress. She would continue in this leadership role for 29 more concerts, concluding with her final performance in 2000.

The choir reached a milestone in 1973 when it celebrated its tenth anniversary. It also turned out in record numbers. The program indicates 190 singers! The repertoire for this performance would highlight music from the past nine concerts. Literature included choruses from *Elijah*, *Judas Maccabaeus*, *Messiah*, *St. Cecilia Mass*, and *St. Paul*. The Choral Anniversary Concerts continue to be a highlight for the choir, the orchestra, and the audience. These anniversary concerts have taken place in 1973, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, and the 50th Anniversary Concert in 2013. Other notable years include 1986, as this was the first concert to be presented in the Waupaca High School gymnasium on Shoemaker Road, which is now the Waupaca Middle School. In 1988, the Choir commissioned their first work entitled *The*

Psalms, by Kevin Dobbe, in commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the choir. In 2001, the choir, orchestra, and audience were treated to the first performance in the Performing Arts Center at the newly constructed Waupaca High School on King Road. The experience was finally in a place where the music would be complemented by the facility. The acoustical challenges of performing in a gymnasium were now in the past.

I came to Waupaca in the fall of 1991, to succeed Gerald C. Knoepfel in his role as Director of Choral Activities at Waupaca High School. It did not take me long to learn that his name was synonymous with choral excellence. I had the great honor of his mentorship, and the gift to be under his direction for seventeen years as a member of the choir.

Jerry would routinely take time to explain to me how he organized and inspired his throngs of singers and instrumentalists. He took time to teach me the importance of tradition and of making your musicians feel valued and having a sense of significance. He allowed me to take rehearsals with the choir, and later handed the baton to me for an opportunity to conduct the orchestra. This was a huge honor, as I believe it signified

his approval of his eventual successor at the podium. He even shared with me his method of marking his scores, which I use to this day.

In 2007 Maestro Knoepfel took the conductor's podium and conducted Handel's *Messiah* for the last time. Along with Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, I believe these works to be closest to his heart and could be considered his signature works with the choir. I humbly accepted the baton the following year for the 45th Choral Anniversary Concert. This would be the last concert Gerald Knoepfel would attend. He passed away in June of 2008, and the city of Waupaca mourned.

The next year's concert was entitled, "A Tribute to our Founder: Gerald C. Knoepfel." I felt the need to do a Requiem in his honor that the Choir had not yet performed. I felt that one of the most powerful works in the genre was the *Requiem* composed by Mozart. I selected this masterwork along with a second half devoted to Jerry's other passion – musical theater.

During the past fifty years, the Waupaca Community Choir has performed over forty masterworks with symphony orchestra, and

featured fifty-eight professional soloists. The organization boasts a cumulative choral enrollment of just over six thousand singers, and has reached an audience of over twenty-five thousand patrons. This past year we dedicated the concert again to Gerald Knoepfel and to those members who have sung in all fifty concerts: Phyllis Beyer, and Ken and Jan Porrey.

I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude to the singers, instrumentalists, accompanists, and patrons who have supported this dream of Jerry's for fifty years. The quality of life that Waupaca residents enjoy today, due to our rich artistic environment, is a gift from Mr. Knoepfel. We owe him a great deal of appreciation for the vision that he had for the citizens of Waupaca.

The lifeblood of any choir or arts organization is its membership. The families, businesses, and patrons that make annual financial contributions are our essence. The time commitment that all of the musicians dedicate yearly is again a gift to the community. Waupaca is truly a special place for many reasons, but the one that keeps me here is the love and support of the Arts. I struggle to find a community the size of Waupaca that holds these passions so close to its identity. This is due to the culture



that was created fifty years ago by a man who acted upon a dream.

I am proud and honored to be your conductor. Congratulations to the Waupaca Community Choir!
Happy 50th Anniversary!

-- **Dan Wolfgram**

Waupaca Community Choir Member 1991 – present
Waupaca Community Choir Conductor 2008 – present

