

OUR GENEROUS DONORS

SUPPORTING IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS, CONCERTS, AND THE ELLEN C. BRUNER PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING ARTS RESIDENCY PROGRAM

(July 1, 2024 – September 14, 2024)

Maestro's Circle - \$2,500+

Phil Bruner

Mahtomedi Area Educational Foundation
(in-kind services)

Concert Master Circle - \$500 - \$999

Peter Gilbertson

Liz Kasper (in-kind services)
Rhiannon & Scott O'Connor

Patron - \$250 - \$499

Judson & Joyce Marshall
Julie & Joe Molitor
Ben & Carolyn Opps

Celia Wirth Computer Services (in-kind services)

Benefactor - \$100 - \$249

Donald & Suzanne Anderson | David & Sheila Bennett
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Donna Ernster | Charles & Susan Giese | Roxanne Hardy
Karen Holmen | Myrtle John | Kathryn & Dale Newton
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Deborah Sublett

Supporter - Up to \$99

Chet Cisek | Julie & Nicholas Conzemius
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Robert M. Nelson | Kim & Brian Ozzello
Deborah Peterson | Piano Works (in-kind services)
Kevin Ritter | Marianne Shema

**To make a tax-deductible donation,
visit wildwoodartistseries.com
or scan the QR code below.**



The Wildwood Artist Series logo, featuring a stylized 'WAS' in a red circle, is positioned above a portrait of Shaun Johnson. The portrait shows a man with short blonde hair and glasses, wearing a dark blazer over a light-colored shirt. The background of the portrait is dark and textured. The entire graphic is set against a light green background with musical notes and instruments scattered around it.

SHAUN JOHNSON
+ the Big Band Experience

Sunday, September 22, 2024

Chautauqua Fine Arts Center
8000 75th Street North, Mahtomedi, Minnesota

The Wildwood Artist Series is a committee of the
Mahtomedi Area Educational Foundation (MAEF)



UPCOMING 2024-2025 EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

All concerts are held in the Chautauqua Fine Arts Center at Mahtomedi High School.



Mahtomedi Public Schools Music Faculty Concert Sunday, October 27, 2023 @ 3:00 pm

See your favorite music faculty show off their talents to raise money for our music programs!



SimpleGifts Music with Billy McLaughlin presents "The Young and the Rest..."

Saturday, January 25, 2025 @ 7:00 pm

This production is all about women bringing new life to music made famous by men. It's a girl-powered reboot of acoustic hits and deep tracks by Neil Young, CSN, America, The Eagles and more.

SimpleGifts will also be holding an in-school workshop with our secondary students!



To purchase tickets -
visit wildwoodartistseries.com,
scan this QR code or call
612-655-6023.

The **Chautauqua Fine Arts Center** provides access for people with disabilities. A ramp is available to the left side of the lobby. Public restrooms are located off the lobby in either direction. Beverages and food are limited to the lobby or high school commons and may not be brought into the Center. Fire codes prohibit seating in the aisles. Our buildings and grounds are smoke free.



THE ELLEN C. BRUNER PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING ARTS RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Ellie Bruner founded the Wildwood Artist Series in 1990. Under her leadership, WAS initiated the Wildwood Artist Series Professional Performing Artist Residency Program which funds extended residencies by professional performing artists (clinicians, composers, arrangers and artists of various cultural backgrounds) to work closely with students in the Mahtomedi school district. With your generous support, WAS is currently able to offer one residency per year that rotates around the four schools. Ultimately, we would like to be able to provide a variety of residency experiences for each student throughout their school career. Here is the list of talented individuals who have enriched our music programs thus far:

IN-SCHOOL ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

2016-2017	Ross Sutter at Wildwood Elementary
2017-2018	J.D. Steele at OH Anderson Elementary
2018-2019	Dr. Scott Agster with Mahtomedi Middle and High School Bands
2019-2020	Kyle Pederson with Mahtomedi Middle And High School Choirs
2020-2021	James Hersch at Wildwood Elementary
2021-2022	Peter Mayer at OH Anderson Elementary
2022-2023	Sowah Mensah at Mahtomedi Middle
2024-2025	TBA – Wildwood Elementary School
2024-2025	TBA – O.H. Anderson Elementary School



ABOUT SHAUN JOHNSON + THE BIG BAND EXPERIENCE

Shaun Johnson, an Emmy winning singer/songwriter, seemed destined for a life of music from the very beginning. "One of my earliest memories," he says, "is of performing at state fair talent shows with my little sister. We'd sing Sonny and Cher songs, A cappella, when neither of us was quite tall enough to reach the microphone."

