

MSU 1-1-16 (Member or Guest)

# Resolution: Explore new horizons in Lansing's arts



**BRIDGETTE REDMAN**  
FRONT ROW  
CENTER

Greater Lansing is rich in the arts. Theaters, dance troupes, art galleries, museums, jazz ensembles, symphonies, bands, opera, choirs, even vaudeville troupes - it's all here.

Each type has devoted audiences. There are the people who take the gallery walks on the first Sunday of every month. There are theater people, symphony subscribers and dance devotees. They form their own community, and for them, Lansing is a better place to live because of it.

These communities can become insular because much work is needed to support one form of art and keeping it going. Other times they reach out and join forces for a multidisciplinary way such as the complex at Jolly and Hagadorn roads in Okemos that serves Happendance, Mid-Michigan Family Theatre and the Okemos Music Academy. All three share lounge space for people to use while waiting for lessons or rehearsals.

Today is the first day of

2016. It's a day for making resolutions and setting goals. Why not resolve to diversify your enjoyment of arts?

If you're reading this column, the arts are probably already a part of your life. Throughout the year, you can read here about all forms of performing arts taking place in our community.

Perhaps, though, your involvement in the arts is limited to a particular medium. Perhaps you're a season ticket holder to the symphony, but never get out to see a play.

Or perhaps you're a parent volunteer at Children's Ballet Theater but have never been to see an opera. You might attend all the local jazz concerts, but only see hanging artwork when a jazz ensemble is performing in a gallery.

Make 2016 the year you expand your boundaries and find more of the treasures that Greater Lansing holds. Even if you attend another art form once, you'll enrich your life and expand your community.

There is lots to choose from in the upcoming year. Here are just a few things you can try:

» **Dance:** Wharton Center has two dance companies coming in in January. The Moscow Festival Ballet is performing "Sleeping Beauty" and "Romeo

and Juliet" Jan. 8 while Complexions Contemporary Dance arrives Jan. 19 with a repertoire of numbers from Bach to Metallica. Check out Happendance or the Habibi Dancers or any of the great number of quality dance studios around town.

» **Theater:** There are all sorts of types of theater to take in. Riverwalk opens with "All My Sons", an Arthur Miller classic on Jan. 7. Michigan State University and Lansing Community College offer some of the best in educational theater with talented students performing plays and musicals throughout the semester. Williamston Theater is the premier local professional resident theater, specializing in shows relevant to the Midwest that are family oriented. Their next show is Jan. 28, "Too Much, Too Much, Too Many".

If you like your theater a little more modern or edgy, check out Peppermint Creek and Ixion, both of which have shows in March. Peppermint Creek is doing the musical, "The Secret Garden" while Ixion is doing the geek-fest play, "She Kills Monsters". When it comes to children's shows, you can check out Mid-Michigan Family Theater and All-of-Us Express Children's

Theater.

» **Symphonic Music:** Lansing's premier professional symphony is the Lansing Symphony Orchestra and their next masterworks concert is Jan. 23, "A Scottish Fantasy." Or, if you're looking for something a little more accessible for your first concert, try one of their pops series. Broadway Rocks is on Feb. 20.

There is also a lot of high quality symphonic music coming out of MSU's College of Music with concerts and recitals nearly every single week. If you're looking for somewhere to start, try the West Circle series that focuses on a particular composer for each concert. The "Happy Birthday, Mozart," is Jan. 25 and focuses on Mozart music. The area is also blessed with many community bands and orchestras that you can participate in or just go to hear your neighbor perform.

» **Opera:** If you've never been to an opera, MSU offers several reasons for you to give the genre a try. Their spring opera is a double billing that springs out of their collaboration with the China Vocal Arts. The first half of the presentation is a Chinese opera set in the 1920s called "The Savage Land" and the second half is a

revue of Leonard Bernstein music including pieces from "On the Town, Wonderful Town, West Side Story" and "Trouble in Tahiti".

» **Choral Music:** A cappella is hot this year in the Lansing area. In addition to both men's and women's a cappella barber-shop choirs, there are also several other quartets and groups that can be joined. Or if you just want to go see them all, check out "Vocalosity" at the Wharton Center on Jan. 26. In addition to the 12 performers of "Vocalosity", they'll be bringing in one local group from all those who submitted a video tape, competing to perform with them.

MSU's College of Music also has numerous groups that perform throughout the semester from glee clubs to Choral Union, the State Singers, the MSU Children's Choir and University Chorale. If you're looking for a taste of something different, try the Italian Madrigal Concert on April 19 that features the University Chorale playing music from the Baroque and Renaissance era.

Whatever flavor of art you prefer, options new to you are there to sample. Let 2016 be the year you find a new passion.