Waupaca Community Choir and Civic Orchestra 50-year Performance List

<u>Year</u>	<u>Works</u>	<u>Soloists - SATB</u>	<u>/Accompanist or Concert Master - Mistress</u>
1964	Mendelssohn's <i>Elijah</i> ;	Mari Taniguchi, Lois Wesenberg, George Lorenz, Austin Boncher / Mrs. E. Weber, Aleine Miller	
1965	Handel's <i>Judas Maccabaeus</i> ;	Mari Taniguchi, Lois Wesenberg, George Lorenz, Austin Boncher / Donna Gardner, Aleine Miller	
1966	Handel's <i>Messiah</i> ;	Mari Taniguchi, Karen Daehn, David Dick, Austin Boncher / Marie Haebig Osborn, Barbara Simmons Webster, Aleine Miller, Terry Winch - trumpet / Margery Aber	
1967	Vivaldi's <i>Gloria</i> / Gounod's <i>St. Cecilia Mass</i> ;	Mari Taniguchi, Karen Daehn, Justin Parrot, Austin Boncher / Virginia Geessamon	
1968	Buxtehude's <i>Good Christian Men Rejoice</i> / Haydn's <i>Lord Nelson Mass</i> ;	Mari Taniguchi, Nancy Marsh Stowe, Justin Parrot, Norman Clayton / Margery Aber	
1969	Faure's <i>Requiem</i> / Beethoven's <i>Mass in C Major</i> ;	Eva Wright, Nancy Marsh Stowe, Justin Parrot, Austin Boncher / Margery Aber	
1970	Mendelssohn's <i>Elijah</i> ;	Mari Taniguchi, Nancy Marsh Stowe, Justin Parrot, Ronald Combs / Margery Aber	
1971	Handel's <i>Messiah</i> ;	Susan Blumer, Barbara Griena, Justin Parrot, Ronald Combs / Margery Aber	
1972	Mendelssohn's <i>Saint Paul</i> ;	Susan Blumer, Karle Erickson, Ronald Combs / Margery Aber	
1973	Choral Anniversary Concert;	/ Margery Aber	
1974	Handel's <i>Messiah</i> ;	Susan Blumer, Nancy Marsh Stowe, Justin Parrot, Ronald Combs / Margery Aber	
1975	Handel's <i>Israel In Egypt</i> ;	Susan Blumer, Melissa Thorngate, Sister Maureen Sauer, Michael Hansen, Ronald Combs / Margery Aber	
1976	Concert of Praise and Celebration / Bi-Centennial Concert;	Susan Blumer, Dorothy Washa, Dan Kane / Margery Aber	
1977	Handel's <i>Judas Maccabaeus</i> ;	Mary Galbrath, Sherrie Jurgella, Robert Harrison, Ronald Combs / Margery Aber	
1978	Mendelssohn's <i>Elijah</i> ;	Mary Dillon, Sherrie Jurgella, Dan Kane, Ronald Combs / Margery Aber	
1979	Haydn's <i>The Seven Last Words of Christ</i> / Purcell's <i>Te Deum Laudamus</i> - <i>Jubilate Deo</i> ;	Susan Bloomer, Sherrie Jurgella, Dan Kane, Ronald Combs / Margery Aber	
1980	Haydn's <i>The Creation</i> ;	Rhonda Cundy, Dan Kane, Ronald Combs / Margery Aber	
1981	Mendelssohn's <i>Saint Paul</i> ;	Rhonda Cundy, Dan Kane, Ronald Combs / Margery Aber	
1982	Handel's <i>Messiah</i> ;	Susan Bloomer, Nancy Marsh Stowe, Dan Kane, Ronald Combs / Margery Aber	
1983	Choral Anniversary Concert;	/ San San Lee	
1984	Brahms' <i>A German Requiem</i> ;	Nancy Van Rooy Emery, Austin Boncher / Margery Aber	
1985	Schutz's <i>The Seven Last Words of Christ</i> / Bach's <i>Christ Lay in Death's Dark Prison</i> / Selections from Handel's <i>Messiah</i> ;	Nancy Van Rooy Emery, Austin Boncher, Larry Warren / Margery Aber	
1986	Haydn's <i>The Seven Last Words of Christ</i> / Rossini's <i>Stabat Mater</i> ;	Rhonda Cundy, Nancy Marsh Stowe, Gregory Lorenz, Dale Schroeder / Margery Aber	
1987	Mozart's <i>Coronation Mass</i> / Beethoven's <i>Christ on the Mount of Olives</i> ;	Rhonda Cundy, Susan Weller, Gregory Lorenz, Timothy Jon / Ann Klicko	
1988	Choral Anniversary Concert;	/ Margery Aber	
1989	Vivaldi's <i>Gloria</i> / Poulenc's <i>Gloria</i> / Rutter's <i>Gloria</i> ;	Rhonda Cundy, Lenore Jirovec / Margery Aber	

- 1990 Handel's *Messiah*; Rhonda Cundy, Nancy Marsh Stowe, Gregory Lorenz, Greg Walters / Margery Aber
- 1991 Rutter's *Requiem* / Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise*; Jean Saladino, Diana Strommen, Frank Hoffmeister / Margery Aber
- 1992 Mendelssohn's *Elijah*; Diana Strommen, Rhonda Cundy, Todd Kaphaem, Eugene Moerschel / Margery Aber
- 1993 Choral Anniversary Concert; / Margery Aber
- 1994 Rutter's *Magnificat* / Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*; Diana Strommen, Todd Kaphaem, Eugene Moerschel / Margery Aber
- 1995 Haydn's *The Seven Last Words of Christ* / Green's *St. Patrick Mass*; Diana Strommen, Deborah Pionek, Todd Kaphaem, James Sampson / Margery Aber
- 1996 Gounod's *St. Cecilia Mass* / Selections by John Rutter / Thompson's *Testament of Freedom*; Diana Strommen, William Lavonis, James Sampson / Margery Aber
- 1997 Handel's *Messiah*; Diana Strommen, Helene Handschke Pickett, William Lavonis, James Sampson / Margery Aber
- 1998 Choral Anniversary Concert; / Margery Aber
- 1999 Faure's *Requiem* / Rutter's *Magnificat*; Diana Strommen, Eugene Moerschel / Kyoko Fuller
- 2000 Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise* / Vaughn Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*; Diana Strommen Cynthia Douglas, James Moe, Terry Morris / Margery Aber
- 2001 Willcocks' *Sing Praises* / Rutter's *Te Deum* / Green's *St. Patrick Mass*; Robert Peavler / Jill Schultz
- 2002 Rutter's *Requiem* / Clausen's *A New Creation*; Toni Lynn Groshek, Lauren Carter, David Erb, Jeff Kensmoe / Joseph Farrell
- 2003 Choral Anniversary Concert; / Eunice Cordenro de Paz
- 2004 Leavitt's *Requiem* / Rutter's *Magnificat*; Holly Jackson / Eunice Cordenro de Paz
- 2005 Vivaldi's *Gloria* / Rutter's *Mass of the Children*; Holly Jackson, Michelle Peterson, Robert Peavler / Emily Watson / Children's Choir Director, Lynne Michael
- 2006 Kean's *American Mass* / Jenkins' *Mass for Peace* / Clausen's *Memorial*; Holly Jackson Gary Moss / Benjamin Porrey
- 2007 Handel's *Messiah*; Holly Saunders, Michelle Peterson, Steven Paul Spears, Jeffrey Bakken / Jerad Miller
- 2008 Choral Anniversary Concert; / Jonathan Eddy
- 2009 Mozart's *Requiem* / Selections from the Rodgers and Hammerstein Theatre Library; Holly Saunders, Lucinda Thayer, Dennis Willhoit, Gary Moss / Jenny Burton
- 2010 Thompson's *Frostiana* / Copland's *Old American Songs*; / Jenny Burton
- 2011 Faure's *Requiem* / Thompson's *The Last Words of David* / *The Testament of Freedom*; Holly Saunders, Gary Moss / Jenny Burton
- 2012 Schubert's *Mass in A Flat* / Rutter's *Magnificat*; Holly Saunders, Andrea Fuss, Eric Neuville, Gary Moss / Peggy Stenborg
- 2013 Choral Anniversary Concert; / Jenny Burton

