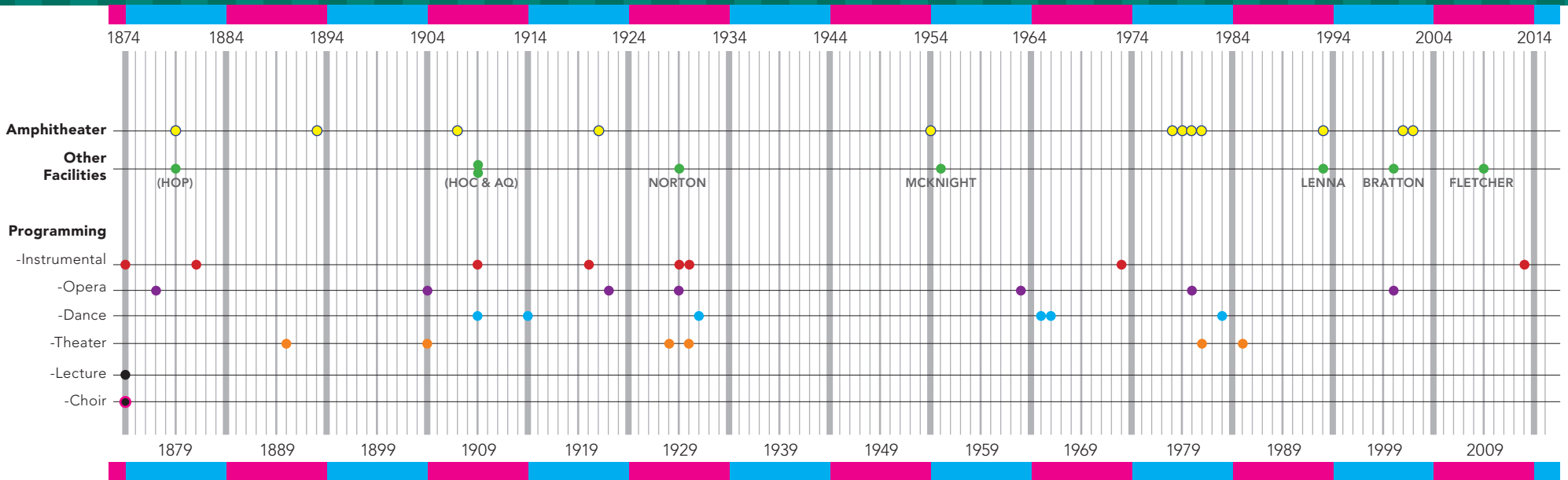


AMPHITHEATER, BUILDINGS AND PROGRAM HISTORICAL TIMELINE 1874-2015



See attached addendum for complete timelines on Amp and Programming.

Amphitheater Timeline notes

1879

First wooden Amp structure is built over ravine in current location, uphill from the original Miller Park platform.

1893

Current structure is built.

1907

Massey Memorial Organ and building is constructed, requiring nearly complete removal of the original back-of-house to accommodate it. At the same time, choir seating is re-arranged and expanded to accommodate the organ and stage is lowered to improve visibility.

1921

Original "thrust" stage, originally designed as a speaking platform, is enlarged and squared off to allow for artistic performances.

1954

Major renovations: a new front-of-house concrete floor is installed; the stage foundation is repaired and re-supported; the stage itself is widened by 12 feet; steel columns are retrofit; roof is sealed; new public restrooms are added; and back-of-house rooms are altered.

1978

Many existing rafters, purlins and columns are retrofit with new steel members and new wood supports. New steel cross-bracing is installed to provide lateral support for original steel trusses. New steel trusses are installed over the stage area.

1979

New stainless steel, standing-seam roof is installed; a new control room and cat-walk are installed into ceiling/attic space.

1980

New stage lighting is installed through new ceiling openings.

1993

Massey Memorial Organ major reconstruction: all existing pipes are replaced or restored and new pipes are added, bringing the total to 5,640 pipes; structural piers are added; interior floors are constructed and interior finishes installed within the existing masonry walls of the original structure.

