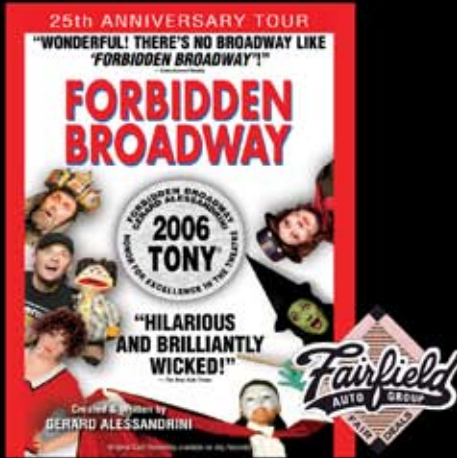


MARCH LINE UP



Saturday, March 6th at 7:30pm
Ticket Prices: \$25 & \$20
Student Price: \$5



**COMMUNITY
ARTS CENTER**

220 W. 4th Street Williamsport
 800-432-9382/ www.caclive.com



Heart of the Mountain

Early (Song) Birds

Patricia Brown Davis

What? Start your day with live entertainment? Most of us allow ourselves this treat only on evenings or weekends. And what if it was free? Seem unreal? Then unreal it's been for the past seventy-five years in Wellsboro.

I remember the Wednesday Morning Musicales from my high school days. They've had a lasting effect on us lovers of music over the years. As students, we were sometimes invited to perform for them, and they gave awards to outstanding seniors in instrumental and vocal music.

Wanting to share their efforts for the enjoyment of all, they invite the public to attend their monthly gatherings at no charge. Members, however, are asked to pay the minimal yearly dues of \$10—which goes toward the high school awards and an honorarium to the professional and amateur musicians who perform each month. Most performances are now held at the Gmeiner Art and Cultural Center during mid-morning and finish well before lunch.

This month the Musicales are highlighting their seventy-five-year history. Begun in the fall of 1934 by a group of eight women who performed for each other, it has expanded over the years to include men and those who just want to listen to good music.

Some of us are old enough to remember those original visionaries: Mercedes Dunham, Helen Fink, Lida Green, Rosa Hamilton, Helen Jorgensen, Mildred Rockwell, Rebecca Shove, and Alma Webster. Some of the founders were also instrumental in the organization of the

still ongoing Wellsboro Community Concert Association. In addition to the club awards they gave out, some early members also individually supported students like me, giving monetary awards for specific abilities in musical excellence, like my "Mid" Rockwell Outstanding Pianist award. Rosa Hamilton also gave a yearly award to an outstanding vocalist. Later, as a music teacher, I was gratified to present their awards to my own students.



Five of the charter members of the Wednesday Morning Musicales in 1974. Front (L to R): Alma Webster, Mercedes Dunham, Lida Green. Standing (L to R): Helen Jorgensen, Rosa Hamilton. (Reprinted with permission of the Wellsboro Gazette.)

Programs this year included: Mike Galloway and his trumpet students from Mansfield University; Charlie Jacobson singing Lerner & Lowe; Judith Giddings and her Appalachian mountain dulcimer; and Ed Clute, jazz pianist from Watkins Glen. Celia Finestone on harp and keyboard

will be coming in April.

In honor of this diamond year, remarkable secretarial reports—sometimes highly humorous historical anecdotes—have been shared with the audience, often showing how the Musicales evolved to change with the times. But the original mission of good music and youth support has never wavered. Congratulations, Musicales!

WHAT: Wednesday Morning Musicales Celebrates 75 Years

WHEN: March 10, 10:15 a.m.

WHERE: Gemeiner Art and Cultural Center, 134 Main Street, Wellsboro

INFORMATION: For more information, call 570-659-5584, e-mail jacobson@epix.net, or pick up a brochure at the Gemeiner.

Patricia Brown Davis is a professional musician and memoirist seeking stories about the Wellsboro glass factory. Contact her at patd@mountainhomemag.com.