

Luhrs Circle of Friends Gala – Bandstand!
Thursday, March 17, 2011
Orrstown Bank Lobby • H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center

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

Some of us here tonight are actually old enough to remember the 50s, and some may even be wearing their original clothes from then. When the gala was planned, we knew this would be a hit because the 1950s marked an epoch time in our history. So many things changed during those years, that we all, no matter what our age, were affected by those events.

And tonight everyone here can also be considered to be agents of change with your support of the Luhrs Center. We have about 130 in attendance tonight, and we are grateful you were able to join us as we also celebrate our fifth anniversary season.

It is through your generous support that we have had such a remarkable five seasons. We currently have 355 Circle of Friends members, an increase of about 10 percent over the previous year. That increase shows not only the interest in the performing arts here in the Cumberland Valley, but the recognition that the Luhrs Center is THE premier performing arts center in our region. When you look at the wide diversity of programming that we offer, I don't think any other facility in the region can match our schedule.

That schedule is due, in part, to your contributions which help cover some of the production costs associated with these wonderful performances. Your support also helps keep ticket prices affordable so as many people as possible may continue to enjoy these outstanding performances.

I'm also very pleased to announce that the Luhrs Center continues to exceed all our expectations. To date, we have sold out 31 shows, including tonight's performance of "Grease." Since we opened more than a quarter MILLION visitors have been to the facility for performances and the many other activities and events here. These numbers are extraordinary, especially in light of the fiscal challenges throughout the nation. I think people know that money spent on attending a program here, is money very well spent.

Shippensburg University is also pleased to have the continued support of Capital Blue Cross and Boyer and Ritter. These outstanding organizations understand the importance the arts play in our lives and the role the Luhrs Center fulfills in meeting that need. In addition, I'm pleased to announce three new sponsors: Rhoads and Sinon, Members 1st and Salzmann Hughes. And, of course, we want to recognize WITF as one of our media sponsors.

We thank you very much for your partnership with the Luhrs Center and Shippensburg University. Thank you again for being here and for supporting this magnificent facility and this outstanding university!