

First Fridays Club
December 5, 2008
Arts and Humanities

- **United Fund for the Arts and Humanities, 25th Anniversary Campaign Co-chairs Jan and Tom Brock**
 - UFAH (United Fund for the Arts and Humanities) is an umbrella fundraising organization for 10 local arts and humanities groups (like United Way)
 - History of UFAH
 - United Fund for the Arts was started in 1983 by:
 - George Kirkoff from Trane
 - Jack Moore from Dayton's
 - Manager from the Radisson
 - The group started with six member organizations and they raised \$90,000 that first year (La Crosse Symphony Orchestra, Historical Society, La Crosse Community Theatre, La Crosse Youth Symphony, Great River Folk Festival, and The Pump House)
 - In 1984 major fundraisers were started
 - 1986 - UFA added the Mississippi Valley Archeology Society and changed the name to United Fund for the Arts and Humanities
 - 1989 - La Crosse Boy Choir was added
 - 1994 - Coulee Chordsmen added
 - 1996 - La Crosse Chamber Chorale added
 - 1997 - introduced the current logo (umbrella)
 - The fundraising goal for UFAH this year is \$135,000
 - 93% of the funds are distributed directly to member agencies (federal guidelines are for at least 60% to pass to agencies.)

Member Agencies

- **Coulee Chordsmen**

<http://www.couleechordsmen.com/public/Welcome.html>

The La Crosse Coulee Chordsmen are the local Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBQSA, Inc) for La Crosse, Wisconsin. The Chordsmen have been entertaining local, regional and national audiences since 1948. The chapter of 55 men has a chorus of 35 males of various ages, professions and backgrounds who share the common love of one of America's original musical styles, four part barbershop harmony.

The Barbershop Harmony Society is an international organization of more than 30,000 members from 10 countries committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education and performance. This style of a cappella singing is our hobby.

An award winning chorus, the Coulee Chordsmen has earned first place division honors in 9 of the last 15 years. The chorus ranks in the top 15 of the 60 chapters in the Minnesota - Wisconsin - North Dakota - Central Canadian District.

The Chordsmen have a long history of entertaining audiences throughout Western Wisconsin and Southeastern Minnesota with shows, performances at local festivals, meetings, conventions and benefit concerts.

For membership information, to request our upcoming performance schedule or to book the Coulee Chordsmen or one of its quartets, please call 608-780-SING.

La Crosse Coulee Chordsmen

We welcome all visitors to our Tuesday evening rehearsals. Join us on the risers and sing, or sit in the audience and listen.

Rehearsals Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Harry J Olson Senior Citizens Center,

1607 North Street,

La Crosse, WI

For Additional information Call 608-780-SING

- **Great River Festival of Arts**

<http://www.greatriverfolkfest.org/index.html>

The Great River Folk Festival prides itself on providing a diverse musical environment of traditional, contemporary, and ethnic folk music and dance. Performances, workshops and round robins take place in a relaxed atmosphere that encourages interaction and craft demonstrations provide hands-on participation opportunities. A variety of traditional crafts such as pottery, basketry, jewelry, fiber art, metal art, and woodcrafts are presented by artisans and are available for sale. The children's area provides a wide variety of activities that will entertain, educate and spur the imagination. And an array of natural and ethnic foods is available for the tasting.

The Folk Festival is held in August every year.

Great River Folk Festival

PO Box 1434 La Crosse, WI 54602-1434

Phone: 608-784-3033

Email: grff@juno.com

- **La Crosse Youth Symphony Orchestra**

<http://www.lyso.org/index.asp>

In 1967 Frank J. Italiano brought a group of young musicians together - this was the beginning. Two years later, in 1969, the La Crosse Youth Symphony Society became incorporated. The La Crosse Youth Symphony has grown and changed over the years, but it still has the same purpose today as it did 40 years ago: to give the youth of the area a way to gain valuable musical experience, to obtain different insights into the techniques of their particular instrument from a faculty of professional musicians and teachers, and finally, to give our youth the enjoyment of performing in an orchestra and an appreciation of the arts - whether as a performer, a future teacher or an avid audience participant. In the fall of 1983, the Youth Symphony added the Philharmonic Orchestra. There have been other groups added over the years, such as the Preparatory Stings, the Discovery Orchestra and the Premier Orchestra. Today LYSO has two groups, the Philharmonic Orchestra and the Youth Symphony Orchestra.

LYSO

PO Box 2511

La Crosse, WI 54602-2511

Phone: (608) 788-0159

e-mail: manager@lyso.org

- **Boychoir**

<http://www.lacrosseboychoir.com/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>

The (Charles) Ives Choir is the primary performing and touring choir of the La Crosse BoyChoir, which is comprised of approximately 30 boys who have demonstrated vocal maturity. Generally, boys in the Ives Choir have sang with the BoyChoir for at least two years, pursue more challenging repertoire, and learn vocal techniques that are more advanced. The Ives Choir rehearses once a week for 2.5 hours. The group tours every other year, with an international tour every fourth year.