2001

Select front-of-house columns are repaired and reinforced and the stage foundation and piers are repaired.

2002

Stage demolition and replacement: Existing stage is completely removed and reconstructed.



May 28, 2015

CHAUTAUQUA AMPHITHEATER STRUCTURAL TIMELINE

1874 Original platform in Miller Park.

1879 First wooden Amp structure is built over ravine in current location, uphill from the original Miller Park platform.

1892 First Amp structure is demolished due to wear, poor sight lines, noise from flat roof.

1893 Current structure is built.

1907 Massey Memorial Organ and building is constructed, requiring nearly complete removal of the original back-of-house to accommodate it. At the same time, choir seating is re-arranged and expanded to accommodate the organ and stage is lowered to improve visibility.

1921 Original "thrust" stage, originally designed as a speaking platform, is enlarged and squared off to allow for artistic performances.

1928 Changes to choir loft and back of stage.

1954 Major renovations: a new front-of-house concrete floor is installed; the stage foundation is repaired and re-supported; the stage itself is widened by 12 feet; steel columns are retrofit; roof is sealed; new public restrooms are added; and back-of-house rooms are altered.

1972 Massey Organ cleaning and reconstruction. Pipes were removed and many were replaced at that time.

1978 Many existing rafters, purlins and columns are retrofit with new steel members and new wood supports. New steel cross-bracing is installed to provide lateral support for original steel trusses. New steel trusses are installed over the stage area.

1979 New stainless steel, standing-seam roof is installed; a new control room and catwalk are installed into ceiling/attic space.

1980 New stage lighting is installed through new ceiling openings.

1981 New house lights are installed; ceilings are cut open and patched in multiple locations.

Back-of-house and backstage area addition and alterations: bleachers and one additional row of seating are added; concrete ramps leading into bowl are poured; major landscaping and hardscape around perimeter and west side is completed; new ticket pavilions are constructed with surrounding fence line. In addition, a major new stormwater collection and piping system is installed around the north, south and east sides of Amp.

1993 Massey Memorial Organ major reconstruction: all existing pipes are replaced or restored and new pipes are added, bringing the total to 5,640 pipes; structural piers are added; interior floors are constructed and interior finishes installed within the existing masonry walls of the original structure.

1994–1996 Major replacement of 134 of 468 benches on main floor and sloped areas (benches are generally replaced as needed through normal annual maintenance).

2001 Select front-of-house columns are repaired and reinforced and the stage foundation and piers are repaired.

2002 Stage demolition and replacement: Existing stage is completely removed and reconstructed.

2003 Partial roof collapse: the flat section of the southeast corner, with stresses into the attic space. Requires a partial roof reconstruction and column replacements.

2015 Partial roof collapse: the flat section of the northeast corner, with stresses into the attic space. Requires a partial roof reconstruction and column replacement.

May 28, 2015

PERFORMANCE PROGRAM TIMELINE

Instrumental Music at Chautauqua

1874: First Assembly sings hymns accompanied by a trumpet: “There was real worship in every blast.” Local area bands performed concerts on rafts in the evenings.

1876: Brass bands and small ensembles begin performing as a part of the regular program.

1881: The first piano recital is performed at Chautauqua, using a Steinway piano.

1899: The Rogers Band is formed with members from the community and Music Faculty. It is the first resident musical group at Chautauqua.

1907: The world’s largest outdoor organ, the Massey Memorial Organ, is installed in the Amphitheater.

1909: The New York Symphony is the first major symphonic orchestra to come to Chautauqua.

1911: Chautauqua is hailed by the Magazine *Musical America* as being the “music capital of America.”

1920: The New York Symphony takes up summer residence at Chautauqua.

1929: The Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra is created, largely from members of the New York Symphony.

1930: Radio broadcasts begin from the Amphitheater.

1954: The Amphitheater stage is enlarged in order to allow the orchestra to be arranged more comfortably in a semicircle.

1966: WBEN-TV begins a weekly show on Sunday afternoons from the Amphitheater, hosted by Gill Gallagher, featuring instrumental, dance and voice performances.