Originally from the small town of Saint Joseph, Iowa, Shaun attended Saint John's University before settling in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he began his career with the nationally known vocal group, Tonic Sol-fa. This quartet has sold nearly two million albums independently and has been featured in Newsweek and on the Today Show. Shaun is still an active member.

In 2018, Shaun put together a group featuring some of the best instrumentalists and arrangers in the Midwest—guys who've toured with numerous luminaries, who are Music Educators of the Year and who are integral members of collegiate jazz faculties. His vision was to create a contemporary Jazz Pop sound, honoring legends like Frank Sinatra, with a nod to Michael Bublé and Lake Street Dive, while giving the music his own twist—performing songs ranging from the "Spiderman Theme" to increasingly popular original works. Look for the BBE's very first PBS special, "Spirit of the Season," (airing throughout North America) as well as the Big Band Experience's very first studio recording, "Capitol," which garnered a top 5 debut on the Billboard Jazz Chart.

THE BAND

Shaun Johnson | *Lead Vocals*
Sten Johnson | *Trumpet*
David Stamps | *Trombone*
Conrad Miska | *Tenor Saxophone*
Aaron Moe | *Alto Saxophone*
David Stanoch | *Percussion*
Theodore Brown | *Piano*
Jason Wells | *Bass*

- Shaun won his first Emmy in the "Musical Composition/Arrangement" category.

- Shaun recently won two Independent Grammys for "Best Original Holiday Song" and "Best Pop Song" out of 650,000 entries worldwide

"It's a cool creative collision, one where the vocal style of the jazz age and the big band ethos is pushed through a modern creative filter. The result is something that will appeal to the existing fan of that nostalgic sound as well as to those from the more discerning edge of the mainstream."

- Dancing About Architecture

ABOUT THE WILDWOOD ARTIST SERIES



The Wildwood Artist Series (WAS) was founded in 1990 as a committee of the Mahtomedi Area Educational Foundation (MAEF), a 501(c)(3) tax

exempt organization.

Over the course of our 33-year history, we have held hundreds of performances which have entertained and enriched the lives of community members of all ages.

This year, the Wildwood Artist Series committee will begin our transition to an even greater focus on performing arts experiences for students in Mahtomedi Public Schools by increasing our commitment to exceptional music education experiences in our school community. We are excited for the opportunities this new vision will provide for Mahtomedi students and their families.

The Wildwood Artist Series Committee is run by volunteers who contribute their time and talents to share their passion to cultivate the Performing Arts in our community.

WILDWOOD ARTIST SERIES VOLUNTEERS

David Bennett	Member at Large
Staci Bennett	MHS Band/Choir Liaison
Julie Conzemius	Music faculty representative
Donna Ernster	Member at Large
Roxanne Hardy	Member at Large
Liz Kasper	Graphic Designer
Julie Molitor	Committee Chair
Rhiannon O'Connor	Ticket Chair and Promotions
Rob Pontious	Music faculty representative
Tony Vosooney	Treasurer
Celia Wirth	Website

Are you passionate about performing arts?

Consider becoming a member of the Wildwood Artist Series committee! To learn more, contact Julie at info.wildwoodartistseries@gmail.com.

WELCOME!

Dear Valued Patrons,

Welcome to our 33rd season!

I absolutely love it when multiple genres of music blend together. I recently finished watching Ken Burns' documentary, "Country Music." A key theme throughout the series was how musicians are influenced by many different types of music to create their new sound.

From the album reviews, it looks like this is what Shaun Johnson and the Big Band Experience has done with jazz, pop, and more. I can't wait!

Thank you for coming and enjoy the show!

Julie Molitor
Wildwood Artist Series Committee Chair