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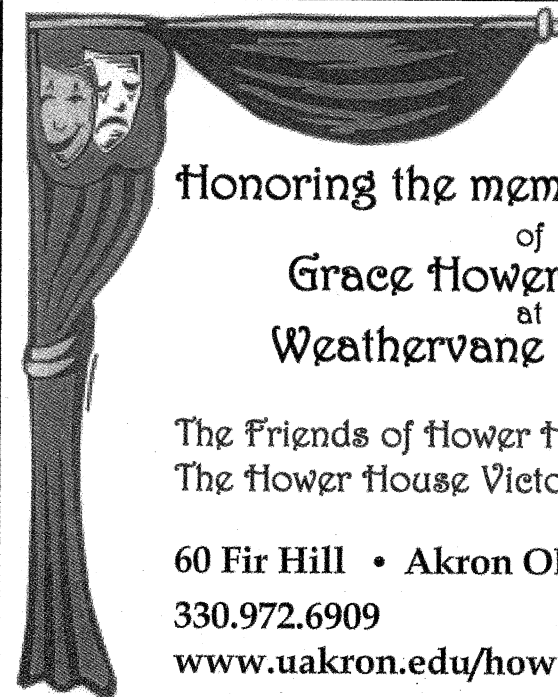


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A Brief History of Weatherovane Playhouse

From the "barn" to Copley Road to the Valley...

Weatherovane Community Playhouse began its run in 1935. Four artistically talented Woman's City Club members -- Grace Hower Crawford, Muriel MacLachlan, Laurine Schwan, Helen Troesch -- and a core of charter members rented the empty carriage house belonging to Akron's Senator Charles Dick. Their goal was to present a wide spectrum of plays: classics, dramas, comedies, new works -- even opera -- with casting open to anyone who fit a part.

The women chose a carnival as their fundraiser to start paying the rent. Despite a drenching downpour, they raised \$60. They named their space "Weatherovane" after the rooster on the barn's cupola. After cleaning their new home, scrounging for seats, a curtain and a coffee pot, Weatherovane opened its first season. During that summer of 1935 the group presented seven fully costumed and staged plays. In 1936, Muriel MacLachlan with the other founders offered classes to children and adults, beginning a tradition that has become today's Education Department. In 1938 a Women's Board was formed to offer volunteer financial assistance. It, too, continues to this day.

The "barn" was home until it was sold. In 1951 the Playhouse purchased a cement block building at 1471 Copley Road and renovated it for a theater with seating capacity of 125. The all-volunteer organization hired its first employee, Nora Scott, as custodian/ticket manager. Actual management of the Playhouse was handled by the Operating Board, which reported to the Board of Trustees. Because directors were becoming scarce, the Board hired Bob Belfance as full-time Manager/Director. He held the position from 1961-69 and from 1974-92. During the Copley Road days, plays were presented six days a week. Because of their popularity, not everyone who wanted to see a show could be accommodated. A new home was planned. During the 1960s the membership's plans came together in June 1970 with the opening of *Dark of the Moon* here on Weatherovane Lane. Longtime friend and founder Grace Hower Crawford died in 1971, remembering the Playhouse in her will. Her money enabled the Board to pare down the mortgage and set up an Endowment Fund. The last mortgage payment was made in 1974 through a contribution of the Women's Board. Three major additions followed; these included first-floor restrooms, classrooms, a costume shop, fly gallery and elevator. The former scene shop became the John L. Dietz Theater/Classroom in 2005 and the lobby project was just completed for the opening of the 75th season.

Weatherovane's Legacy Society

Your Legacy Gift to Weatherovane can be as simple as including the playhouse in your will, establishing a life insurance policy or trust, or making the theater a beneficiary of your retirement savings plan.

