

Charlotte Performing Arts Center

A walk through Your Charlotte Performing Arts Center by day brings the melodic sounds of Oriole Bands, a little further on and the choirs' voice lift the spirits. A walk through Your Charlotte Performing Arts Center by night is just as likely to bring along the sounds of saws, drills, and hammers as one of the many productions is prepared for its public debut on stage.



The Charlotte Public Schools alone will produce in excess of 50 shows on stage at the performing arts center this year. Add on another 35 shows produced by community groups renting the space, sprinkle in 8 **Arts for Youth** performances, toss in a few assemblies for the schools, and top it off with a two week summer theatre camp that includes producing a 45-minute one-act theatrical performance and you get the ingredients that make up Your Charlotte Performing Arts Center.

From a first grade concert, to the full blown high school musicals, (*Grease* was the word this past fall) the stage is graced by hundreds upon hundreds of Charlotte elementary, middle school and high school students every year. But it doesn't stop onstage – for the technical support of our performers is provided by a trained crew of Charlotte High School students.

The student tech crew is under the direct leadership of Lucas LaLonde, the Technical Director at Your Charlotte Performing Arts Center. Lucas spends time training students in the arts of stage lighting, sound design (for both live reinforcement and recording), set construction, use of the fly rail and rigging system, and other basics of technical theatre production. The crew currently totals 15 students. As these students progress and develop they are then eligible to work paid technical positions on the community rentals and professional touring shows the visit Your Charlotte Performing Arts Center each year.

This year, the **Arts for Youth** program series brought in two national touring shows that will play to just short of 2,000 students in kindergarten through sixth grade in Charlotte and the surrounding communities. In addition, the **Arts for Youth Onstage Experience** was developed. Through this program, 40 Charlotte community fourth through eighth grade students will be taking the stage in a production of *SchoolHouse Rock, Live! Jr.* Through this experience the students from Charlotte upper Elementary, Charlotte Middle School, St. Mary's, and homeschool students come together as a community for the to study and experience first-hand the art of theatre and gain the self-confidence and achievement of producing live entertainment to give back to the Charlotte community for your enjoyment. The **Arts for Youth** program is generously supported by contributions from Auto-Owners

Insurance, Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital, Friends of the Charlotte Performing Arts Center and the Charlotte Optimist Club.

Many community groups including the Lansing Concert Band, Capital City Chordsmen, Eaton Area Senior Center and the Homeschool Performing Arts use Your Charlotte Performing Arts Center for yearly productions. This year also saw the Andromeda Community Theatre Company premiere, the Western Michigan University Brass Ensemble and Western Michigan University Band (in a joint concert with the Charlotte High School Symphonic Band).

To learn more about all of the exciting programs coming to Your Charlotte Performing Arts Center visit www.CPACpresents.com or call the box office at 541-5690.