



THE SPOTLIGHT ON HANCHER GUILD

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A word from the President ...

Richard Bird
President

It's now about the season's close, and although we've experienced some new challenges this year, what a great season it's been. We've proven without a doubt that Hancher cannot be contained! It's clear that Hancher Auditorium began as a building but grew into more of a way of life for those who love performing arts.

That way of life lives on—and will continue to live on without the building for at least a few more years. Thankfully, Chuck and Judy have done a marvelous job at finding great locations for a majority of events. I personally have enjoyed many of the smaller venues used. And in spite of not having a dedicated building we do have some exciting and great things planned for next year.

First, let's take a brief look at this past year. The hospitality committee



President
Richard Bird

was very busy indeed with over a dozen receptions. Nancy Johns and her group did a superb job this year, and I can speak from personal experience when I had *Alpin Hong* at my home for a reception.

Please see Nancy's report in this edition of *The Spotlight* and thank you for all your very hard work this year. We are looking for a new assistant to the hospitality committee for next year. Please contact me directly if you are interested.

Also, Sandy Lawrence, who was scheduled to be head of the young audiences committee, instead led a group of Guild members to hand out programs at this year's events. I want to thank Sandy and all that helped with the programs this year.

Many of the committees were not busy this year. One such committee is young audiences, who plan the children's art exhibit. This was really

a great event the Hancher Guild put on every year and it was a shame that we could not do it this past year.

At our most recent board meeting we discussed how we could reinstate this exhibit even without a building and make it worthwhile. One idea was to do it in conjunction with the gallery walks downtown. We are not certain we can do this, but it seems reasonable and we are looking into it.

Another aspect that we discussed was having Guild social events. Perhaps four times a year an evening get together could be planned to discuss the state of Hancher, meet other Guild members and in general just celebrate the great art we get to enjoy in our community.

The people leading this committee are George and Barb Grilley, Dick Johns and Kim Swanson. Thank you for taking on this new endeavor. I have a feeling this is something that will continue for many years and I for one am very much looking forward to it.

VERY IMPORTANT: We are going green with *The Spotlight*. If you are receiving this edition via e-mail (which most are), thank you for providing us with your e-mail address and receiving *The Spotlight* electronically. This saves on postage and printing and gives us more money for educational programs.

If you are receiving this via hard copy, please contact Julie Scott at julie-scott@uiowa.edu and give her

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Ideas for 2009-2010

Guild Social Events - four times during the year
Reinstate the Children's Art Exhibit in a new venue
Going green with The Spotlight to save paper and reduce expenses
Involving more Guild members with the hospitality parties

'Wonderful support will help keep us steady'

*Judy Hurtig and Chuck Swanson
Hancher Directors*

If we have learned anything this year it is how to adapt to change. For 37 years the warm glowing lights off the red carpeting in the Hancher lobby welcomed thousands of people to performances on that big, gorgeous stage.

People thrilled to world-class artists, children felt the excitement of their first experience of the performing arts, people met their friends in the lobby and analyzed performances in the café. Who ever thought that would change?

While the flooding has caused irreversible changes, there are Hancher traditions which continue. Even as the staff prepares for its move to yet another set of offices, the season brochure is about to go to the printer, just as it has since the very first season, and will be mailed out only a month later than usual.

While the events will take place in venues up and down the corridor, it will be a very familiar season – complete with a Broadway show and even two dance performances in addition to concerts.

We all miss the Stage Door performances, but there will be Hancher artists delighting children and enriching their educational experiences in schools throughout the community.

We are often told that change is good; it opens up new opportunities. We are beginning to see the truth in that old cliché and we are even able to embrace it. Most importantly, of course, there will be a new building for Hancher that will be state-

of-the-art for the 21st century. There is so much excitement that surrounds this new venture.

As the Hancher staff prepares to get through these next few years, they are excited by the opportunity to participate in planning the new building and to help ensure that it is a facility that honors Hancher's past while envisioning its future.

This time of change has forced us into new relationships with organizations and institutions throughout the region and the state. The generosity of the staff of the Des Moines Civic Center, who will provide their facility to us for the benefit performance by *The Joffrey Ballet* on Sept. 11, has been so gratifying to all of us.

Our collaboration with University of Iowa Homecoming in 2008, when we presented *ScrapArtsMusic* on the Pentacrest to an audience of 4,000, will deepen and expand in 2009 not only with a performance again on the Pentacrest, but also participation in the Homecoming Parade.

We are working with Orchestra Iowa, another "home-less" arts organization, on an exciting project which you will hear more about.

And of course, there will be a major change for Hancher as Judy retires after 23 years on the Hancher staff. As you probably know, we have changed the Hancher leadership model.

Chuck will continue as executive director and we will be hiring a programming director who will report to Chuck. Judy is looking forward to being an audience member, exploring new interests in life and, most importantly, becoming a grandmother!

Throughout this tumultuous time of change, we are supported and inspired by the creativity and friendship of the Hancher Guild. It has been so reassuring to enter the lobbies of all the alternate venues to be greeted by a Hancher Guild member with a "Welcome to Hancher" and a Hancher playbill.