The (Aaron) Copland Choir is the main concert choir of the La Crosse BoyChoir. Most boys in the Copland Choir are ages 10-12 and are in their second to third year with the BoyChoir. In addition, older boys auditioning for the BoyChoir join this choir. The Copland Choir rehearses once a week for 2 hours. While the Copland Choir historically has not toured, in recent years the choir has traveled locally and throughout the United States.

The (Norman) Dello Joio Choir is the preparatory or training choir and provides an entry point for boys who are new to choral singing. The Dello Joio Choir consists of boys ages 7-8, grades 1-2. Training includes, but is not limited to, group instruction in piano, sight-reading, singing, and voice. The Dello Joio Choir rehearses once a week for 1 hour.

Mailing address

La Crosse BoyChoir

PO Box 186

La Crosse, WI 54602-0186

Phone

608.796.3787

- **Chamber Chorale**

<http://www.chamberchorale.org/index.html>

Founded in 1986, the La Crosse Chamber Chorale is a volunteer, community based choir whose singers are united by a love of choral singing. The Chorale has been led by Paul Rusterholz since 1990. Our staff, singers and Board of Directors are committed to bringing professional quality choral music, artistic excellence and creative programming to the region.

124 South 23rd Street
La Crosse, Wisconsin
608-780-6107

- **La Crosse Community Theatre**

<http://www.lacrossecommunitytheatre.org/home.html>

The La Crosse Community Theatre has been a La Crosse tradition since 1963. We produce seven shows during our September through June season. Our five Mainstage shows include two musicals, two comedies, and a drama. We also produce a two-play Youth Theatre series with children performing for children.

La Crosse Community Theatre is a member of the American Association of Community Theatre and the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre.

La Crosse Community Theatre

P.O. Box 1852
118 Fifth Avenue North
La Crosse, WI 54602-1852
Telephone: (608) 784-9292
Fax: (608) 784-9285

- **La Crosse County Historical Society**

<http://www.lchsweb.org/>

The La Crosse County Historical Society is a local, non-profit historical society interested in preserving the history of the La Crosse area and providing the means to educate the public of our heritage.

LCHS runs the [Hixon House](#), the [Riverside Museum](#) and the [Swarthout Museum](#).

They also host many events, such as the Silent City Cemetery Tours, "A Christmas Carol" miniature display, garden tea parties, bus trips, period re-enactments, and more.

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1272

La Crosse, WI 54602-1272

Email: lchs@centurytel.net

Phone: 608-782-1980

- **La Crosse Symphony Orchestra**

<http://www.lacrossesympphony.org/>

The Coulee Region, including parts of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa, can be very proud of the many cultural organizations that call this area home.

Foremost among those organizations is the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra, Inc. With roots dating back to 1898, the LSO has been serving the cultural needs of this area continuously since 1941. This 2008-09 season marks its 110th year. Music Director, Amy R. Mills, and Executive Director, Connie Knutson, join their energies to bring the LSO family the highest levels of professionalism in both repertoire and management. This 2008-09 concert season marks Maestra Mills 14th anniversary with the LSO. Plan to join us in our celebration.

The mission of the Symphony is "to provide excellent symphonic music for the pleasure of the public in the tri-state region, educate people of all ages in the symphonic repertoire and tradition, and encourage student and professional musicians to develop and share their musical talents and skills."

3217 Commerce St

La Crosse, WI 54603

Phone: 608-783-2121

Fax: 608-783-3121

Email: adminassistant@lacrossesympphony.org

- **Mississippi Valley Archeology Center**
<http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac/index.htm>

The mission of the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center is to provide education about the science of archaeology and the ancient cultures of the upper Mississippi River Valley to the general public, teachers, undergraduate students, and precollegiate students; to conduct research and exploration of archaeological sites and artifacts; to preserve archaeological artifacts of ancient cultures which flourished within the upper Mississippi Valley; and to provide a regional center to promote an understanding of the prior inhabitants of this region.

MVAC at UW-L
1725 State Street
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 785-8463

- **Pump House Regional Arts Center**
<http://thepumphouse.org/>

In 1977 Western Wisconsin Regional Arts obtained the lease to restore and remodel the Pump House for its present use as a regional arts center for the visual and performing arts, and as a meeting and working area for member organizations. In renovating the building WWRA has used woodwork from the old La Crosse Post Office torn down in 1977. The Pump House's intricately-angled wooden ceiling has been preserved as a special feature of the original waterworks building.

On July 29, 1979 the Pump House was designated an historic building and was placed on the State and National Register; in February of 1981, the city of La Crosse authorized a long-term lease with WWRA insuring that the Pump House remain a regional arts center.

In 1995, the name Pump House Regional Arts Center became the official title for the center that had seen so many changes. However, the changes did not stop there. Plans for expansion which included new bathrooms, an elevator, and a kitchen, were started and finished in 1996. In 2007, the Pump House celebrated its 30th anniversary as a regional arts center. Generous community support continues to provide funding for the many diverse programs here at the Pump House Regional Arts Center.