For more details contact John Hedges at 330-836-2626, ext. 13

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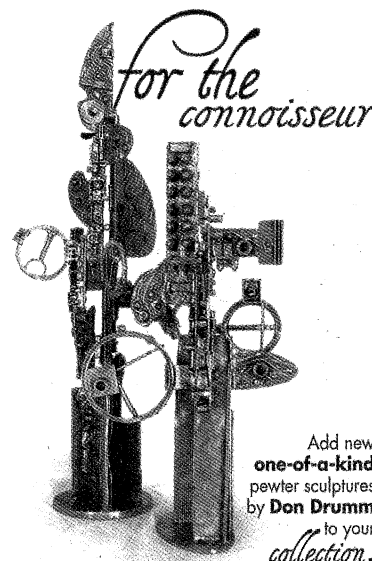
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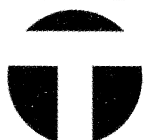
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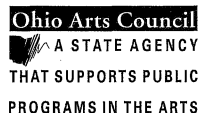
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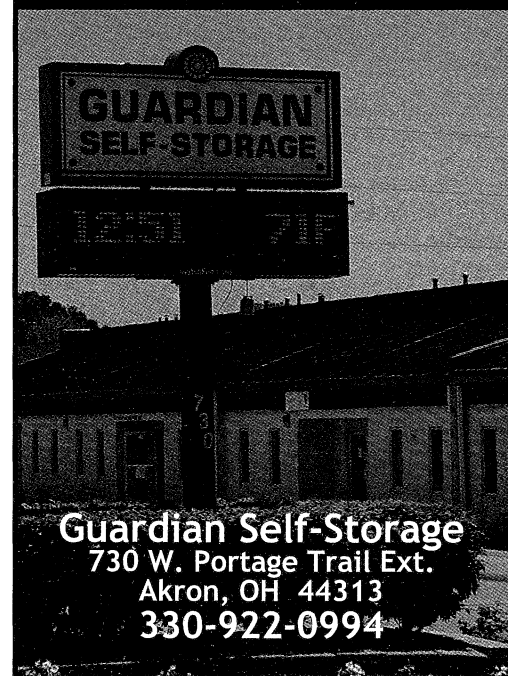
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From Our Executive Director

The Season of Giving

As we enter the holiday season and that time of year when nonprofits are soliciting end-of-the-year donations, we who are doing the asking are faced with the inevitable and often times overlooked question; why should anyone want to give away their hard-earned money to my organization? Essentially put, what is the value my organization provides that is so important that someone should give money to it?

In a recent study by economists from New York University's Stern School of Business, companies that give to charities earn back \$6 for every \$1 donated. The study concluded by saying "in business terms, sponsoring or contributing to a good cause can be as easily justified as research and development, capital expenditures or marketing campaigns." For a company, contributing to a nonprofit organization can not only be a nice thing to do, but it can be good business as well.

But what about for the individual – the average person who works hard to make ends meet – why should they give?

The answer to that question lies in the veracity of our mission: Weathervane Playhouse exists to enrich the quality of life in Northeast Ohio by providing life-enhancing artistic experiences and to engender greater understanding, empathy and tolerance in our community. Theater at its best is a place where we can come together as a community to experience a shared sense of our own humanity – in addition to being entertained. In an age where technology is driving us further apart, that simple act of coming together to reconnect with what makes us all more alike than different is an increasingly rare and important act – and one that can reverberate in positive ways throughout our community.

When I came to Weathervane five years ago I asked people to tell me their stories about the theater and what it meant to them. I received an overwhelming number of responses including this one:

"As I became more involved at Weathervane, the sense that something was 'missing' from my life vanished. What I found wasn't just a great creative outlet, but truly a new extension of my family. Weathervane has amazing energy."

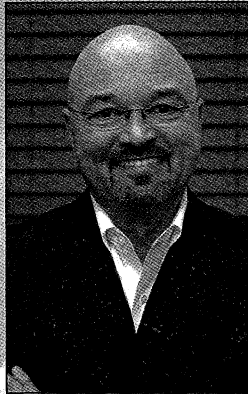
This and countless other stories like it are the reason why Weathervane is worthy of your support – because we are literally changing and improving lives every day.

I hope you will consider giving to Weathervane Playhouse this holiday season, either as a tax-deductible contribution or by purchasing one or more of our coupon ticket books for yourself or as gifts. In so doing you will be supporting a nonprofit that may not help people with the means to live, but you'll surely be assisting an organization that gives people a reason to live.

I wish you all a happy and blessed Holiday Season and New Year.

Sincerely,

John Hedges
Executive Director



Weathervane

— PLAYHOUSE —

78th Season -- 2012-2013 -- Production #560
November 29 - December 22, 2012

Jacob Marley's

Christmas CAROL

By Tom Mula

Directed by Larry Nehring

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Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol is produced by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., 440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016.