The artists this season have all been grateful for the warmth and generosity that the Guild extends at the post-performance parties. The Showcase sale at the Levitt Center last fall was a huge effort and an enormous success.

We know that just as Hancher is facing challenges during this time of change, so too is the Guild. But we were heartened at the recent board meeting by the creativity and enthusiasm of the members.

Some terrific ideas were suggested and people stepped forward eagerly to make them happen. You will read about a few of these new ventures elsewhere in this newsletter.

There is lots of energy and a real willingness to explore new ways that the Guild can continue to help and support Hancher, as it has for so many years. We are so grateful for that spirit.

So we are excited about the future. Yes, it's a little scary, but change always is. One thing we have learned over this past year is that there is wonderful, deep support for Hancher and we are confident that support will keep us steady, focused and open to the changes we know will continue to come.

Meanwhile, look for the new Hancher Box Office in the old Orange Julius spot, next to Sweet and Treats, in the Old Capitol Mall. We're excited to be so accessible and in the middle of things.

Guild members continue to provide hospitality parties for visiting artists

Nancy Johns, Chair
Nancy Rose, Assistant chair
Hospitality Committee
Year end report 2008-2009

Even though Hancher was closed because of the flood and the directors were scheduling performances in other venues, eight post-performance parties were held this year.

Oct. 23 Bill and Sharon Oglesby hosted the *Chiara String Quartet*. There were approximately 30 people attending. Five members of the Guild contributed food and four members assisted with the serving and clean-up.

Nov. 7 Chuck and Kim Swanson hosted *An Irish Homecoming*. Approximately 55 people attended. One Guild member contributed food and four assisted with greeting, serving and clean-up.

Nov. 12 Bob and Judy Boyd hosted *Takacs Quartet, Muzsikas, Marta Sebestyen*. There were approximately 45 people attending. One Guild member contributed food and four members assisted with serving and greeting.

Feb. 4 Sandy Heistad hosted the *St. Lawrence String Quartet*. There were approximately 35 people attending. Two Guild members assisted with greeting, serving and clean-up. Two members contributed food.

Feb. 12 Party was canceled due to illness of hostess Peggy Scholz

March 11 Richard and Judy Hurtig hosted *Musicians from Marlboro*.



GUILD MEMBERS who attended the April 24 hospitality party hosted by Richard Bird were treated to an impromptu performance by Alpin Hong as he played a couple of pieces. Guests stood quietly and enjoyed the music.
Photo by Richard Bird

March 25 Tom and Cathy Weingeist hosted *The Academy of Ancient Music*. Approximately 30 people attended. Two Guild members assisted with serving and clean-up. Two members contributed food.

April 3 Daryl and Nancy Granner hosted *Richard Stoltzman, Salute to Benny Goodman*. Approximately 40 people attended. Five Guild members contributed food and four assisted with serving and greeting. All members helped with clean-up.

April 24 Richard Bird hosted *Alpin Hong*. Approximately 35 people attended. One Guild member contributed food and four assisted with serving and clean-up.

Thank you notes were sent to all hosts and hostesses. The performers always comment about how much they enjoy these parties and are grateful for the home cooked food that is provided.

As we look forward to the 2009-2010 season it would be great to involve as many Guild members as possible who are willing to provide food for the hospitality parties. It not only helps with the work involved in hosting one of these parties, but also provides an opportunity for Guild members to meet the performers.

It also provides Guild members an opportunity to continue involvement with the Guild during the time Hancher is closed.

The Spotlight is published three times a year for Hancher Guild members. Editors: Heidi Pierson and Megan Stephenson. PRODUCTION/CIRCULATION: Julie Scott (335-1130). Comments and suggestions are welcomed. Send to: Editor, Hancher Guild, 231 Hancher Auditorium, Iowa City, IA 52242-1794.

Customary ways that Guild members support Hancher changes as the show goes on in new venues

***Sandra Lawrence, Chair
Young Audiences Committee***

As Guild members know, the June floods changed many of the customary ways that Guild members support Hancher events throughout the year.

As chair of the young audiences committee, I regretfully expected to be “out of a job” for the year.

Instead, the young audiences committee was asked to take over the task of providing Guild members to serve as greeters and to distribute programs

for all of the Hancher season events.

A small but dedicated group of volunteers, whose names are listed below, provided a friendly smile and a warm welcome at each of the events and we even managed to always show up at the correct venue.

Thank you to the following volunteers: Janice Carpenter, Emily Cave, Jan and Carl Christensen, Jan Cooper, Nancy Droll, Marilyn Krachmer, Joanne Margolin, Jerry and Nancy Rose, Diane and Mel Sunshine, Wanda Wilker and Marilyn Wirtz.

from the President . . .

your e-mail address so that we can also send you the spotlight via e-mail. I want to thank Dick Johns for his continued and excellent work with *The Spotlight*—and helping us go green!

And last, at the end of the year I once again must acknowledge the outstanding work of Chuck Swanson and Judy Hurtig. What a difficult year, and next year will be similar.

But what a fabulous job they’ve done—the show must go on indeed. As you all know Judy is retiring on June 30. I think we all owe her a great deal of thanks for all of her service to Hancher. I know everyone working with her will miss her, but I expect to see her at a few events next year.