50th Waupaca Community Choir and Civic Orchestra

April 7, 2013



**The members listed here have
sung with the Waupaca
Community Choir for 25 or
more years.
Starred members have sung
all 50 of the years.**

Barb Achten
Phyllis Beyer *
Mary Ellen Boario
Virginia Bowersox
James Craig

Melodi Duwell
Sue Eiler
Blanche Fanik
Mary Friday
John Gusmer
Phyllis Hunt



Chuck Joos
 Richard Kempfert
 Selma Knoepfel
 Corey Kramer
 Lynne Michael
 Benita Parker

James Peterson
 Jan Porrey *
 Ken Porrey *
 Judy Riske Lienhard
 Jeannette Schmidt
 John Schmidt

Arnold Seitz
 Ardelle Shanklin
 Robert Telfer
 Julie K. Thompson
 David Werth

— **Ken Porrey**, 50 year member:

When I attended the original organizational meeting of the Fine Arts Festival in January 1964, I was introduced to Jerry Knoepfel, a new arrival in Waupaca. I listened as he presented his aspiration to develop a fine arts program in our small town, and was quite energized with his vision of a community choir. I had been active in other vocal organizations at the time but nothing on the level he described. I was somewhat skeptical, however, as Knoepfel explained his goal of achieving a cultural arts movement in Waupaca by presenting a community wide oratorio choir along with other artistic programs through the year. I expressed some doubt that our community would support such an ambitious endeavor, as this was a new exposure for Waupaca. But Jerry must have sensed a positive attitude from this meeting, as he immediately began recruiting singers from church choirs and other area vocal groups. Our first rehearsal of *Elijah* was held in what is now the Hendrickson Center, at School and State Streets. However, we moved shortly thereafter to the multipurpose room in the old middle school, on School Street, which brought far better acoustical results. Our rehearsals were taxing at times, but most of us had not experienced a director as motivated as Mr. Knoepfel.

His determination became infectious to the point that we willingly rehearsed well beyond the allotted two hours each week. One week before the concert performance we moved our rehearsals into the gymnasium where our performance was to take place. We were dismayed by the sound of our singing. The vast space had little acoustical value, which caused a serious hearing problem among the singers. This brought about a discussion to possibly relocate our presentation to another facility, but we realized that a better place did not exist in our community. A group of the chorus men then decided to make some adjustments to the hall's deplorable auditory response. We spent the next few days constructing plywood panels which were attached to overhead ropes and pulleys. This suspended them over the entire staging area. Also, we did not have access to proper chorus risers for such a large group, so our second mission was to construct our own staging from old platforms, plywood, and framing lumber.

Our first concert was a great success and well accepted by an enthusiastic audience. Every singer realized that evening the true gift of creating great music. After that first memorable experience, Community Choir became an annual event that audiences in



Waupaca could look forward to each spring. It has been a rewarding experience for me and my wife Jan to have been a part of each chorus presentation over the past fifty years. I often reflect on those fellow singers and musical leaders whom I have come to know through this unique achievement in my life. Jerry Knoepfel devoted his life in Waupaca to the arts by developing cultural programs for our community. When he turned his Chairmanship over to Dan Wolfgram in 2008, Waupaca was truly fortunate to find another individual with the same devotion and commitment. I am proud to have been a part of this singing group and equally as

proud of our community for their on-going support through the years.

-- Ellen Ryder, 2 year member:

Being a part of this choir is an opportunity to perform high quality choral literature. The pieces are beautiful, especially with the Waupaca Civic Orchestra playing. All in all, the Waupaca Community Choir is an experience I will never forget. I am fortunate to gain musicianship with my community, a community who loves to sing as much as I do. I hope to be a member of this choir throughout my high school years.

-- Lori Bauer, 1 year member:

Singing in the Community Choir was wonderful! It was truly a priceless experience, both improving my vocals and making new friends.



Accompanists

Without excellent rehearsal accompanists, there would be no choir. For fifty years Waupaca Community Choir has benefitted from six accompanists who were and are *better* than excellent. Until 1990, Aleine Miller played alone. Since 1991, the Choir has enjoyed dual accompanists, named here:

Aleine Miller, 1964 - 1996, 1998
Jody Gawron, 1991 - 2001
Karen Ullestad, 1999
Timothy Mobley, 2000 - 2003
Joni Radley, 2002 - Present
Wanda Eikenbary 2004 - Present

Fine Arts Festival Accomplishments:

--Fifty performances presented by the Waupaca Community Choir.

--Fifty events presented by the Waupaca Art Show.

--Fifty-eight productions presented by Waupaca Community Theatre.

--Fifty-nine additional outside events have been offered to the community through the sponsorship of the Waupaca Fine Arts Festival.

--Two hundred seventeen total events have been presented by the Waupaca Fine Arts Festival, attended by an audience of over 100,000 patrons over the past fifty years.

--About 6,000 individual local participants have performed in Fine Arts Festival sponsored events over the past 50 years.

At left from left: Jerry Knoepfel, Aleine Miller, Judy Riske Lienhard, Phyllis Beyer: Photo courtesy of Glenn Furst

Accompanists Joni Radley (l.) and Wanda Eikenbary (r.) pictured below.



