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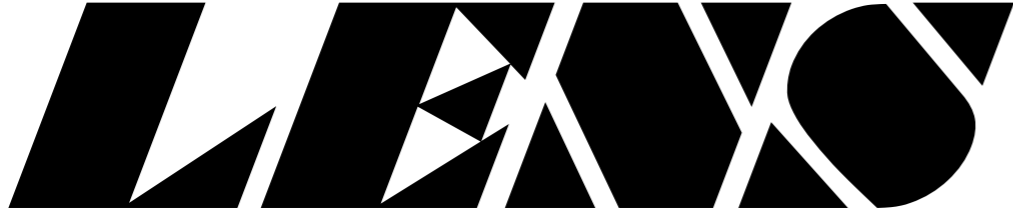
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**Microscopic Details  
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# LENS

**An Insightful Focus on Arts & Entertainment in Central Washington**

Vol. 1 Issue 2 July 2011



An Insightful Focus on Arts & Entertainment in Central Washington  
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***Welcome To Leavenworth***

Marshelle Lynn Rowley

## For Letters to the Editor:

We here at LENS would like to hear from you. We would like to know what our readers like or dislike about our publication. In the August issue we would like to begin publishing letters to the editor. Comment on articles in this issue. Let us know if the overall presentation of the material we share with you each month is valuable and to your liking. You could also make suggestions for future issues if there is an artist, event or venue we should feature. We will select four or five "Letters to the Editor" for each issue from now on (that is of course if we receive some). So please let us know how we are doing and submit your letters to [dave@underthemicroscopeproductions.com](mailto:dave@underthemicroscopeproductions.com) or [nate@underthemicroscopeproductions.com](mailto:nate@underthemicroscopeproductions.com) and put "Letter to the Editor: LENS" in the subject line. Please submit letters by the 10th of each month to be considered for that month's issue.

Thank you,  
The Editors of LENS

## Advertising

We at Under The Microscope Productions are publishing the second issue of LENS at no cost to our readers. We want to continue to offer this web-based magazine for free every month for years to come. Our goal is to reach readership of 10,000 by our sixth issue. There are costs involved in bringing you this publication, and our only source of revenue will be through advertising.

For the first two issue we have had no advertising. We want to continue to bring this magazine to our readers, but it is part of a business. In order to keep LENS going and growing we need your help. Our advertising rates are very low (you will be surprised). If you are business that would like to support the arts, or you are a reader who knows of an arts-based business or a business that supports the arts, please consider advertising in our publication. We know that we are new and our readership will be small but growing, help us continue to grow and become a standard of information for arts and entertainment in Central Washington. If you would like more information about how to advertise and our rates please contact Dave Rowley at Under The Microscope Productions via email at [dave@underthemicroscopeproductions.com](mailto:dave@underthemicroscopeproductions.com).

LENS

An Insightful Focus on Arts & Entertainment in Central Washington

LENS is a web-based magazine created as a journal to cover the arts and entertainment in the Central Washington region. This large geographic area offers a wide range of cultural events and artists from its many different cities and towns. A greater emphasis will be placed on events that happen in the smaller towns to give those artists, musicians and artistic events more coverage.

We want to perpetuate the grass root efforts toward building culture in these small towns.

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Under The Microscope Productions

Production, Promotion, & Publication  
of the Arts



## Need Something to Do?

There are many Art and Entertainment events in the Central Washington that you can enjoy. Check out our events calendar that shows every event we could find here in Central Washington. If we missed an event let us know and we will put it on the calendar.

[Central Washington Events Calendar](#)

## Recommendations

If you know of artists who should get some press, shows that we should cover, galleries that not enough people know about, music venues that everyone should see a show in, or shows that are happening in your part of Central Washington, please invite us. We are only two people, and as we get the ball rolling with this publication, we need your help to learn about arts and entertainment events in your community. Please contact us with ideas for future issues.

