

A NEWSLETTER FROM

PERFORMING ARTS

FORT WORTH

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# IN THE WINGS



Photograph by Rodger Mallison

## Comments from the CHAIRMAN



ELAINE AGATHER  
*Chairman of the Board*

We are so proud to be celebrating the 20th season of our acclaimed Children's Education Program (CEP)! Many thanks to every one of you who has contributed to our significant success, beginning with our principal partner: the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD). At the very beginning we formed a pact - FWISD promised to send its students to the Hall every year if we provided the programming free of charge. It was the birth of one of the best children's education programs in the country!

In 1998, we hosted 49,320 students, a number that has, over the years, nearly doubled. Today, thanks to our partnership with the FWISD, nearly 70,000 elementary, middle and high school students attend a grade-specific, curriculum-related performance.

FWISD cares so much about this program, the administration has mandated that every student in grades 1-5 will attend a CEP performance each year.

That first season, we started out with matinee performances. In our second year of operation, we added master classes for middle and high school students. We also developed an awards program for outstanding students and teachers. These individuals are recognized yearly at our annual CEP luncheon.

Always looking for the next opportunity to enrich our students, we established Bass Hall Summer Camps nine years ago; the program is still going strong. This summer, guided by a cast of dedicated music educators, hundreds of students will immerse themselves in these camps, sharpening their skills while learning new ones.

In 2006, through a partnership with the Red Oak Foundation, we developed a reading component to CEP. The foundation has generously donated over half a million hardcover books to thousands of FWISD first and second-grade students. CEP volunteers deliver and read these books to students. Finally, the volunteers give all students their own copy of the book to take home.

All of this growth has developed organically, under the CEP leadership of Pat Schutts and Sue Buratto, in conjunction with the steadfast FWISD.

Our success is the result of hundreds of donations from foundations, corporations and individuals, who contribute their time and money to allow students to attend our programs every year. For me, one of the most thrilling aspects of these last two decades is that Fort Worth children now *expect to come to the Hall every year*. They feel they are part of the Hall and the Hall is part of their regular school experience. It's even more wonderful that we have come full circle. Many teachers who grew up coming to the Hall as students are now bringing their students to CEP performances.

We are also grateful to the members of our popular Young Patrons Club (YPC), whose membership dues recently made it possible for nearly 150 middle and high school students to see the Broadway touring production of *On Your Feet! The Emilio & Gloria Estefan Broadway Musical*. To learn more about the YPC and this special event - a wonderful gift from one generation to the next - please see the story on the back page of this newsletter.

My dream is that students who attend CEP performances will grow up to join the Young Patrons Club and, eventually, invest in the future of the Hall for themselves and their children. In its two decades of existence, Bass Hall has already made a lasting contribution to the Fort Worth community. Thank you for your continued support; none of this would be possible without you.

*Elaine*

*In The Spirit of*  
**FORT WORTH**

**D**o you ever walk into Bass Performance Hall and think, "Wow, this place looks just like it did when it first opened"? For those who are visiting for the first time and learn that we opened in 1998, they often say it still looks like new! We smile and say, "Yes it does."

One reason Bass Hall still looks amazing is, of course, the timeless design. The angels that adorn the façade have become icons recognized worldwide, and the interior design, modeled after classic European opera houses, is eternally elegant.

The other factor in the Hall's spectacular appearance is our determination to maintain it at the highest standards. With 350,000 visitors and 250 performances each year, it is an ongoing 24/7 labor of love. Our team makes it seem easy, but the reality is, it takes significant effort and considerable resources to keep our beautiful Bass Hall in excellent condition. The cost of annual operation of Bass Hall is approximately \$6 million. This is for day-to-day operations only, not including the cost of productions on stage.

In addition to the ongoing maintenance of the facilities, we provide our backstage teams with the best equipment available. As with any technology, the equipment used to support live performances changes rapidly and requires continuous upgrades. For these capital items - inside, outside and on stage - we allocate \$1 million to \$1.5 million annually.

Why do we insist on the highest industry standards?

First, there is nothing like the excitement and immediacy of watching a live performance with 2,000 fellow attendees. But even with outstanding productions on stage, the venue must be inviting and comfortable. The whole "experience" must be one that resonates and draws the patron back again and again.

Secondly, if we allow facility maintenance to fall behind, the cost to get back up to standards is even greater. For example, if we wait until the roof leaks, we not only have the roof to replace, but we could have damage well beyond the roof, perhaps even the precious - and irreplaceable - hand-painted angel wings in the dome, which were created by Fort Worth's own Stuart and

Scott Gentling. Therefore, we always consider what is in the best interest of the venue when prioritizing maintenance projects.

Finally, by preserving the beauty of Bass Performance Hall we honor the memory of Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass, whose names adorn the façade. Their support provided for an endowment that helps cover portions of the capital maintenance of the facility. Thanks to their gift, and those of many others, Bass Performance Hall will continue to engage audiences for generations to come.

Speaking of audience engagement, we expect there will be plenty when *Hamilton* comes to the Bass Hall stage next year as part of our blockbuster **2019-2020 Broadway at the Bass** season. This fabulous lineup also includes *Miss Saigon*, *Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Come From Away*, *Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville*, an all-new production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and the return of *The Phantom of the Opera*. In addition, there are three add-on shows: *Blue Man Group*, *The Color Purple* and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*. For more information about this not-to-miss season, please call 817-212-4280 or visit [www.basshall.com](http://www.basshall.com). See you at the theater.