**Waupaca Fine Arts Festival
Executive Board**

Chairman

Dan Wolfgram

Co-Chairman

John Kelley

Treasurer

Carole Johnson

Secretary

Terry Kramer

Board of Directors

Attorney John Hart

Selma Knoepfel

Terry & Peggy Kramer

Jeff & Karen Peterson

Ken & Jan Porrey

William & Peggy Riemer

Ted & Julie K. Thompson

Finance Committee

Carole Johnson

Dan Wolfgram

Art Show Committee

Jim Lang, Chairman

Carole Johnson, Treasurer

Theatre Committee

John Kelley, Chairman

Wanda T. Eikenbary, Treasurer

Committee Members:

Pat Fletcher

David G. Larson

Carmen Riebel

Linda Trepasso

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Carmen Barnes (Charter Member)

Blanche Fanik (Charter Member)

Aleine Miller (Charter Member)

Virginia Nelson

Richard Shibley

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David Salan

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Studley

Bret Rodenz

Dr. Miriam Rodenz

Logan Studley

Judy Riske Lienhard (Finance)

Pat Spick (Finance)

Hank Warmbier (Finance)

Jim Peterson (Finance)

Isabel Salan (Finance)

Mrs. Ward Fox (Finance)

Mrs. Jim Mohr (Finance)

Norma Stromberg (Finance)

Rosemary Friberger (Finance)

Kenneth Peterson (Finance)

Betty Christensen (Finance)





Waupaca Art Show

In the early 1960s Jerry Knoepfel arrived in Waupaca as the new high school vocal music teacher. He was full of ideas about helping his newly adopted city become a place where the citizens would have options to appreciate a more diverse local culture than had been available.

In 1963 Jerry met with several local citizens, sharing his vision of a Fine Arts Festival in Waupaca which included music, fine arts, and theater. His plans always included a presentation of the arts, and the Waupaca Art Show evolved from that meeting.

Jerry knew Vi Richards as an enthusiastic, artistically talented woman who could bring her excitement and skills to this project and inspire other art loving people to support the idea. As Art Show Chairman she had a hand in almost everything. She gathered a wonderful group of people for doing all the publicity, taking care of the registration of the artists, finding judges, planning and putting up the staging for the art works, screening the pieces, and even finding hosts for the six days the show was open to the public.

The first few Waupaca Art Shows were presented in the old Methodist Church, 309 South Main Street, where the Wisconsin Public Service building now stands. It was a two story building with posts and cubbyholes, which did not present the works in the best light. Once, an entry that the hanging committee didn't like was hung way back in a corner, and of course, the judge awarded it a first place prize.



After several years the Show was moved to the old Armory and pieces of plywood were borrowed, and later purchased, for hanging the pictures. Several years later the plywood was stained a soft gray tone to feature the pictures better. In recent years the Art Show moved to the Waupaca EXPO building on Grand Seasons Drive which provided more space and better lighting.





1973 Art Show Committee at Carolyn Gusmer's home, standing from left: Jane Maxon, Bob Swalby, Jerry Knoepfel, Chuck Spanbauer; on couch from left: Marge Schuelke Brunner, Shirley Morgan, Lucile Steiner, Atta Swalby, Jan Porrey, Isabel Salan. Photo courtesy: *Waupaca Art Show Archives*

— **Carolyn Gusmer**, Art Chair 1971-88:

My nineteen years as chairman were exciting and fun. Meeting the artists and watching some “grow” over the years was thrilling. The first time some would enter the show, they would approach the table timidly, saying they didn’t know if their work was good enough. A few years later they would return, entering in the professional category.

I was very impressed with the effort shown by some of the high school teachers from the area. They would have to cajole their students to send in their entry forms, and

then the teacher herself would bring many of their pictures in a pickup truck. Often she would take the works back to school at the end of the show.

Each year new people have rallied around the Art Show and continue to present a wonderful part of the Waupaca Fine Arts Festival. Recently the Waupaca Community Arts Board has added a new dimension to the Waupaca Arts scene.

In 1988 Carolyn Gusmer passed the chairmanship to me, Mary Gordon, with Jan Porrey as co-chair. Carolyn and Jan, along with Jerry and Selma Knoepfel, Dave Salan, Blanche Fanik, Gloria Gruer, Chuck Spanbauer, Terry Achten, and Steve Morgan, among many others, were all intrinsic in helping put on that 25th Anniversary Waupaca Art Show. Terry Achten and his crew were in charge of staging the show and taking it down. The hanging and hostess committees were also essential to our success.

In commemoration of the 25th Anniversary, the WFAF donated a painting from that show to the City of Waupaca, who loaned it to Riverside Medical Center for a short time. “Shadowed Roadway” by Ardice Worthen is part of the permanent collection and is still



exhibited at the Waupaca Public Library. Over the years, the Friends of the Library has given cash prizes to worthy high school or non-professional artists to encourage their endeavors.

In 1990 Steve Morgan painted the display panels and redesigned their arrangement. New pedestals were built to display 3-D art, and a larger, more secure case for jewelry and small valuable art works was added.

Because the Art Show is unjuried and allows student participation, spectators can view art that runs the gamut from self-taught to highly trained professional, with even nationally recognized artists exhibiting at the show. The judges consistently praise the quality and variety of the art entered. The Waupaca Art Show encourages anyone, no matter what age, ability, or training, to create, grow, and challenge themselves as artists in a non-judgmental venue.

As an artist and occasional actress, I have grown so much from my experiences with both the Art Show and Community Theatre. Most importantly, I have gained many long-time friends through my involvement with WFAF, with many happy memories and laughs along with a lot of hard work. Thank you WFAF and best wishes for the next 50 years.