Dave & Nate

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# Letters From The Editor: Discovering Leavenworth Arts

By Dave Rowley  
Editor in Chief

It was our original intent to have the second issue of LENS magazine feature the Wenatchee area. However, when I was putting together the event calendar for the first issue of LENS, I was flabbergasted by the amount of arts and entertainment opportunities that existed in both the Leavenworth and Lake Chelan areas. I knew that tourism was a very large part of the economy in both areas, but I was amazed at both the commitment to the arts and the many artistic offerings both cities have for their patrons and visitors.

While discovering all of the events, live music, community theater productions, etc. that Leavenworth has to offer, we decided to feature Leavenworth in our second issue. The hard part was deciding what to cover and how to cover it. I have been to Leavenworth on several occasions; once at Christmas time for the lighting festival when my kids were young, a couple of times for music festivals held at Cascade High School, and I recently attended a concert at Sleeping Lady Resort that was produced by the Icicle Creek Music Center. However, what I hadn't really paid attention to in my previous visits was the amount of arts and entertainment choices available to the more than one million visitors that travel to Leavenworth each year.

Events like Village Art in the Park and Leavenworth Summer Theater productions just hadn't been on my radar. I was also blown away by the amount of live music that can be heard on any given weekend day. Heck, there are even some places that have live music every day during the summer months! However, I am so glad I discovered this arts rich destination only an 80-mile drive from my home. I will return often.

We have tried to give a thumbnail sketch of what is available in Leavenworth to those interested in the arts. However, we can't do it justice in one issue with only two writers. We spent just a couple of days in Leavenworth and had a blast talking to people, eating brauts, drinking some good beer, listening to great music, looking at art, and seeing some accomplished theater. All of that, and there is still so much more I would like to see and do in this wonderful Bavarian-themed town nestled in the central Cascade Mountains. I encourage our readers to use what we are offering in this issue as a bit of a travel guide and go visit Leavenworth. If you are close visit it often, you will not be disappointed.

Go to Leavenworth and have fun!  
Geh nach Leavenworth und hab Spaß

# Letters From The Editor: Bavarian Escape

By Nate Rowley

A day spent in Leavenworth is never a waste. The sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and atmosphere that the city holds are enchanting. Nestled northwest of Wenatchee, Leavenworth, Washington is a Bavarian themed town full of culture, art, shops, and food. A day here is well worth "wasting" if you need to get away. The LENS crew decided to spend a few days taking in all that Leavenworth has to offer. The art walk, live music in the park, beer and brauts, good blues music, a stroll along the Wenatchee River, and a wonderful theatrical and musical experience with Leavenworth Summer Theater's, The Sound Of Music can all be experienced here, and more.

The richness of Leavenworth can take days to enjoy, from the myriad of shops downtown, to the great food at the local restaurants, and the great music and theatre enjoyed at the many venues. I love visiting the town, and find myself wishing I could visit it more since it is so close. I am also excited to re-visit Leavenworth during the holiday season to enjoy the Bavarian setting in its true snowy form. We didn't even touch the surface with our brief visits; with great outdoor activities, multiple festivals and events, or even a jaunt around town in a horse drawn carriage we, and you, can make multiple visits throughout the years to enjoy Leavenworth.

I invite all of you to visit Leavenworth this summer, and I invite you again to see it this winter. Make a family trip of it and see, eat, smell and enjoy all that the town has to offer. Take a romantic weekend off with your loved one and spend some time away from it all to enjoy the scenic views, wonderful wine, great food, and comfort and laid back nature of this Bavarian escape. You may even see us there when we are not busy visiting all that Central Washington has to offer, so be sure to say, "Guten Tag."

# A Creative Stroll... Village Art in the Park

Dave Rowley

If you drive into Leavenworth, WA on any weekend between late April and mid October and look into their central city park you will notice several outdoor awnings stuck together in the middle of the park. You need to stop, get out of your car, walk into the park, and enjoy some great art. Village Art in the Park is the longest running outdoor art show in the Pacific Northwest. Since 1966, artists have been showing and creating their art on the green grass of the city park.

