

Frequently Asked Questions

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Summer & Fall Seasons

What is Northern Sky Theater?

Northern Sky Theater is an experience like nothing else: Heartwarming Musical Comedies to delight audiences of any age - summer through fall in beautiful Door County!

What is the history of Northern Sky? How long has it been around?

The story of Northern Sky Theater begins with a group called "The Heritage Ensemble." Dave Peterson, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, created this group after discovering a pine-rimmed theatre while camping at Peninsula State Park. Feeling the magic in this wooded setting, he assembled a group of singers and musicians to perform on the stage. The Heritage Ensemble would go on to perform on the Peninsula State Park stage for the next 20 years. During these 20 years, the troupe produced and performed original concerts and reviews covering many aspects of Midwestern folklore.

In 1990, long time members of The Heritage Ensemble morphed into American Folklore Theatre when it separated from the university. Over 25 years, AFT evolved from a story-telling concert-centric ensemble to a full-fledged theater organization that focuses on the creation and presentation of original full-book musicals appropriate for folks of any age. The name was changed to Northern Sky Theater to reflect the broader scope of the company. Northern Sky continues to provide heartwarming original musicals to delight folks of every age to tens of thousands each summer and fall.

Is Northern Sky a professional theatre company?

Absolutely. Northern Sky Theater only casts performers whose profession is acting. A number of our performers are members of the Actors Equity Association – a labor union that represents over 45,000 actors and stage managers working across the United States. Northern Sky conducts professional auditions in New York, Chicago, Minneapolis and Wisconsin and company members now perform regularly on and off-Broadway and at major regional theatres throughout the country.

Where do Northern Sky Theater performances take place?

During our summer season, we perform outdoors at the large Peninsula State Park Amphitheater in Fish Creek, WI. The theatre is not covered – we perform under a canopy of stars. Seating at the theater consists of sturdy wooden benches with backs. Seat cushions are available for rental. During the fall season, Northern Sky heads indoors to perform at their state-of-the-art and very comfortable Northern Sky Creative Center. Both venues offer free parking for motor coach buses.

Is the amphitheater difficult to get to? Is handicap access available?

The outdoor amphitheater is located in **Peninsula State Park**. Peninsula State Park has two entrances – the Fish Creek entrance and the Ephraim entrance. Watch for the NORTHERN SKY signs directing you to the Theater from both entrances. The parking lot for the Theater is actually the overflow parking lot for Nicolet Beach. Once you are parked in the lot, it's only about a three-minute walk to the amphitheatre. **We also provide golf cart transportation for patrons with mobility issues.** The theatre has handicap access and parking.



Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

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Is the Northern Sky Creative Center difficult to get to? Is handicap access available? (Continued)

Northern Sky's Creative Center is located in the heart of Fish Creek just a short drive from many great dining establishments. The Creative Center is completely handicapped accessible with no stairs and offers a hearing loop system. Tour buses will be directed to the front doors of the theater lobby where the bus parking is also located.

Is there anything else that I might need to know about Northern Sky Theater shows?

All Northern Sky shows are appropriate for all ages. The shows are approximately 90 minutes. Summer shows are all one-act shows with no intermission. Fall shows run slightly longer and sometimes offer an intermission. We do offer refreshments for sale at all our shows. Our merchandise stand is filled with Northern Sky apparel, recordings, and other great items – all ready to purchase to take home with you!

Any special information I need to know about tickets and will call?

All tickets will be held at the theater at the Will Call window. **Please be sure to arrive at least 30 minutes before show time.** Please make sure that everyone has a ticket in hand. When you get to the usher who is taking tickets, identify the name of your group and tell him or her that you have reserved seating. He or she will point you in the direction of the reserved seating usher, who will seat you accordingly. That's all you have to do – other than that, sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

Any other questions?

**Please call the Northern Sky Theater office at (920) 854-6117 x104
or visit our website at www.NorthernSkyTheater.com.**

Mission Statement

The mission of Northern Sky Theater is to create, develop, and present professional musical and dramatic production which will further the knowledge and appreciation of the culture and heritage of the United States. The theater is dedicated to maintaining standards of artistic excellence; celebrating and illuminating the human condition; reaching a large audience of all ages, including families; and fostering a humanistic work environment with adequate and appropriate emotional, financial and creative support for all those associated with us.



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