-- **Mary Gordon**, Art Chair 1988-91



Waupaca Middle School becomes part of the Waupaca Fine Arts Festival

— Dort De Wild:

I began my career as a middle school art teacher at Waupaca Middle School in 1984. At the end of my first year, I was asked to host an art show featuring art work done by the students in grades 5-8. The event would be held in conjunction with the school book fair on one school night during the week. Wow...little did I know what I was getting myself into. I began framing and labeling each piece of artwork ahead of time, and I would take my classes to the commons after

lunch to put up display boards and hang students' art in a limited 3 hour time frame. During this 3 hours, I would also organize students to complete demonstrations. After the single night, I would take it all down so the school routine could continue the next day. It really doesn't seem too difficult considering the many captive middle school bodies I had to work with, right? It was quite a challenge, but the results were well worth the effort. It was exciting and rewarding to see how proud the students were to share their accomplishments with parents and friends.

Fast forward to 1998 when Edith De Hammer approached me about including the Waupaca Middle School in the Waupaca Fine Arts Festival Show. I felt it was an invitation that was almost too good to be true. What a great partnership! Now, the students could showcase their artistic talents in a venue attended by the entire community FOR MORE THAN A SINGLE NIGHT! You bet I jumped at that offer. Because of this partnership, the public is able to see the progression of artists from adolescence to adulthood; amateur to professional. Students have the opportunity to display work before a larger and, many times, amazed audience. When everyone works together for a great cause, big things are possible.



photo courtesy Dort De Wild





The Waupaca Foundry has made a purchase award from the annual spring Waupaca Art Show each year since 1978. These pieces hang in public places in the Foundry offices as well as in private offices in all the Waupaca plants.



**Past Art Show Committee Chairmen
(Head Chairmen listed with dates)**

Vi Richards 1964 - 1966
Mary Cafferty
Marni Young
Isabel Salan 1967, 1970
Marg Schulke 1968 - 1969
Mrs. Chester (Sadie) Simonson
Lucile Steiner
Charles Spanbauer
Patti Halverson
Carol Hart
Mrs. Reed Schoonover
Barb Achten
Linda Pope
Carolyn Gusmer 1971 - 1988
Shirley Morgan
Sue Martin
Jan Porrey
Mary Gordon 1988 - 1991
Ada and Bob Swalby 1992
Jo Yeager 1993
Rose Marie Reynolds
Susan Helbach 1994 - 1995
Preston and Edith DeHammer 1996 - 2008
Debbie Fenske
Margaret Overby
Brenda Wenberg
Marsha Mueller
June Peterson
Jenna Stults
Patti Van Vaulkenburg
Lee and Bill Schultz 2009 - 2011
Mary Jo Tomaras 2012
Jim Lang 2013







The Art Show opens after judging on a Sunday in April and is available for public viewing daily for a week.

2D and 3D works, professional, non-professional, and student categories are eligible for judging awards, People's Choice Awards, and for individual purchase.



Into The Woods



Waupaca Community Theater



Waupaca Community Theatre

The Waupaca Community Theatre came into existence as a result of a Fox Valley Technical Institute evening adult drama class, taught in the fall of 1978 by Linda Zolnosky, at the former Waupaca High School on Shoemaker Road. Participants in that group saw a need and an interest for a community theater in the area.



The first general membership meeting in September of 1979 brought out 34 people to elect a board and discuss the future activities of the new group. Reported with the following headline in the *Waupaca County Post* in January of 1979, "Community Theatre Becomes Part of Festival Program," the article related that ...



"a delegation from the recently formed Waupaca Community Theatre presented their program and made a request from the Festival Board for financial backing. After much discussion, the Board voted to make the Community Theatre a part of the Festival program."



That first year (1979) WCT brought to the stage the winsome comedy *Harvey* in February, the musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* in May, and the Woody Allen absurdist farce *God: A Play* in August. As the newspaper reviewer of the very first production put it, "...Waupaca, Wisconsin once again shows itself to be a responsive, creative, unusual community. The sheer energy and high spirits of so large a number of volunteers is the most noteworthy feature of the *Harvey* project." The second show during that inaugural season, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* was the only musical produced from the

Photos from WCTheatre top to bottom:
Harvey, Sneaky Fitch, Plaza Suite



group's inception until *Cabaret* in 1998 some twenty years later. Ironically, from 1998 to the current year, with the exception of the dinner theater production of *Steel Magnolias* in 2007, the WCT has produced only large-scale musicals. The first years of the development of the Waupaca Community Theatre organization owe a great debt to the contributions of Monica Eastman, Jim King, Cheri Marks, Faye Somers, Jim Marks, Steve Laedtke, Barb Ketchum James, and Jan Masaros Christiansen, among others, who provided good taste and intelligent production values and choices to the stage. The Waupaca

Community Theatre has produced an incredible breadth of shows from an old melodrama, *Dirty Work at the Crossroads*, to the classics *Our Town*, *A Doll's House*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*; a couple of courtroom dramas, the Neil Simon comedies *Chapter Two*, *Barefoot In the Park*, and *The Odd Couple*; the comedy farces *Lie, Cheat, and Genuflect*, and *Love, Sex, and the IRS*; a couple of series of one-act plays, a theatrical radio show, a readers' theater version of *In Watermelon Sugar*; a local playwright's play *Another Slide of Life*; and the recent string of musical theater productions including *Annie*, Disney's *Beauty and The Beast*, and Stephen Sondheim's thriller *Sweeney Todd*. The cast lists show that each production attracted a different group of performers. On average, there were two to three productions each year until 1999 when single large-scale summer musicals became the norm.