In the early 1960's the citizens of Leavenworth made a commitment to their community. The decision was made to change the character of their town, from a dying timber and railroad town to an Alpine Bavarian town aimed at drawing tourists into the beautiful central Cascade Mountains. Village Art in the Park has been a part of that community change and character from almost the beginning.

Mary Warden, director of Village Art in the Park, said that many changes have happened over the years. "It all started with artists setting up their easels on the grass and painting," stated Warden. "And then it got really huge, too big, so the organization fine tuned things," she went on to say. Today it is very highly juried, and there are about 20 artists on any given weekend. One of the very enjoyable things is that the artists are required to be at their booth, and those that paint and draw are expected to create while they are there. So, it's not just about selling art that was created back in the artists' studios. You get to see the artist work. However, selling their art is important, as the majority of the artists who are showing at this exhibit

*"It all started with artists setting up their easels on the grass and painting,"  
-Mary Warden*

Photo By Marshelle Rowley



Art Walk in the Park

each weekend are working artists.

And they do sell. On a recent Saturday afternoon I spent about an hour at Village Art in the Park, during which I witnessed at least four sales. The most incredible thing to me is that the money doesn't just go to the artists; it also goes to art education. Village Art in the Park is a non-profit

organization. The artists who sell their work at the exhibit are required to give a 20 percent commission to Village Art in the Park. That money is used mostly for scholarships to local art students in the Cascade School District (Leavenworth's local schools). The organization has also helped financially support some community arts-oriented projects. According to Warden, "For about 20 years we (Village Art in the Park) also helped pay for an elementary art teacher at the



Photo By Marshelle Rowley

Artist Lori Aylesworth at work

local elementary school.” However, after some reorganization and prioritization the organization stopped paying for that teacher and focused all of their energy on scholarships. “Scholarships to promising art students is our main focus,” stated Warden. “We have also been giving funds to one the schools in the school district each year to supplement their art program budgets.”

This commitment to art education is one of many reasons that artists enjoy being a part of Village Art in the Park. Bob Jamison, an artist who hails from

Port Ludlow in Western Washington (he also owns a summer home in Leavenworth), stated that the commitment to art education is one reason he enjoys being in this exhibit. He also stated, “The atmosphere here is wonderful, it is great to sit in the park and paint, and have people watch you, and maybe purchase some of your work.” He went on to say, “I’ve had some success here, and I just love the atmosphere.”

Another artist that spends several weekends a year showing her work in the park is Lori Aylesworth, who makes her home in Leavenworth. Aylesworth

also stated that she loved the atmosphere and what Village Art in the Park did for local art education. She told me, “It’s really nice to be able to do so many shows close to home.” As with many of the artists, they show their work all over the Northwest. “Although I show my work in places like Richland and Couer d’Alene, its nice to be able to show, paint and sell some of my work right here in my backyard,” stated Aylesworth, “and the proceeds for sales goes for a great cause.”

Several communities in our region have art shows, art galleries, and art walks on given weekends. Any community that gives visual artists a platform to show their work is to be commended. When a community takes additional steps to ensure that artists will continue to work in the community, while at the same time supporting art education that is to be applauded. Village Art in the Park has been doing this for years, and will continue to do so. Leavenworth is a model town in regards to tourism, and as long as tourists continue to flock to the beautiful Bavarian town Village Art in the Park will be there during the height of the tourist season entertaining with incredible art. And, in the process they are guaranteeing the future of local art.

The next time you are in Leavenworth on a weekend between late April and mid October, don’t just take in a beer and braut, or some great live music. Take some time to go into the park and walk through the many booths. Enjoy great art by great professional artists from around the region. And maybe even buy a piece for your home, supporting regional artists and art education in the town of Leavenworth.