Weathervane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, OH 44313-5186
Ticket Office: 330-836-2626 • Fax: 330-873-2150 • weathervaneplayhouse.com



About the Play and Its Production History

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol is a comic re-imagining of Charles Dickens' Christmas classic – told from the point of view of Jacob Marley, who was Ebenezer Scrooge's business partner. Four actors – three men and one woman – portray all the characters that we know and love from this perennial favorite, and a few more characters are thrown in for good measure as well.

"Marley was dead, to begin with." These are the famous words that begin Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. But what happens to Scrooge's mean, old cohort after that? This is the jumping-off point for *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*, which reveals that Marley has been condemned to a hellish eternity. He soon learns that the only way to escape his chains of damnation is to first redeem Scrooge. Slightly irreverent, cleverly funny and deeply moving, *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* takes audiences on a highly theatrical journey of laughter and terror, with redemption and renewal as the ultimate destination.

Writer/actor Tom Mula first conceived *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* as a short novel, which was published in 1995 by Adams Media. After National Public Radio broadcast the audio version of the book for nationwide radio audiences during the Christmas season, Mula adapted his novel into a one-man show for the stage. This play version, starring Mula in all the roles, opened at Chicago's Goodman Theatre in December 1998 and was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award (the Chicago theater community's version of the Tony Awards). The play also received the Cunningham Prize from the Goodman School of Drama at DePaul University. *The Chicago Tribune* called the play "great fun, an audience pleaser filled with laughs and capped with, of course, a happy ending." Next, Mula re-worked his play for four actors (which is the version Weathervane Playhouse is presenting). The four-man version of the play premiered at the Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival in November 2001. Since then, it has received hundreds of productions nationally and worldwide, including productions in South Africa and Australia.

About the Playwright

TOM MULA has for the past 30 years worked in the Chicago area as an award-winning actor, director, playwright, makeup artist and winner of the Joseph Jefferson Award ("The Jeff") for *The Golem* and *Sylvia's Real Good Advice*.

Some of Mr. Mula's acting credits include *The Hot Mikado* at Drury Lane Theatre, for which he received an After Dark Award and a Joseph Jefferson Award; Lawrence in Christine Thatcher's *Emma's Child*; the Fool in *King Lear*; Richard III, Caliban, Bottom, Feste, Malvolio, and Prospero; another award-winning solo turn in *The Circus of Dr. Lao*; and seven seasons (over 400 performances) as the Goodman Theatre's Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. His directing credits include Jeff nominations for *Porch* and *A Life*, and the world premiere of Larry Shue's last play, *Wenceslas Square*, in Chicago and at the Queens' Festival in Belfast.

Mula was Artistic Director of the Oak Park Festival Theatre for seven years, directing or appearing in *As You Like It*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest*, *Richard III*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and his own adaptations of *Dr. Faustus* and *Henry IV* (parts I and 2), titled *Falstaff*. Mula has spent 15 summers at Peninsula Players in Door County Wisconsin, where he has directed productions of *Amadeus*, *The Lion in Winter*, *Red Herring* and *Greetings*, among others. He has appeared there in *Cabaret*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Art* and far too many farces.

Mr. Mula holds a B.F.A. degree from the University of Illinois and has taught in the theater department at Columbia College in Chicago for more than 20 years, most of them as an artist-in-residence. There, he has directed *Tartuffe* and co-directed *Ragtime*, *Macbeth* and *Romeo and Juliet* with Sheldon Patinkin.

Source of this biographical sketch:

<http://www.colum.edu/Academics/Theater/faculty/thomas-mula.php>

A Memorial donation was made in memory of
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by Shelley & Tom Koutnik



Cast

Actor 1	Larry Nehring* Jacob Marley, Christmas Past, Christmas Present, A Boy, Young Marley
Actor 2	Brian Kenneth Armour Bogle, A Little Girl
Actor 3	Jason Bryan Maurer Scrooge, Young Scrooge, A Damned Soul
Actor 4	Bethany Stahlner Record Keeper, Fessiwig, A Damned Woman, Fred, Cratchit, Dick Wilkins, Marley's Father, The Shadow

*The actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Time: London, in Dickens' time.
The action is continuous.