Venues for the shows, some remaining, others gone, include the Gerald C. Knoepfel Auditorium at the current Waupaca Middle School, Oakwood Villa Supper Club, Simpson's Restaurant, Carnegie's, the former Waupaca County Courthouse, the former St. Mary Magdalene Church, Pipe School, Hutchinson House, Jensen Community



Center (Amherst), Wild Rose, Manawa, and Weyauwega Schools, the Wisconsin Veteran's Home Auditorium, Best Western Grand Seasons, the Waupaca High School Performing Arts Center, and outdoor performances at both Brainerd's Bridge Park and South Park in Waupaca.

Over the years, the Waupaca Community Theatre has also been involved in community events away from the stage. The Theatre played host to the hugely popular Halloween "Morbid Mill" haunted house from 1984-87. From 1984-1990 it provided the "Breakfast With Santa" program to children that included a pancake breakfast, followed by a children's Christmas play, and culminated with a visit from Santa. From 1998-90 the WCT provided clowning services for the Spring Open House at the Wisconsin Veteran's Home, various non-profit organizations and several corporate employee picnic gatherings. Also, at the instigation of Mary Calvo, WCT

participated in the Waupaca Hometown Days Parade on the 4th of July to promote its productions. The themes were slightly twisted humorous plays on words, as in the "Waupaca Grill Team." The WCT entries were crowd favorites.

The Waupaca Children's Theatre was an outgrowth of the Waupaca Community Theatre as a response to the overwhelming number of children who wished to participate in summer shows but perhaps were unable due to the cast size/needs or thematic elements of the summer mainstage productions. Lynda Luce and Gwen Pfeiffer-Young, upon both WCT and WFAF Board approval, instituted the program in the summer of 2006. The casts of between 25-50 elementary and junior high age students annually present six performances at various area libraries in late July. The program provides a wonderful learning experience for the students and a great feeder system for the Community Theatre.



In September the Theatre board calls for show proposals for the coming season. Qualified individuals with an interest in directing a show are encouraged to submit proposals. Anyone wishing to be a part of the organization by assisting with lighting, sound, costuming, art design, set building, painting, choreography, publicity, and backstage work should contact the WCT.

Upon joining the Board in 2004 I realized that the Waupaca Community Theatre was already a finely tuned organization with a highly diversified group of "regulars" both on and off the stage. I was keenly aware that I had not simply become a member of a local "theatre group" but part of a vibrant organization rich with history, diversity, and talent to be rivaled only by much larger cities. It is amazing that there are individuals still involved in various capacities who were part of the organization back in the formative period close to thirty five years ago! The dedication of volunteers to this organization in keeping it alive and allowing it to flourish in both size and scope is a tribute to the past WCT Board Members, the Fine Arts Festival and its generous contributors and underwriters, participating cast members, production staff, musicians, local media outlets, venue providers, and the community members who support our shows. For this we are truly fortunate and grateful. Congratulations to the Waupaca Fine Arts Festival for providing a half century of culture and arts to the past, present, and future citizens of this community!

-- **John Kelley** WCT Chairman
2005 - Present

Past Waupaca Community Theatre Board Members & Chairpersons

Thomas Trull
 Faye Somers
 Cheri Marks
 Monica Eastman
 Jan Masaros
 Steve Eckels
 Linda Zolnosky
 Pat Enright
 Jim Marks
 Susan Stults
 Wally Kolonick
 Joel Zarnke
 Rosalie Jole
 Ruth Brennenstuhl
 Charles Spanbauer
 Barb Ketchum-James
 Steve Laedtke
 Dennis Sutliff
 Peggy Schneider
 Harry Porfilio
 Kathy Kolonick
 Paul Holte
 Germaine Schoenhofen
 David Salan
 Marcel Van Camp
 Tom Masaros
 Judy Feltz-Lain
 Barbara Paulson
 Sara Smolarek
 Betty Hill
 Gilbert Hill
 Loyal Lundorf

Barb Hammond
 Rawley Smith
 Catherine Shaw-Stevens
 Larry Katerzynske
 Jim Keefer
 Calvin Stevens
 Celeste Lamphear
 Christine Sandell
 La Donna Nieland
 Sue Wilson
 Steve Nieland
 Lynda France
 Jodi Ketchum
 Ellen Connor
 Berray Billington
 Mary Gordon
 Sarah Kennedy
 Lynda Luce
 Nathan Karth
 Mary Elizabeth Raines
 Jenna Stults
 Gwen Pfeiffer
 Anne Justmann
 Holly Jackson Saunders
 Pat Fletcher
 John Kelley
 Wanda Eikenbary
 Dale Schroeder
 Dave Larson
 Carmen Riebel
 Linda Trepasso

Past Chairpersons

Thomas Trull	1979
Pat Enright	1980
Rosalie Jole	1981
Jim Marks	1982-83
Marcel Van Camp	1984
Tom Masaros	1985
Wally Kolonick	1986
Cheri Marks	1987
Barb Hammond	1988
Catherine Shaw-Stevens	1989
Marcel Van Camp	1990-91
Calvin Stevens	1992
Steve Nieland	1993-94
Steve Nieland &	
Marcel Van Camp	1995-96
Berray Billington	1997-02
Marcel Van Camp	2003-04
John Kelley	2005-Present

Sweeney Todd. photo by Adam Biba



First of all, I am proud of the achievements of the Waupaca Community Theatre. I have been associated in various capacities as a board member, producer, actor, and set designer with 39 theater productions from 1981-2012.

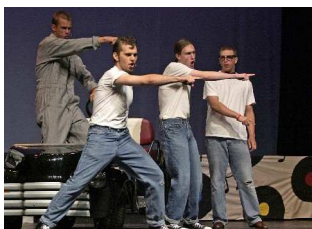
One of the reasons for the longevity and the quality shows of WCT is the autonomy of the WCT Board of Directors. WCT board members made good choices for directors and shows. The board members also felt the responsibility to spend wisely the funding from the Fine Arts Festival. Not every show was able to be a financial success but it was not due to lack of effort. And over the years there were some shows that did make some money. There was a friendly competition among the various aspects of the Fine Arts Festival to have successful productions. Blanche Fanik, longtime treasurer of the Fine Arts Festival, and Jerry Knoepfel were both very good about supporting our theatrical shows and holding us accountable. They were magnificent collaborators when necessary, and otherwise left the WCT board to do its business.