[www.villageartinthepark.org](http://www.villageartinthepark.org)

*“The atmosphere here is wonderful, it is great to sit in the park and paint,”*  
*-Bob Jamison, Artist*

# Live Music in Leavenworth Beers, Brauts & Bands

Dave Rowley

When my son and I first dreamt of what LENS could be our motivation was to support live music. We felt that there needed to be more support for live music in this day of iPods and other personal music devices. We also felt there just wasn't enough live music being performed in the Central Washington region. As we began researching the Leavenworth area, we found a place that is doing it right. The way we have envisioned live music should be in several other area towns. Now, we understand that Leavenworth probably has more tourists than any other town in the Central Washington region, but the amount of live music that is being performed in Leavenworth is staggering. Even taking into account the Bavarian-themed town's tourism industry and the fact that summertime brings hundreds of thousands of tourists to the town, there is even more live music than I expected in Leavenworth!

If you have the opportunity to travel to Leavenworth, especially on a weekend, don't forget to stop by any one of several places that offer live music. Have your beer and braut, and partake of some incredible settings for live music. I will be giving you a little bit of information on three of the venues that offer live music nearly every weekend between late April and October. Each venue is different, but they have one thing in common: live music performed by good local and regional artists.

## Der Hinterhoff

Der Hinterhoff is, in the most basic terms, an outdoor, family-friendly beer garden. This outstanding, very casual eatery sits on the corner of 9th Street and Main Street, adjacent to Waterfront Park in downtown Leavenworth. The beer garden sits below the street level of 9th Street in a courtyard-type area of the Alpine Inn, two blocks from the hustle and bustle of Front Street. The tables are covered to protect you from the weather, but you are still outside. The food is very good, well priced, and drinks are served in mason jars, which really fits the atmosphere. I am not a beer drinker, but I do love brauts. The braut I had was very good, and my son had a Washington beer and said it was very good as well. There are several Washington beers on tap, as well as other beverages. I had the lemonade; it hit the spot on a hot day. They are truly family-oriented. There is sidewalk chalk for the kids and a wall for them to draw on, there is a ping-pong table that was being used the entire hour we were there, and of course on weekends there is live music.

Der Hinterhoff has a very nice corner stage that

Photo By Marshelle Rowley



Der Hinterhoff is Good!

*Der Hinterhoff...an outdoor, family-friendly beer garden.*

is easily seen throughout the entire eating area, and from 9th Street above. On the weekends during the summer there are shows Friday night beginning at 7:30 pm; three shows on Saturdays at 1:00 pm, 4:30 pm, and 7:30 pm; and Sundays at 1:00 pm. We visited on a Saturday afternoon in early July and heard a group called The Skiffs, a country-like duo out of Wenatchee. They were very good, and the audience was quite receptive to their music. Later on we walked by again and listened to another country style band called Kountry Kate and Derik Peet. Later that evening the Michael Carlos Band, a rock band from Wenatchee, was on the schedule.

This commitment to live music and a relaxed atmosphere make Der Hinterhoff a must do if you are going to be in Leavenworth. It is what a beer garden is supposed to be.

[www.leavenworthbeergarden.com](http://www.leavenworthbeergarden.com)

## Munche Haus

In a little hidden corner of Front Street in Leavenworth sits the entrance to another beer garden. The evening we visited it was quite raucous, and it seemed to be the place to be in Leavenworth this particular evening. You can of course get your beer and braut; in fact they boast the best selection of charbroiled Bavarian Sausages and famous selection of specialty mustards. They also have a large list of German and Northwest Beers. The spot sits in-between two buildings, making the space feel very cozy. And with flower planters placed throughout, the atmosphere is quite garden-like. There is also a small balcony that can seat about 25 people and looks right down on the stage area. When



Junkbelly of Spokane WA at Munchen Haus

in the off-season when music is offered as well. I highly recommend Munchen Haus for its food, atmosphere, and live music as well.

[www.munchenhaus.com](http://www.munchenhaus.com)

*Munchen Haus seemed to be the place to be in Leavenworth.*

you are dancing to the music you will be right next to the musicians. If your not careful, you may actually bump into the lead vocalist.

