



Performing Arts

Chris Ludwa

EDUCATION | PERFORMING ARTS | RECREATION | WORSHIP



Performing Arts Committee

Performing Arts Committee 2026	Status/Comments
Support PA Director, Staff, and Faculty in implementing programming planned for 2026 summer through feedback and ongoing discussions of trends/opportunities	Committee continues as a helpful sounding board on selection of pops artists, vesper programming, and community feedback. This year in particular, many of them participated in an Unmeeting/Focus Group we held with 22 participants with equal age distribution from 15-80-something. They have also offered qualitative feedback on potential voice faculty hires. Bay View's Steinway Concert Grand Piano is on its last legs and can't stay in tune longer than 5 minutes, so we are looking at opportunities for a new instrument.
Use the 2023 Visioning Goals and Priorities to guide future planning and determine where success can be found and where pivots are needed	The 80/20 rule continues to be a helpful litmus for programming vesper concerts wherein 80% of programming is traditional and 20% are new ideas, repertoire, genres, or presentation styles. Director Housing remains a long-term threat to Performing Arts program as well as an opportunity for a donated unit that would allow for incremental budget costs toward depreciation of such an asset instead of a pricey all-season rental.



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Performing Arts Committee 2026 Priorities (cont'd)	Status/Comments
Continue to search for solutions to address the need for volunteers for the Performing Arts in Bay View including coordinating Performing Arts events and volunteer slots with the Point system and BV Central Office	This is still a challenge with cottagers and volunteers' habits changing. Short-term, one-off opportunities still exist and draw interest, but the software system is only as effective as the word-of-mouth and one-to-one, relational recruitment of volunteers.
Build the Theater Arts Committee volunteer database and update the committee on progress	Ongoing challenge with changing habits. Looking to re-vamp to be focused on single task-based opportunities and not blanket "volunteerism for everything" as in the days of old. We don't see this trend changing with time, so the key is to move in a direction that is in sync with that.
Explore opportunities for cross-promotion and engagement (e.g., with other pillars, marketing, or education) to build interest in new programming	Some 2027 ideas already being developed around a theme week. Wind coordinator did not do Music and Munchies this year. Will consider reviving this in 2027. Received an excellent briefing on BV's Marketing activities. Very impressive promotion of Performing Arts and all of Bay View.



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Performing Arts Committee 2026 Priorities (cont'd)	Status/Comments
Respond to shifts in generational habits and trends and use this info to continue to experiment with new programs that are sustainable	Recruitment of students in instrumental areas remains strong and growing in quality of the applicants. Vocal programs have increasing competition and decreased financial means for students, so we continue to look at other programs around the country and how to better advertise what we do and attract faculty who are not just great teachers and performers, but who also will draw students to our programs.
Continue the goal of Introducing 20% new and different programming for 8-Week Assembly while continuing the other 80% as the traditional classical and popular genres to which Bay View is accustomed	This continues apace with good success. Response to vesper program has been very positive, except for the sound system, which seems to be in need of replacement. We tried a new incubator in 2026 for creating tribute/cover bands for nostalgic music to solid financial success and moderate to high artistic success, with some tweaks needed for long-term viability of this kind of program (example was the Fleetwood Mac show in June 2026).



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Performing Arts Committee 2026 Priorities (cont'd)	Status/Comments
Nurture and expand network of supporters/stakeholders for PA to include a more diverse cross-section of the population in Little Traverse Bay region who may connect with the Chautauqua programming in general	The Un-meeting in July 2026 and ongoing partnership with Great Lakes Center for the Arts on the opera, along with recruitment of volunteers for PA committee that have local, year-round ties remains an emphasis.
Work with Development to develop and communicate goals for Planned Giving toward Scholarship Endowment (Ultimate Goal: 8 million endowment). With the oncoming shift in generational wealth, this is a short-term opportunity and a long-term threat to the sustainability of the conservatory model	This remains a focus and an important goal. The achievement of a major foundation gift toward American Spirituals Intensive was a huge success in 2026. While it doesn't grow the endowment, it does relieve financial pressure on students wanting to attend.



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Other 2026 Accomplishments

Voice Faculty Search: 6 candidates under review for future employment

Music Man: over 1300 attendees, high production values, and great community involvement and support.

Don Giovanni: highly successful, beautiful production with a great experience for our singers and audience alike.

New Pops Tribute Band Incubator partnership with Univ. of Michigan

One sold out concert for Straight No Chaser (they will not be touring in summer after 2026)

Boogie Wonderband had over 700 in audience and over 50 people who danced for 94 minutes straight.

Exceptionally high artistic performances at vesper by faculty and students each week to audience acclaim.

Continued composer-in-residence program with Tony Patterson with multiple world premieres in Bay View.

Plans for FY 2027

- New sound system in Hall
- Possible new or used Steinway Concert Grand replacement



Performing Arts

Thank you to committee members

Chair: Don Duquette

Bill van der Have

Jennifer Atkinson

Kitty Gonzalez

Stan Sutton

Jeff Dauler

Liaison to LRPC: Martha Gray Horn

Trustee Liaison: Barbara Dau

Erin Ivey

Kathy Hartman

Jennifer Bolton

Joe Lupinacci

Bill Stelling



Performing Arts

Thank you to staff who provided us with much needed support

Michelle Hansen

Annie Montagne

Noah Suarez

Theresa Harrington