


South High School auditorium gets long awaited makeover

The auditorium has finally reopened following a rebuild this past spring and summer. The new South High theater and auditorium was officially inaugurated by a joint presentation of the Twin Cities Jazz Society and the South High Music Department on Saturday, November 10, 2007 with offerings from the Gustavus Jazz Lab Band and the South High Jazz I Ensemble.

The theater and auditorium, originally scheduled to open in October, has a new sound system, lighting equipment and a comfortable set of bright red seats. "The sound and lighting system will compare to, if not be better than, some of the colleges in the area," noted head engineer Tom Wassmund. Professional level sound and lighting controls are enclosed in a new soundproof booth in the upper rear of the auditorium.

Another important upgrade is improved accessibility and full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). New handicap seating areas, railings and aisle lighting are now in place.

The total cost of the renovations has amounted to about \$1.3 million, funded by the Minneapolis School Board.

Some structural problems had arisen during renovation along with an error in construction of the first set of seats. These caused some delays which forced theater and student groups to improvise on performance and meeting space as the school year opened. Last minute adjustments were still being rushed on Saturday afternoon for the evening jazz concerts. Despite the delays, the renovations will be a huge improvement for the theater and music programs, which expect to be able to do a lot more with their future productions. The auditorium was originally constructed in 1969.

- Article adapted/used with permission of the Southerner, Sarah Fink, staff writer

New athletic field improvement campaign launched

In it's most ambitious effort in recent times, the Foundation has initiated a new fund-raising effort to substantially upgrade and improve the South High Athletic Fields.

It has long been the desire of the Foundation to provide permanent buildings on the athletic field to house ticket sales, storage and concessions. These activities now must occur on portable tables, which limits the ability to provide decent ticket service or the food and drink fans have become accustomed to at major sporting events.

Many of Minneapolis' high school athletic fields are in sad shape, as pointed out recently in an article in the StarTribune, with the district hard-pressed to finance the expansion and improvements needed. The Foundation has been working with the district buildings and grounds staff to put together a design and plans that would do justice to the school.

The Foundation is launching a special campaign with the goal of raising over \$100,000. Plans also include improving the practice field, which has bare patches and strewn with rocks.

Visit the Foundation's new web site to learn more about why this campaign is so critical, find a link to the StarTribune article and video, and learn how you can participate.



Foundation web site up and running

After many years of getting by with a simple page on the South High School web site, the Foundation has just established its own presence on the World Wide Web.

The site uses some of the latest technologies in web publishing and will contain information and archives for the Foundation. It is divided into several sections including a place for fund-raising, news of the Foundation's activities, grants and scholarships distributed, the members of the Wall of Honor, electronic copies of all recent newsletters and all the Board and Corporate records including meeting minutes, bylaws and meeting times. A sidebar on the home page will contain the latest info on key alumni activities such as upcoming class reunions.

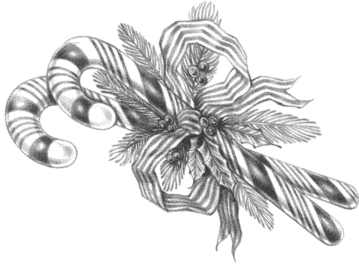
The content was contributed by Board members and other helpers and assembled by Foundation Secretary Dennis Fazio. Factor of 4, a Twin Cities web development and programming business (factorof4.com), provided the creative design, layout, and programming and will continue to maintain the site.

There are hopes of expanding the site in a second phase which will include alumni self-registration for the Foundation's contact database and allows online contributions to ease the effort of supporting the Foundation. Additional expansion plans include electronic mailing and announcement lists, electronic distribution of newsletters and other means to improve communications with Foundation members, supporters and all South High Alumni. Visit us at southhighfoundation.org today!

*Dennis Fazio,
Secretary*



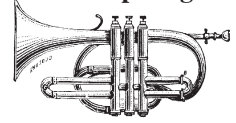
***Wishing You
a Joyous Holiday Season!
and Peace in the
Coming New Year!***



Calendar of Events 2007-2008

2nd Tuesday each month—**Alumni Foundation Meetings 7:00 P.M.**

December 18—**South High Community Band & Pop Singers
HOLIDAY CONCERT 7:00 P.M.**



January 15 & 17—**Winter Band Concerts**

February 12 & 19—**Winter Band Concerts**

February 14-16—South Theater: **Seven Guitars** by August Wilson

March 20-22—South Theater: **Cabaret** by Kander & Ebb

April 9—**All Alumni Luncheon** 11 AM: Social Hour, Noon: Lunch

April 27—**Pancake Breakfast** 8 AM to 1 PM

June 24 —**Golf Tournament** contact Jim Bloom 952-941-3778

South High web site: south.mpls.k12.mn.us phone: 612-668-4300

South High web site: southhighfoundation.org



Friends of South High Foundation
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Minneapolis, MN 55407

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Annual Membership Levels

___ Medallion \$1,000

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___ Centurion \$100

___ Orange & Black \$50

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___ Please send me information about wills and bequests

Memorial

Honorary



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*Please include your high school last name _____ Matching gift form enclosed All contributions are tax deductible