

**Luhrs Circle of Friends Benefit Gala - Caleigh!**  
**Wednesday, April 4, 2012**  
**Orrstown Bank Lobby • H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center**

Thank you for being here tonight and welcome to our gala that kicks off our annual fundraising drive for the H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center.

Later tonight, you will have the opportunity to watch an amazing performance of Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance. I am sure all of you know what a wonderful program this will be and I, for one, still can't understand how anyone can dance that well — and that fast. I'm just glad that the Luhrs Center's annual dancing class doesn't include something this challenging.

In conjunction with the performance, our gala theme is "Caleigh!" which refers to a social gathering — the perfect opportunity for the many supporters of this great facility to gather and celebrate its success!

We're hosting about 125 members of the Circle of Friends tonight out of the Circle's 442 total members. That total number is also a dramatic increase over last year's 355 members. Of the Circle of Friends membership, 162 are giving at the \$500 and above level. This outstanding support makes it possible for us to offer a wide diversity of programming and provide varied ticket pricing (for most shows) so more people from throughout the region are able to attend live theater.

Some of you here also serve as volunteers for the Luhrs Center, and we want you to know how much we appreciate and value your time on behalf of the Luhrs Center and Shippensburg University.

Shippensburg University is also pleased to have the continued support of corporate sponsors. With us tonight are representatives from two of them — Boyer and Ritter CPAs (Chuck and Joletta Nebel, Chuck and Debbie Frame, Ed and Ann Straley, and Ben and Sarah Bostic) and Members First (Zach Erdman, Luanne Kyle, Robb Keith, and Barb Bixler). Once again, I want to thank these, and our other sponsors, for truly understanding the importance the arts play in our lives and the role the Luhrs Center fulfills in bringing the arts to the university and south-central Pennsylvania.

Finally, I want to thank you very much for your partnership with the Luhrs Center and Shippensburg University and for being here to support this magnificent facility and this outstanding university!