Vergennes Opera House
Annual Report: 2018-2019

Vergennes Opera House
501(c)3 non-profit organization
P.O. Box 88
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vergennesoperahouse.org
802.877.6737
Dear Supporters,

Our 2018-2019 season was filled with an extraordinary program of events that saw more audience members than ever before passing through the doors of the Vergennes Opera House (VOH). Our program year was full of inspiration, enrichment and fun. All of our success can be attributed to—you—our members, donors, volunteers and audience—who have come together to make our Opera House a cornerstone for the arts in our community and our region of Vermont. To you we say THANK YOU!

This past year the Opera House hosted over 70 events ranging from music performances, dance workshops, weddings, orchestra concerts, and many, many community events such as Town Meeting, and special council and town committee meetings.

2018-2019 Season Recap

Our season kicked off in October with the 802 Blues Revue featuring the extraordinary Downtown Bob Stannard and Those Dangerous Bluesmen accompanied by the Unknown Blues Band and Dave Keller. They packed the house with an unforgettable SOLD OUT show! Equally popular was the performance by The Wicked Fine Players in November, featuring Vergennes native Patti Casey. And, no surprise, the house was completely packed. Later in October we had a special treat with an unplanned film screening of the new independent horror film “The Ringer” starring Vergennes’ resident Jeremy Holm. We coupled this exclusive Vermont screening with a Halloween-themed dance party. It was a hoot!

Our annual presentation of Broadway Direct in December, directed by our own Bill Walsh (a Broadway pro), was deemed the “best ever” by all in attendance. Bill was accompanied by a few of his Broadway pro friends and a cadre of talented performers from Vergennes High School.

Again, another packed house. Next, in February, we welcomed community members to a FREE concert by the LC Jazz Band. Dubbed the “Winter Thaw Free Community Concert,” this annual event raises funds for the group’s music scholarship fund.

Our final VOH-produced event of the season was our annual Carnevale Vergennes! This remarkable event benefits three area non-profits: the Vergennes Partnership, the Vergennes Boys and Girls Club and the Friends of the Vergennes Opera House. So far this year the event raised almost $30,000 to be shared among these organizations. The extraordinary generosity of the attendees and the great support of volunteers made a vivid statement of commitment to our community and its well-being.

Community members also enjoyed other eclectic offerings, such as the presentation by the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum about Captain Jahaziel Sherman of Vergennes, The Steamboat Pioneer. The Johnny Cash Tribute Show and the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival all contributed to a rich program that provided something for everyone.

New this year, the VOH provided a home for Spotlight Vergennes, a program of dance instruction for boys and girls led by the enormously talented Elisa Van Dyne. We are delighted to hear the abundance of joyful young voices in the VOH!

Continuous Improvements

The VOH, built in 1897, is so very important to the past, present and future of Vergennes. The management and care of this historic space has been put in our trust and it is through the commitment of volunteers, donors and event attendees that we are able to maintain the facility and make it better for those who follow. Donations have made it possible for us to acquire and install a new energy efficient lighting system for the house, new lighting units for the stage, refinish the flooring, repair and paint plaster, and repair and maintain the air handling system, among other improvements and continuous upgrades. We were able to make these investments and provide our program of events well within the parameters of our annual budget.

100% Volunteer Organization

The VOH operates through the time and talent of volunteers – a volunteer board of directors as well as individual volunteers from the community. The revenue is driven by ticket proceeds and, most importantly, by donations during the past program year.

We are enormously grateful and humbled by your continued and unwavering generosity. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I THANK YOU for all that you have done, and commit to continue to do, for this organization.

Your support translates to an economically strong and vibrant downtown. According to the most recent study by the Americans for the Arts (2017), in Vermont alone the nonprofit arts and culture sector is responsible for $123 million in direct economic impact. This includes economic boosts to area businesses in the form of patronage at area restaurants, bars and retail establishments. This spillover effect helps to support our local businesses and maintain a vibrant downtown.

Included in this annual report are names of our 2018-2019 donors. Every dollar has made all the difference in our ability to continue to preserve and maintain the historic Vergennes Opera House.

With appreciation,

Gerianne Smart, President
Friends of Vergennes Opera House

*Arts & Economic Prosperity Study (AEP5) 2017, Americans for the Arts**

**“Though we have done our best to compile a comprehensive and accurate list, we recognize that there may be errors and omissions. If you feel your name is missing and/or if there is an error, please email us at info@vergennesoperahouse.org so that we may correct the information going forward. Thank you!**

Generous Contributors 2018-19

$5000 and above

Whistlepig Farm

$1500 to $4999

Geoffrey & Susan Nelson

Tim & Lizabeth Ryan

$1000 to $1999

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*Arts & Economic Prosperity Study (AEP5) 2017, Americans for the Arts*

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Friends of the Vergennes Opera House Board of Directors

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The Friends of the Vergennes Opera House is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The Board meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday in the Opera House at 6pm. To learn more visit our website at VergennesOperaHouse.org.

2019-2020 Programming

Tickets and information for the following events can be found online via our website: VergennesOperaHouse.org

9/21: VT Magical Discovery Tour
10/12: The 802 Blues Revue
10/24: US Air Force Clarinet Quartet
11/9: Dwight & Nicole
12/6: Broadway Direct
2/8: LC Jazz Winter Thaw Concert
2/29: Carnevale Vergennes!

Want to volunteer? Email us at: info@VergennesOperaHouse.org
We have fun here!