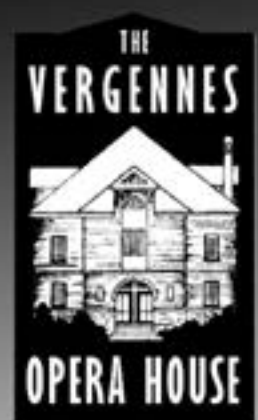




Vergennes Opera House

Annual Report: 2018-2019



Vergennes Opera House
501(c)3 non-profit organization
P.O. Box 88
Vergennes, VT 05491
vergennesoperahouse.org
802.877.6737



A Message from the President of the Friends of the Vergennes Opera House

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 Ranger"** 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 the 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@vergennessoperahouse.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 & Lizbeth Ryan

\$1000 to \$1499
Jim & Joy Biggart
Amanda Bodell & Jeff Glassberg
Barney & Kristin Bristow
Mike & Maggie Catillaz
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Deb Stenner & Keith Mintz
Vergennes Animal Hospital

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ART at Hannaford Career Center
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Rice Lumber
Shacksbury Cider
Carlotta Tippett
Vergennes Rotary
Dawn Wagner and Jeremy Holm
Sue & Bill Walsh
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\$100 to \$249

3 Squares Café
Nina Bacon
Bar Antidote
Basin Harbor Resort
Don & Liz Bicknell
Anthony & Gina Bruno
Ron & Madelaine Calise
Emery & Lillian Castimore
Kevin & Kate Coburn
Art & Anne Cohn
Comfort Hill Kennel
Cairn & JeanMarie Cross
Daily Chocolate
Dakin Farm
John & Debra Emerson
Everywear for Everybody

Hilarie Gade
Scott Gaines
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Louise Giovannella
Shannon & Melissa Hagett
Malabar
Howard Hall & Paula Moore
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Gene & Cindy LeBeau
Timothy & Patti Marrinan
Jeffery & Susan McDonald
Paul & Connie Miller
Mark Mulqueen
Kenneth Oboz & Nina Falsen
John & Patty Paul
Don & Julie Peddie
Glenn & Kathy Rossier
Shear Cuts
Matthew Watkins & Lisa Dulsky
Cynthia Wesson

Up to \$100

Rita Ackert
Jeannette Armell
Duane & Susan Barbor
Tim Bicknel & Casey Ratti
Marianna Boivin
Lynn Coeby
Jody Crosby
Margaret Donaghey
David & Samantha Dougherty
Patricia Emerson

Wendy Erikson
Mark Florence (in honor of Robert)
Ed & Ruth Grant
Wendy Sue Harper & Robin Hopps
Mel & Laurie Hawley
Deborah Healey
Karl & Abby Hummell
Jim & Carol Kress
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Barbara Levinson
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Katrina Matthews
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David Croke & Deena Miller
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Beth Tarallo
Elizabeth Tolmie
Gerald and Priscilla Wager
John & Holly Weber
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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.



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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!