There will be ONE fifteen-minute intermission.

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- ♦ Be sure your cell phone/BlackBerry is turned off again after intermission when appropriate.
- ♦ If you are using an Assistive Listening headset, please turn off your hearing aids to avoid feedback.
- ♦ NO PHOTOS inside the theater.
- ♦ Unwrap cough drops or mints before the performance begins.

For Your Safety...

- ♦ We request that you remain seated until the house lights have come up at intermission and after the curtain call.
- ♦ NOTE: In case of an emergency in which the performance cannot continue, Calamity Vouchers will be issued for a future performance. Thank you.



About Our Director



LARRY NEHRING (Director) has been in Northeast Ohio for nearly two decades and is thrilled to be directing his third show at WeatherVane! In addition to directing *Much Ado about Nothing* and *Children of a Lesser God* here, Larry has worked at nearly every theatre company in the area acting, directing, choreographing combat, or sign interpreting. Most recently he was Baron VonTrapp at Porthouse, appeared in *The Seafarer* at Dobama, coached puppets for Cain Park's *Avenue Q*, and choreographed sword fights for Cleveland School of the Arts' *Cyrano*. His film/TV work

includes various commercials, *American Splendor*, *7 Nights of Darkness*, and *The War that Made America* and his playwrighting career is just starting to gain momentum. Check back later for more news.... He studied at the National Theatre Institute and is a proud member of Actor's Equity, SAG/AFTRA, and the Dramatists Guild.

Director's Notes

There is reason why certain stories capture our attention and our hearts long after the writer has passed and even the world of the tale has become a quaint memory. Dickens created many such classics but none are quite so enduring as *A Christmas Carol*. The tale of selfishness and redemption has been remade many times: adapted by Dr. Seuss, updated with Bill Murray, and even Patrick Stewart used to perform a one-man retelling of Scrooge's adventure. It even goes beyond the limits of the Christian traditions of the holiday season and applies to all people, whether they believe in one particular faith or none. It truly has become a classic lesson for the world. I had never given a thought to the extraordinary feat that Jacob Marley's spirit accomplishes from across the grave until I read this adaptation by Tom Mula. We know so little about Scrooge's business partner in Dickens' story, and yet we see that he, alone, set in motion the spiritual trials that would rekindle the cold heart of the infamous miser. The real hero of the story is Marley, not Scrooge.

The play you are about to see is not a grand performance. It is simple storytelling; four actors will paint the stage with the magic of Marley's journey... things Scrooge never knew happened behind the scenes. We don't have a set, we have only hints of costumes (we are fully clothed, don't worry!) and sound and lights will back us up, but its just the cast up on the stage sharing a story of wonder and magic. So many holiday shows are about the spectacle of the production and often we forget the real heart of the story. We hope that you will come along and share with us as we tell the tale of holiday redemption.

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Lisa Mansfield
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lmansfield@weathervaneplayhouse.com



Cast Biographies



LARRY NEHRING (Actor 1)
See director bio



BRIAN KENNETH ARMOUR (Actor 2) has been in past WeatherVane productions, such as *Children of A Lesser God*, *Ragtime* and *Intimate Apparel*. He's very excited to be returning to

the stage after being in NYC for the past few years working as a music producer. He has begun to spend more time in his hometown, in an effort to develop his own production company that cooperates with local artists and establishments. Brian thanks John Hedges for his continued support as he grows as an actor. He also thanks Larry Nehring, and the entire cast for creating a wonderful atmosphere that has led to yet another fantastic experience working at WeatherVane.



JASON BRYAN MAURER (Actor 3) is pleased to be making an appearance on stage in this production. He has been a stage manager, lighting designer, assistant stage manager and actor here at WeatherVane Playhouse. Jason is also a two-time Chanticleer Award winner including his award as Top Volunteer for the 2011-2012 season and as stage manager for the Best Production of 2011-2012, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. He thanks his family and Larry for giving him this opportunity.



BETHANY STAHLER (Actor 4) is a New Jersey native and moved to Ohio in 2007. She recently graduated from Kent State University with a B.A. degree in American Sign Language and a dual minor in Education and Psychology. Bethany is currently working as American Sign Language substitute teacher at Cleveland Heights University.



