

FOUR UNFORGETTABLE DECADES of the *Performing Arts...*

Please join me in celebrating 40 years of legendary artists, dazzling performances and enchanting moments at Stephens Auditorium. Stephens has been at the center of Iowa's cultural landscape and the region's leading performing arts facility since 1969. Today, Stephens is recognized internationally for its significant artistic, educational, and community outreach activities; superb technical capacity; beautiful ambiance and world-class presentations. This versatile arts center has a huge list of accolades to its name. It has been called the 'crown jewel' of the Iowa State Center, hailed as one of the best concert halls in the world, and named Iowa's Building of the Century by the American Institute of Architects (Iowa Chapter). Since 1969, more than 4.4 million guests have been charmed by the 874 musicals, concerts, theater productions and ballet performances at Stephens. From the opening notes of the New York Philharmonic's concerts to performances by Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman, we have a grand tradition of presenting the best in a wide range of performance genres. From musicals *Aida* to *Zorba* along with theater, ballet and opera from around the world, we look forward to bringing a wonderful variety of amazing performances for years to come.



Mark North

Mark North
General Manager, Iowa State Center

- 1969 Stephens Auditorium was dedicated on June 6, 1969. Mrs. Stephens noted, "within these walls, countless persons will experience a newborn appreciation for the performing arts in the decades to come. There could be no more fitting tribute to the memory of my husband who discovered his love for the theater as a student on this campus more than four decades ago."
- 1980 Iowa State Center produced its first annual *Nutcracker Ballet*. This timeless holiday classic has graced the stage of Stephens for 27 years, featuring more than 200 local dancers and directors/choreographers Robert and Miyoko Kato Thomas each year.
- 1995 Stephens Auditorium's 25th Anniversary was celebrated with a campaign that raised \$500,000 for installing new carpet, recovering auditorium seats, and other facility improvements.
- 1996 The Performing Arts Fund was created to continue to bring the world's finest performing artists to our state. In 2006, this annual campaign reached the \$100,000 milestone, and thanks to generous contributors, it continues to grow.
- 1999 The Martha-Ellen Tye Performing Arts Institute was created at the Iowa State Center through a generous endowment by the late Mrs. Tye. This educational programming brings a unique blend of arts experiences to students of all ages through curriculum-based matinee performances, teaching activities in schools, demonstrations and workshops.
- 2004 Stephens Auditorium's soaring architecture earned Iowa's Building of the Century Award from the American Institute of Architects (Iowa Chapter). Stephens was among 300 buildings nominated for the award.
- 2007 Iowa State Center was selected to host Arts Midwest World Fest, a two-year intensive world music residency project made available to only nine midwestern cities. During week-long residencies, artists present workshops, demonstrations, community-based outreach activities and public concerts.
- 2009 Stephens Auditorium celebrates 40 years of legendary artists, dazzling performances and enchanting moments.

Explore the events, photos, and memories of the past 40 years!

Visit www.center.iastate.edu to see past event listings, view historical photos, and read a collection of Stephens Memories submitted by guests like you!