The other aspect of WCT that made the shows fun and stressful was the number of people involved. Reading through the programs, one understands the great support the theater had over the years. Production to production, year to year, different people helped and helped. The typical 6 to 8 week production schedule always included making new friendships and building wide community support. Every show seemed to need a new effort in order to win new audiences.

It is not a bad thing to have to make that effort.

-- **Marcel Van Camp** WCT Chairman
1984, 1990-91, 1995-96, 2003-04





The great thing about theater is the camaraderie. In a community group everyone pitches in -- one time one might be an actor but double as scene builder, props, makeup, costumes, publicity, sound, or lighting. Another time you could be the director or producer. You can have a lead role or a bit part; it doesn't matter. Everyone works toward the same goal. I met people 30 years ago who I still consider friends even if we rarely meet, because we had those one or two productions in common.

We built sets of cardboard, painted muslin flats, or just a curtain or two to delineate a doorway. Props were borrowed or hauled out of our own homes for their night on the stage, and often costumes came out of our closets. We were having fun! Comedy or drama, it doesn't matter; there is always something enjoyable about working together for a common goal.

Thanks to the Fine Arts Festival for their support of Waupaca Community Theatre.

-- Donna Rickel WCT

Opposite page, top to bottom:
The King and I, 2001
Beauty and the Beast, 2009
Little Women -- the Musical, 2008
Mame, 2010

This page, top to bottom:
Into the Woods, 2005
Grease, 2007
Kiss Me, Kate!, 2006
The Wizard of Oz, 2012

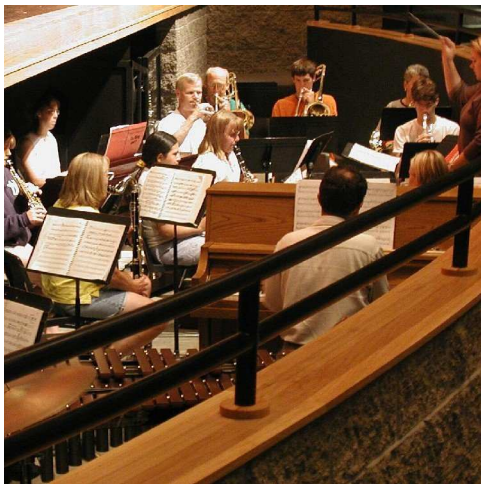


In the fall of 1994, a meeting was held at the Waupaca Public Library to discuss whether or not Community Theatre in Waupaca would continue. I attended, voiced my ideas, and was promptly placed on the newly reorganized board of directors. For the next seven years, I directed one or two shows each season.

Waupaca Community Theatre was a transient organization with no permanent base of operation. We did a majority of our shows out of a storage shed and the Oakwood Supper Club. This meant that we had to haul everything we needed to do a

show, including the stage, into the banquet hall of the Oakwood Supper Club! Needless to say, that quickly became very old. As Chairman of the theater board, I started thinking about the direction we, as an organization, needed to take. I looked at other theater groups in the area and decided we needed to move our production timeline to the summer months. So with that being our focus, we produced the mystery play *The Murder Room* in the Gerald C. Knoepfel Auditorium at the former Waupaca High School. Because it went over well, the following season we decided to do two shows, *Cookin' with Gus* and the musical *Cabaret*. I wanted to do a musical because I thought it would do well and also that it would be easier to sell than a straight play. I thought we could sell it to the influx of tourists who came to the Chain O' Lakes area. *Cabaret* did very well and we have produced a musical every summer since.

One funny anecdote: During the 2000 season we had to move our show to a different performance venue because the new high school was not yet completed and the old high school was being renovated to become the middle school. After much discussion, we decided that we were building an audience and didn't want to take off a summer, so we moved our production



of *Man of La Mancha* to the Jensen Center in Amherst. One of WFAF's bigger supporters came to see our show in Amherst and remarked, "Why doesn't Waupaca have something like this?" You can't win them all.

Happy 50th Anniversary WFAF!

—**Berray Billington** WCT Chairman
1997-2002



- 1979: *Harvey* - Steve Eckels, Director
You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown - Monica Eastman, Director
God: A Play - Jim King, Director
- 1980: *The Odd Couple* - Kathy Kolonick & Hollis McWethy, Directors
Plaza Suite - Pat Enright (Act 1), Wally Kolonick (Act 2) & Rosalie Jole (Act 3), Directors
- 1981: *You Can't Take It With You* - David Salan & Kathy Kolonick, Directors
The Death And Life Of Sneaky Fitch - Stephen Laedtke, Director
- 1982: *Flowers For Algernon* - Ruth Brennenstuhl & Germaine Schoenhofen, Directors
Chapter Two - Gregory T. Rajskey, Director
The Rivals - Paul Holte, Director
- 1983: *A Doll's House* - Pat Enright & Janice Masaros, Directors
The Big Re-Broadcast - Donna Rickel, Director
Death Trap - Phil Holte, Director
- 1984: *Arsenic and Old Lace* - Wally Kolonick & Bettie Hill, Directors
Night of January 16th - Gilbert Hill, Director
- 1985: *In Watermelon Sugar* - Janice Masaros & Paul Holte, Directors
Another Slide of Life - Wally Kolonick, Director
Born Yesterday - Shirley Spera, Director
- 1986: *Lie, Cheat, and Genuflect* - Joel Zarnke Sr., Director
Mornings At Seven - C. A. Marks, Director
- 1987: *Sorry, Wrong Number* - Shirley Spera, Director
A Need For Less Expertise - C.A. Marks, Director
The Trial of Mary Dugan - Paul Yaeger, Director
- 1988: *Weatherman* - Catherine Shaw-Stevens, Director
- 1989: *Our Town* - Bettie Hill & David Salan, Directors
The Bad Children - Celeste Lamphear & Jeff Marks, Directors
Dirty Work At The Crossroads - Donna Rickel, Director
- 1990: *The Dining Room* - Catherine Shaw-Stevens & Calvin Stevens, Directors
 3 one-act plays: "I'm Herbert," "Next," & "Duck Variations" - Catherine Shaw-Stevens,
- 1991: *Blithe Spirit* - Bettie & Gilbert Hill, Directors
Steel Magnolias - Catherine Shaw-Stevens, Director
- 1992: *Barefoot In The Park* - Hollis McWethy, Director
The Cemetery Club - Catherine Shaw-Stevens, Director
- 1993: *A Night of Comedy* - Marcel Van Camp & C.A. Marks, Directors
God: A Play - Marcel Van Camp & C.A. Marks, Directors