Creative Team Biographies



MICHELLE CONNER (Stage Manager) is excited to be stage managing for the very first time here at WeatherVane. She fondly remembers running sound for *Blithe Spirit* back in 1998. Since then, she has designed sound for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2003), *Last Night of Ballyhoo* (2009) and *A View from the Bridge* (2011). She was our assistant stage manager for *See How They Run* last season. Michelle currently works at Alcon Tool Company of Akron and loves to spend time with her family, friends and her dog, Cordelia. She thanks everyone at WeatherVane Playhouse for entrusting her with this honor.



WILLIAM MORGAN (Sound Designer) is the Artistic Manager for The Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center, where he controls the day-to-day activities of SignStage, a deaf awareness program within the Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing department. Bill directed our Dietz production of *Three Tall Women* last season. In addition to directing for many local community theatres, Bill is a specialist at adapting mainstream children's stories into "Deaf Theatre" plays that highlight deaf characters and cultural

conflicts. You may have seen him acting in a PBS mini series titled *KC and The Kidd*, where he played the lead role of The Kidd. In 2009, Bill was nominated for the State of Ohio Governor's Award as Outstanding Arts Administrator.

JASEN J. SMITH (Costume Designer) joined the WeatherVane professional staff in August 2008 as its Resident Costume Designer and Costume Shop Manager. Since then, he's designed costumes for such WeatherVane productions as *Children of Eden*, *Bloody Murder*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, among others. His

co-design credits include *Putting it Together* (with Adam Thatcher) and *Man of La Mancha* (with Hedy Jones), the latter of which earned him and his collaborator the Chanticleer Award for best costume design of the 2008-2009 season. He also won the 2009 Marquee Award for best costume design from the Youngstown Area Community Theatre Association for his work on WeatherVane's *Children of Eden*. His other regional costume-design credits include Porthouse Theatre, Case Western Reserve University and Ohio Light Opera (*Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado*, *Robin Hood* and *The Merry Widow*).



Creative Team Biographies ~ continued



ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic/Properties Designer) began at Weathervane as a backstage volunteer under the tutelage of the late John R. Thomas. This is Scott's 16th season as a Weathervane staff member. Other design work includes Cuyahoga Falls High School, The Players Guild of Canton, Cleveland Signstage Theatre and Western Reserve Public Media (PBS-TV Channels 45/49). At Weathervane, Scott has earned seven Chanticleer Awards -- one as the stage manager for *Fences*; one each for his lighting designs for *The Laramie Project*,

A Lesson Before Dying and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; and one each for his co-lighting designs for *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Full Monty* and *Man of La Mancha*. In his spare time, Scott has written three one-act children's plays that tour local schools: *Two Swords, a Bag of Marbles and a PB & J*, *The Mystery of the Missing Robot* and *How the Bee Learned to Spell: A Fable*. He also takes great pleasure in writing the end-of-the-season revue for the Not-Ready-for-Mainstage Players, who appear at Weathervane's annual Chanticleer Awards banquet. He was the recipient of the 2012 Trustees Award.



Production Team

Alan Scott Ferrall -- Technical Director
Kathy Kohl -- Assistant Technical Director

SET CONSTRUCTION

Ruth Richardson
John Tynan
Kevin Ford
Roger Dieringer
Joe Hunter
Erin Katz Ford

COSTUMES

Jasen J. Smith
Diantha Seibert
Carol Smith
Ann Lyman

LIGHTS

Nina DiSalvo
Nikki Rafferty
Anthony Kenney

SOUND

Michael Cranston

PROPERTIES

John Tynan
Erin Rose Coplin
Joe Hunter

Thanks to Our Hard-Working Volunteers

The following are the dedicated volunteers who have assisted us recently.

