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Howard Performing Arts Center Opens at Andrews University

Nineteen months after the first shovels broke ground for the Howard Performing Arts Center, its doors opened to welcome patrons and performers to the Inaugural Programs.

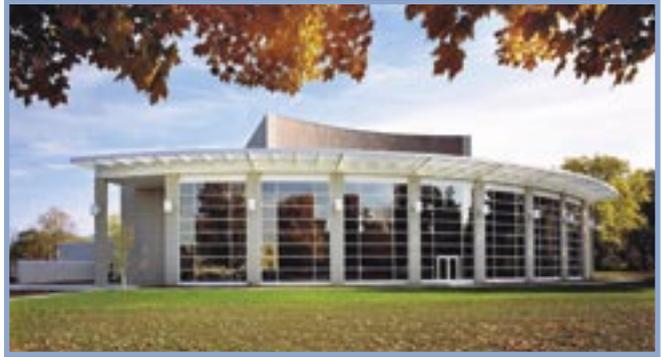
John and Dede Howard, then of St. Joseph, Mich., and currently of Holland, Mich., donated a large sum of money for the building project in February 2001. The center is the fulfillment of a 40-year dream for Andrews, and will benefit not just the campus, but also the local community.



John and Dede Howard were presented with a large photo of the performing arts center, complete with music students' signatures.

Peter Cooper, chair of the department of music at Andrews, anticipates that the hall will have an overwhelmingly positive effect on his department as well as the entire university. "This generous gift from the Howards will enable us to broaden our influence and share our talents with an even wider audience, and will provide our music students with a professional performance venue," Cooper said.

Inaugural performances for the general public were sold out for the Saturday evening concert on Oct. 18, and only a handful of empty seats could be seen at the repeat performance on Sunday, Oct. 19. A special program for Andrews University students was held Monday, Oct. 20, complete with a hot beverage bar afterward.



Photos by Dave Sherwin.

The Howard Performing Arts Center on the campus of Andrews University held its Inaugural Programs the weekend of Oct. 18–20.

Approximately 350 campus and community members attended an open house on the afternoon of Sunday, Oct. 19. The community was invited to tour the building, sit in on fun seminars about the arts, try different instruments in the musical "petting zoo," and listen to three free mini concerts.

The Howard Performing Arts Center will be available to community groups for performances, seminars, and luncheons. Located near the front of campus, the Howard Center has been dubbed the "hello" building. Its diagonal placement affords a panoramic view of the campus from the glass-faced lobby, including Pioneer Memorial Church, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Chan Shun Hall, and the Science Complex.



The Berrien Springs Children's Choir, under the direction of Stephen Zork, opened both concerts.

Andrews University is humbled to be the home of such an acoustically perfect, intimate setting for the enjoyment of fine music, and hopes the community will embrace the building as their own. For a complete list of inaugural season events, log on to <http://howard.andrews.edu>, or call the box office at (269) 471-3560.

Katie Shaw, Andrews University Relations news writer