## NOTE from the President



DIONE KENNEDY  
*President & CEO*

*Dione*





Celebrating



20 Years!

Children's Education Program of Performing Arts Fort Worth at Bass Performance Hall



1998-2000

49,320 students and teachers attend 27 programs in the inaugural year of the Children's Education Program.

Wynton Marsalis (pictured below left), an internationally acclaimed jazz musician, composer and bandleader, performs for CEP students.

Stirling Trent (pictured below right), is awarded the inaugural Bayard H. Friedman Award for Outstanding Student in Performing Arts.

2000-01

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, a renowned dance company based in New York, performs for students at Bass Hall, beginning a long-standing relationship with CEP that will grow to include master classes.

2001-02

Leading concert violinist Midori creates and leads a CEP master class. CEP and the Walton Family Foundation establish a partnership to bring students from rural areas to Bass Hall for CEP productions.

2002-03

Cliburn gold medalist Olga Kern performs for CEP students after winning the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

2005-06

The Red Oak Foundation and CEP introduce a literacy component to the program by providing books to local students.



2006-07

Perry R. Bass Fellowship award is established to highlight the achievements of graduate music education students. Above, board member Rebecca Brumley presents Dr. Michael Chandler with the 2016 award.

2009-10

CEP introduces annual Summer Music Camps at Bass Hall, offering intensive training of All-State music for Fort Worth students.

2011-12

Elizabeth Martinez, a student from Washington Heights Elementary, is recognized as the one millionth child to attend a CEP program.

2013-14

A new Summer Music Camp is offered to FWISD students: Percussion Camp. Students take part in workshops, intense practices and, finally, a live performance on the Bass Hall stage.

2014-15

The Cliburn and CEP create the Nancy Lee Bass program for fourth grade students, Van Cliburn: An American Hero, featuring internationally renowned pianist Adam Golka, winner of the 2003-2004 Bayard H. Friedman Award.

2016-17

A camp focusing on technical theater training is added to the summer programs. The FWISD Broadway at the Bass Award is established; Cheryl Penland of Trimble Tech High wins the first award.



2018-19

67,498 students and teachers participate in 44 programs, including a returning favorite, Ellis Island, pictured above. The Red Oak Foundation provides 4,563 books to local students.

CEP VOLUNTEERS

A special thank you to the wonderful CEP volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy by serving the program throughout the past 20 seasons.

Back row left to right: Dianne Kramer, Letba Grace McCoy, Hal Weicht, Larry Goodman, Mary Goodman

Front row left to right: Dave Frick, Barbara Reed, Evelyn Lee, Carolyn Simmons, Joan Burgett, Rosemary Jobe, Dave Huebner

Not pictured: Reva Jean Beck, Kay Byron, Dave Trotter, Lea Lyles







# ANGELS IN THE WINGS

PERFORMING ARTS FORT WORTH gratefully acknowledges the generous donors who support our Children's Education Program at Bass Performance Hall.

Art by Victoria from W.J. Turner Elementary

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# YOUNG PATRONS CLUB

*Paying it Forward*



**T**hanks to our Young Patrons Club (YPC), nearly 150 local middle and high school students were recently treated to a fun, daylong experience at Bass Performance Hall centered around the national touring Broadway show, *On Your Feet!*

Students started off the day at McDavid Studio and Van Cliburn Recital Hall learning the art of salsa dancing, courtesy of DanceMakers of Texas. It was a great way to bring together the students, who were culled from five different school groups. After a lunch break, with sandwiches provided by our friends at Potbelly, students moved over to Bass Hall to attend a performance of *On Your Feet!*, the musical based on the life and music of international superstar Gloria Estefan. Following the show, a half-dozen *On Your Feet!* cast members hosted from the stage a meet-and-greet type of event called a “talkback.” Students were able to ask questions, get autographs and interact with the cast.

This initiative was made possible by the members of our Young Patrons Club. One hundred percent of all YPC membership fees go toward giving K-12 students the opportunity to experience an event such as this – *for free.*

*Photos by Kayce Pulliam*



## BINGO & BREWS 4 A CAUSE

On May 1, YPC members gathered at the Near Southside hangout Brewed to enjoy Bingo & Brews 4 A Cause. Attendees purchased bingo cards for \$10 each, with all proceeds going toward the YPC mission of creating unique education and outreach experiences for local students. For more information on membership and upcoming events, please visit [www.basshall.com/ypc](http://www.basshall.com/ypc).

*Photos by Rachel Parker*

## REMINDERS



- Bass Hall Valet Parking Service begins 90 minutes prior to performances.
- Bass Hall is an ADA accessible venue. Wheelchairs are available upon request.
- Complimentary assisted listening devices are available in the East Portal.
- Audio Description and Sign Interpretation Services are designated for the Saturday Matinee performances. *A two-week advance notice is required.*
- Tours of Bass Hall are available by calling (817) 212-4215.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall is to serve as a permanent home to major performing arts organizations of Fort Worth and as a premier venue for other attractions so as to enhance the range, quality, and accessibility of cultural fare available to the public; to promulgate arts education; and to contribute to the cultural life of Fort Worth, Tarrant County, and the region.

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