Alyce Altwies
Stacy Bechtel
Gail & Leonard Cheslock
Wendy Cooley
Steve Davis
Margaret Dietz
Helen Fleming

William Fortunato
Janis Gallagher
Marilyn Heagerty
Nancy Mahoney
Erin McCreight
Sheila Motter
John O'Neill

Marci Paolucci
Lucy Randles
Ruth Richardson
Pearl Sentelik
Sue Smith
Jacqui Sukie
Barbie Trotter

Verna VanderKooi
Helen Vari
Parents of the "Joseph"
cast

JOHN HEDGES, Executive Director

Mr. Hedges is currently in his sixth season as Executive Director of Weathervane Playhouse. He has enjoyed an award-winning career as both a producer and an actor. In the spring of 2012, John received critical acclaim for his portrayal of Michael in the Cleveland premiere of *God of Carnage* at Dobama Theatre. Prior to coming to Weathervane, he spent ten years in the Resident Acting Company at the historic Barter Theatre in Virginia where he performed in over sixty shows. Other acting credits include performances at Broadway's Town Hall, the Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles, the Indiana Repertory Theatre, the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville and the American Stage Festival in New Hampshire where he appeared opposite Academy Award-winner Olympia Dukakis in *The Cherry Orchard*. Film work: *Freedom* (Best Supporting Actor, SA International Film Festival). John has been Managing Director of First Stage Milwaukee, Associate Producer of North Shore Music Theatre, Business Director of Gloucester Stage Company, and General Manager of New York's Pearl Theatre Company. Mr. Hedges is a member of Actors' Equity Association, has served on the Board of Directors of Boston's StageSource, has been a Conference Panelist for the American Alliance for Theatre & Education, and written for American Theatre magazine. He studied at Indiana State University, the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Delaware, is a graduate of the National Shakespeare Conservatory and holds an honorary MFA in theatre from Stafford University. He is a graduate of Leadership Akron (Class XXV).

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paella • appellation • discover • satay • heirloom
Monte Cristo • mesquite • bergamot • Farmhouse
Apple Brown Betty • shuck • filé • kuchen
schmear • shoofly pie • roast • haba
• savouries • tandoori • br • it
drizzle • toad-in-the-hole •
• littleneck • capsicum •
bouillabaisse • charcuterie
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Leave Your Legacy at Weathervane

Weathervane's Legacy Society is only about a year old and already we have a growing number of people who have told us they are planning to remember Weathervane in their estates in the years to come.

What better way to carry on your tradition of support to Weathervane than by a planned gift. By taking advantage of the tax laws which encourage charitable giving, the U.S. Government will share in the cost of your gift to Weathervane. Your gift can fulfill a specific purpose or project while providing your estate with tax savings.

To help ensure that Weathervane will continue and, if you would like to have your name added to our Legacy Society, please contact John Hedges at 330-836-2626 or jhedges@weathervaneplayhouse.com.



In the Harris Family Gallery

From Crouse Elementary School, we have art work created by third grade students from the classrooms of Terri Hudson, Theresa DeShane and Julia Spangler with Miss Erica Flemmer, the Art Teacher for all the students. This year marks the 11th anniversary of the special relationship that exists between Crouse Elementary School and Weathervane Playhouse. The students/artists and their teachers are invited guests to a daytime performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. After the show, they are invited onstage to have their picture taken with the cast. They are then treated to a reception in the lobby. Our thanks to the students and teachers for the artwork that has been provided for this show!

Chanticleer Awards, August 2013

Keep track of your favorites! If you see all six mainstage shows, OR the Dietz and Holiday shows OR all three Young Actor productions, you will be able to cast your vote at the end of the season in the following categories:

Sound Design, Lighting Design, Properties Design, Lead Actor -- play & musical, Supporting Actor -- play & musical, Lead Actress -- play & musical, Supporting Actress -- play & musical, Best Production, Youth production, Technical Element, Dietz and Holiday production, Technical element, Actor & Actress performances in Dietz & Holiday production.

Weathervane's "Thank You Dollar" Program

If you've enjoyed your experience at Weathervane, we ask that you please consider giving a "Thank You Dollar" as you exit the theater. (You'll see a contribution box near the lobby's exit doors.)


As you probably know, earned income accounts for only 65% of our total expenses. The plain fact is, if each Weathervane patron gave just \$1 extra after each show, we would be able to meet our goal for Individual Contributions! Won't you show your appreciation of this performance with a "Thank You Dollar" after the show?

And now, your "Thank You Dollars" go even further. For every dollar you give, the H. Peter Burg Fund of Akron Community Foundation will match it one to one, thus doubling your contribution!

Guide:

Thank You \$1
Applause! \$2
Cheer!! \$3
Bravo!!! \$4 AND MORE!