1973: The Music School Festival Orchestra is formed. This elevates the quality of the music program at Chautauqua and provides a second orchestra for Amphitheater performances. Later, the MSFO collaborates with other departments in the Music School.

2013: 'Romeo and Juliet Project' is performed in the Amphitheater as the first complete 'Collaborative Arts Performance' involving all departments: voice, orchestra, theater and dance.

Opera at Chautauqua

1877: The Apollo Chorus of Chicago performs at Chautauqua. The first of many large choral groups to be featured in the program.

1883: *Athalie* and the *Messiah* were the first of many oratorios performed at Chautauqua.

1904: Short Operettas begin to be performed in the Amphitheater.

1921: Erie Community Playhouse performed *Pirates of Penzance* directed by Henry B. Vincent in the Amphitheater.

1922: Erie Community Players (Erie Community Playhouse) perform the Opera *Esperanza* in the Amphitheater.

1926: The Rochester Opera Company performs *HMS Pinafore* and *The Marriage of Figaro* in the Amphitheater.

1929: Norton Hall is opened. The Hall was designed to accommodate opera, theater and small ensembles. Institution President Arthur Bestor also hoped to use Norton Hall for conventions through the year, but this never happened.)

1929: The Chautauqua Opera Association is created. Operas and musicals are performed in Norton Hall.

1940: Albert Stoessel, Music Director, announces his intention to use the Amphitheater for large operatic performances, but this never happens.

1963: The Music Man is performed in the Amphitheater.

1980: To fulfill Harry Logan's long held dream of using the Amphitheater for large musical productions, the opera *Aida* is performed in the Amphitheater as a collaboration of the Music program with the Dance and Opera companies.

2000: *Gianni Schicchi* is performed in the Amphitheater as a collaborative program between the MSFO and the Voice Department.

Dance at Chautauqua

1909: The 'Japanese Dance' performed in the Amphitheater.

1910: Dance demonstration performed in Amphitheater. Described as "the most attractive feature of the program."

1914: *Ulysses* is performed with dancers.

1931: Ruth St Denis and Ted Shawn perform in Norton Hall. Dancing is performed in *Carmen* performed by the Chautauqua Opera Company. Dancing would remain a regular feature of operas performed at Chautauqua.

1962: Dance School is started by Statia Sublette.

1965: Chautauqua Dance Company is formed. Performances are held in Norton Hall.

1966: Chautauqua Dance Company begins to perform in the Amphitheater.

1982: Chautauqua Dance Festival Company performs in the Amphitheater with the Music School Festival Orchestra.

1983: Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux and Patria McBride take over the Dance School.

1986: Carnahan-Jackson Dance Studios open.

Theater at Chautauqua

1890: Amos Alonso Stagg plays the title role in *Ben Hur*, the first tableau performed at Chautauqua.

1904: *Shore Acres* by James A. Hearnes is the first full play to be performed in the Amphitheater. (Before 1904, George Vincent introduces theatrical reading delivered in the Amphitheater by students of Rhetoric and Elocution, thereby preparing the way for theatrical performances.)

1921: July 20- Erie Day – Erie Community Playhouse performed “Pirates of Penzance” directed by Henry B. Vincent in the Amphitheater. The company would perform *Esperanza* the following year.

1928: July 6 Daily- “most ambitious dramatic program in its history” – 11 plays presented by 3 theater groups – Jamestown Players, Pittsburgh Players, and Erie Community Players

1929: Jamestown Players Club performed plays in both the Amphitheater and Norton Hall

1930: Cleveland Play House comes to Chautauqua and will provide theater here for 50 years. Plays were performed in Norton Hall.

1981: Board of Trustees cancels Cleveland Play House Summer Theatre residency and eliminates the Theatre School due to lack of money. Lake Erie Repertory Theatre presents 3 performances.

1982: John Houseman’s The Acting Company performed *Twelfth Night*, *Country Wife*, and *Tartuffe* in Norton Hall

1985: The Chautauqua Conservatory Theater Company is formed.

2005: the Chautauqua Conservatory Theater Company changed its name to the Chautauqua Theater Company.