

Introducing:



STARS Director, Nancy Powers

Wearing two hats at the Soo Theatre, Nancy teaches violin, viola and cello and serves as Director of STARS.

A newcomer to the area, Mrs. Powers has taught strings in public and private schools in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Nancy has also worked in arts administration for community arts schools in suburban Chicago and western Michigan.

She plays violin with both Marquette and Sault Symphony Orchestras.

Nancy holds a bachelor of music education degree from University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, and a master of music education degree from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Welcome, Nancy!



Theatre Store—Shopping Ideas:

Stop by the STARS office, 534 Ashmun St., and pick up a beautiful, spacious **tote-bag** with the STARS logo (below). And how about a beautiful **coffee mug**, and high-quality **t-shirts** with our “Bring Back the Lights” Soo Theatre logo? Get a gift certificate; give the gift of lessons to a special person in your life. Give a **donation to the theatre in the name of a loved one** whom you wish to honor! See enclosed donor sheet.



SOO THEATRE PROJECT, INC.

534 Ashmun St.
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783-1908
906-632-1930
www.sootheatreproject.org
sootheatre@lighthouse.net
STARS@lighthouse.net

Take 3—Action!

STARS is Born

The first renovation phase of the Soo Theatre Project is complete. Soo Theatre Arts Resource Studios (STARS) opened in September. There are now over 175 students of all ages taking classes and private lessons in dance, theatre, Yoga, violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp, flute, voice, and piano in downtown Sault Ste. Marie! Teachers in the fine and performing arts now have a place to teach besides their homes. And students who have had to go to Canada to get training can now take lessons right here. STARS has already shown a need for more classes in the arts in this area. And STARS is bringing in money to cover some operating expenses for the Soo Theatre Complex.

STARS is providing a place for talented people to come together, exchange ideas, and plan more opportunities for students

Please turn to inside ➡

to learn and have fun with the arts. More and more people are getting involved. A youth string orchestra is beginning, and there is talk of a youth chorus, children's theater, programs for elders, creative arts classes and workshops. STARS is an exciting place to be!

The studios were built with volunteer labor. The monies came from the Cool Cities Initiative grant of \$100,000 and local contributors to the "Bring Back the Lights" campaign. Thanks to many volunteers who put in thousands of hours and thousands of dollars, we now have two music studios, a dance studio, two restrooms, and a space that will become "Peter's Place" (named for restaurateur Peter Gianakura, who for decades operated The American Café in that space)—a limited menu eatery where the old café once was. Part of that space is presently an office for STARS, until there is more space.

The restrooms and café are accessible to the theatre lobby, so will eventually serve a dual function. All of these spaces have up-to-date heating, wiring and plumbing, and a warm, inviting atmosphere. Come in to visit the studios. We are open from 10 a.m. until evening most weekdays. Call 632-1930 before you come, if you would like to make sure someone is there to show you around.

The Curtain Has Gone Up Because the Wall Is Down

Actually, there is no curtain, yet! But

that didn't stop over 1,200 people from enjoying two different performances in the theatre in August! There was excitement in the air as a variety of local musicians performed in "Bringing Back the Lights," and actors from Sault Community Theater put on "Time Capsule: Sault Ste. Marie," a play written by Steve Welch for the 150th celebration of the Soo Locks. All of this was just a taste of what will happen once the theatre is open all year round.

The work to get the walls down and fix up the theatre for the performances was done with volunteer labor, thousands of dollars of valuable in-kind services, and local people contributing to the "Curtain Can't Go Up Until the Wall Comes Down" and the "Bring Back the Lights" campaigns.

What's Next

Opening "Peter's Place"—or at least part of it! Performances in the theatre next summer! Both of these will earn some money to keep the building operating until enough money comes through to put heat in the auditorium and upstairs. The marquee needs fixing! People are working on grants, and local campaigns to accomplish all this. Once there is heat in the whole building, we will be able to work year round and perhaps have events going on in the theatre. The organs can be installed. The ideas for what can happen are endless! Future plans call for a larger dance/multi-purpose room, music and art studios and offices to replace the upstairs apartments. Demolition in the upstairs will be starting soon, in an effort to get it ready

for future construction.

Thank You

Thank you to the hundreds of people who have given money and in-kind services, and who have lent their time and expertise to the Project. Without you we would not be where we are today. There is LOTS more to do. Soo Theatre Project is counting on your continued support.

How You Can Help

✓ Join our "*Bring Back the Lights*" campaign—an ongoing fund raising effort. Pledge over a number of years or make a one-time donation. A donor sheet is in this flyer.

✓ Contribute to our "*The Curtain Can Go Up Because the Wall is Down*" drive. A modest donation of \$25.00 puts your name on the wall in the window and later in the lobby.

Thanks also to our hard-working **Board of Directors**—Soo Theatre Project, Inc.

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