On behalf of all of us here at Weathervane, I thank you for your support.
Sincerely,


John Hedges, Executive Director

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September 15, 2012

RHAPSODY IN BLUE
October 13, 2012

GLORIA!
November 10, 2012

ROMEO AND JULIET
January 19, 2013

BACH'S BRANDENBURGS
February 9, 2013

PASTORALE SYMPHONY
March 2, 2013

RITE OF SPRING
with GroundWorks
DanceTheater
April 13, 2013

2012-2013 SEASON

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CLASSICS | POPS | SPECIALS

POPS

THE MUSIC OF ABBA
with ARRIVAL from Sweden
October 25, 2012

HOLIDAY POPS
December 13, 2012

SHOWER THE PEOPLE:
THE MUSIC OF JAMES TAYLOR
April 20, 2013

SPECIALS

GOSPEL MEETS SYMPHONY
20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
February 23, 2013

**AKRON SYMPHONY
CHORUS CONCERT**
May 19, 2013

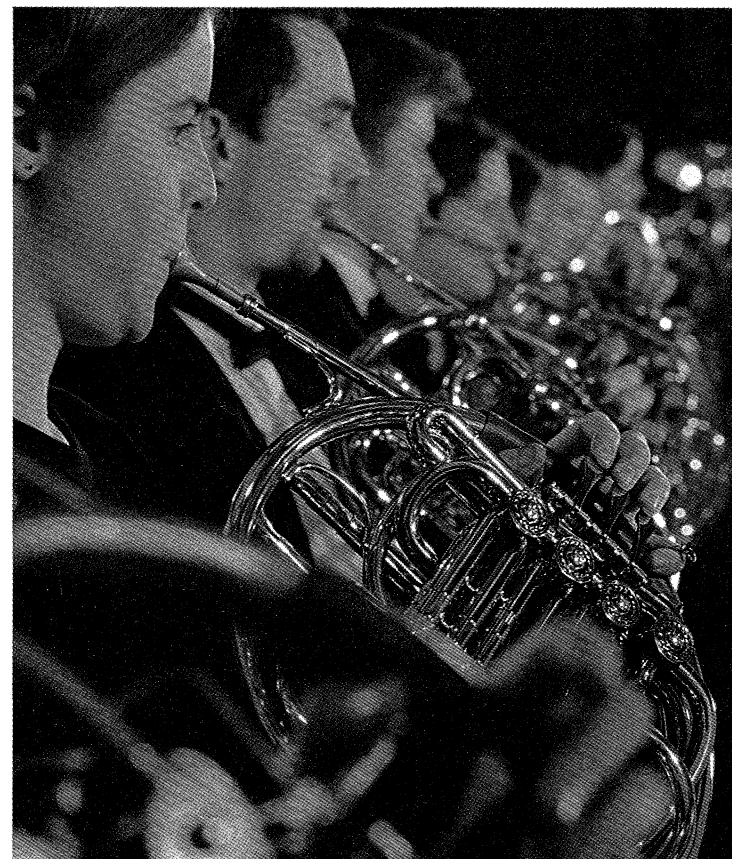


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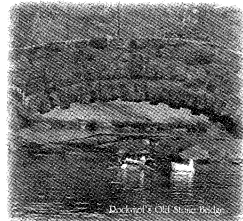
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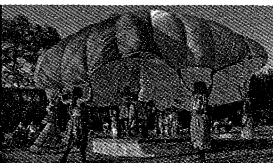
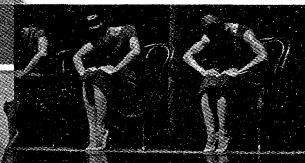
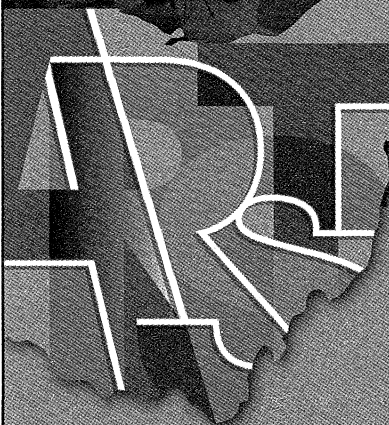
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