- 1993: *Take Five* - performed by Little Wolf High School, Karen Pamperin, Director
- 1994: [No Productions]
- 1995: *Love Letters* - Paul Holte, Director
Love, Sex, and the IRS - Berray Billington, Director
- 1996: *The Matchmaker* - Berray Billington, Director
Shirley Valentine - Kathy Fehl, Director
- 1997: *Subject To Change* - Mary Elizabeth Raines, Director
The Murder Room - Berray Billington, Director
- 1998: *An Afternoon With Wisconsin* - by author Zona Gayle
Neighbors (Reader Theatre) - Ellen Connor, Director
Cookin' With Gus - Berray Billington, Director
Cabaret - Berray Billington, Director
- 1999: *Fiddler On The Roof* - Berray Billington, Director
- 2000: *Man of La Mancha* - Berray Billington, Director
- 2001: *The King and I* - Berray Billington, Director
- 2002: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* - Lynda Luce, Director
- 2003: *Annie* - Holly Jackson, Director
- 2004: *Oliver* - Berray Billington, Director
- 2005: *Into The Woods* - John Kelley, Director
- 2006: *Kiss Me, Kate!* - Kari Devine, Director
School House Rock, Live! Jr. - Lynda Luce & Gwen Pfeiffer-Young, Directors [Children's]
- 2007: *Grease* - Rebecca Daniels, Director
Steel Magnolias - Holly Saunders, Director (Dinner theatre)
Honk Jr. - Erika Johnson [Children's Theatre]
- 2008: *Little Women - The Musical* - John Kelley, Director
Willy Wonka Jr. - Erika Johnson, Director [Children's Theatre]
- 2009: *Beauty and The Beast* - Lynda Luce, Director
Seussical Jr. - Erika Johnson, Director [Children's Theatre]
- 2010: *Mame* - Berray Billington, Director
Mulan Jr. - Emily Billington & Ken Lauer, Directors [Children's Theatre]
- 2011: *Sweeney Todd* - John Kelley, Director
School House Rock, Live! Jr. - Amy Holterman, Director [Children's Theatre]
- 2012: *The Wizard of Oz* - Holly Saunders, Director
- 2013: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* - John Kelley, Director
The Little Mermaid Jr. - Lauri VandenBoom, Director [Children's Theatre]



Wanted—Singers For Fine Arts Festival Presentation

Plans for the Fine Arts Festival are moving right along, and the committee reports it is much encouraged by the response of the local citizens.

Next Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 8:00 p.m., at the Waupaca high school rehearsals will get under way for the Oratorio "Elijah", under the able leadership of J. Knoepfel, Musical Director of Waupaca high school. More singers are needed than have so far signed up for the Community Chorus, in order to assure the success of this performance.

So, this appeal is being made to any adult who likes to sing,

or has ever sung in a choir or glee club or such group... or if his warblings have only been confined to his home and personal surroundings... to come out and join in and swell the ranks.

The music is not difficult, and one need not be frightened off by the word... ORATORIO. An oratorio is merely a story told in music, usually with many voices.

The only investment each singer is asked to make for this reward musical experience it TIME... every Tuesday evening for the next six weeks, and a dollar and half for his copy of the score.

The Oratorio "Elijah" is a religious story of the Prophet Elijah bringing the people of Israel back to worshipping God. How he struggled to get them away from worshipping the God Baal; of his battle with himself to follow through in his instruction from God on how to liberate his people; and later of Elijah's banishment by the King and Rulers.

The Oratorio was written in 1846, a year before Mendelssohn died. The pattern of Elijah was greatly influenced by the great Bach and Handel oratorios.

Felix Mendelssohn was born in 1809 of a wealthy, cultivated Jewish family, whose home was the center of refined society. His talents as a composer developed very early in his life, and by the time he was fifteen years of age he had written four operas.

This life of great performances and compositions continued throughout Europe until he became director of the new Leipsic Conservatory in 1843. One of his latest works was the production of Elijah in 1846. Undermined by overwork, he was unable to stand the shock of the death of his beloved sister and a year later he himself died.

Mendelssohn differed from

most great composers in that he lived a successful, fated life free from great troubles or anxieties. Besides his piano compositions, his organ and instrumental works, he excelled in the two oratorios, "St. Paul" which reminds us strongly of Bach, and "Elijah" so reminding of Handel. His religious compositions are in concert style rather than church style.

The committee hopes this bit of background of the Oratorio "Elijah" and its composer, Felix Mendelssohn, will entice many fine voices to join the Community Chorus and make this first concert of the Fine Arts Festival a huge success, thus stimulating sufficient interest in this sort of project to establish it as an ANNUAL event.

Waupaca County Post
January 1964