The evening we were there a blues/rock band out of Spokane called Junkbelly was playing. They were very good, and the crowd loved their performance. The place was packed; in fact we stood for most of our time there. An adjacent merchant said that on many weekends the line of people waiting to get in goes up the block and around the corner. On this evening there was a line, but it wasn't quite that long. I got the feeling that, at least on this weekend, this was the venue to be at. The crowd was mixed ages. Like Der Hinterhoff, The Munchen Haus is family (and dog) friendly.

The live music shows at Munchen Haus are every weekend beginning in the early evenings throughout the summer months. There are also times

Photo By Marshelle Rowley



Munchen Haus is always busy

a varied menu. The atmosphere at the restaurant is small and quaint. The live music venue is in the lounge, which is adjacent to the restaurant. You can here the music from the lounge in the restaurant, but it is not overpowering. Actually, the music in the lounge isn't overpowering.

The lounge is a traditional bar, with a long stool bar on one side of the room and a row of tables on the opposite wall. The small stage is at the end of the narrow room opposite the entrance, and is meant for duos and trios. On a nice evening, you can even sit outside at the restaurant's outdoor tables and still listen to the music. On the evening we were patrons,

K.C. Brakes Duo, an acoustic duo out of Lakewood, WA, were the performers. Again, like the other establishments we visited, this group was high quality. The crowd, although appreciative, was smaller than the other two venues we visited, but that was mostly because the room is much smaller. With live music offered most weekends throughout the summer, the Tumwater Inn is a great place to sit down after a day of sight-seeing and enjoy a good meal and hear some good low-key music.

It was nice to see good music at three venues in the span of a few hours. What is even more surprising is that there are other places that provide live music in Leavenworth as well. Many of these other venues also had music being performed on the day we visited.

Each weekend you can find live music at the Front Street Gazebo in City Park. These performing groups often represent Leavenworth's Bavarian theme. The group performing the day we visited was a traditional Bavarian style quartet, Happy Hans' Mu-

### ***The Tumwater Inn Restaurant & Lounge***

Situated on the corner of 9th Street and Commercial Street sits the Tumwater Inn Restaurant and Lounge. On the evening we visited this is where we decided to have dinner. The food at the restaurant at the Tumwater Inn was quite good, and they have

The Tumwater Inn



Photo By Marshelle Rowley

I wouldn't be surprised if I did. There are a lot of opportunities for one to hear or perform live music at in Leavenworth. It is great to see a town that is not very big have this kind of atmosphere for not only the many tourists that come to the area, but also for the local and regional music loving public. If you are a patron of great live music, and you haven't been to Leavenworth, I suggest you go sometime between now and Oktoberfest. You won't be disappointed, because if you don't particularly care for the music at one place, then just walk down the street and go listen at another.

[www.tumwaterinn.com](http://www.tumwaterinn.com)

Music in the Park with Happy Hans Music

music, consisting of an accordion, a euphonium (small tuba), drummer, and guitarist. They played and sang a mixture of traditional and folk songs. Happy Hans' Music was very well received and had a large crowd around them throughout the day. The crowd especially loved when the lead vocalist yodeled.

There are also a couple of restaurants in town that have solo artists play often. Café Mozart offers piano music every weekend evening and some weekdays. The Andreas Keller Restaurant advertises live accor-

*The Tumwater Inn is a great place to hear some good low key music.*

dion music every night. The Loft Restaurant and Lounge has live music at times throughout the summer. This venue offers a more rock and roll type atmosphere for local and regional bands to perform. Uncle Uli's Pub is another venue that has live music often. We didn't get an opportunity to check these establishments out, but I plan to return and see what they have to offer.

I hope that I haven't left anyone out. However,



[www.happyhansmusic.com](http://www.happyhansmusic.com)

# Icicle Creek Music Center: In Harmony with Nature

Dave Rowley

Just a few miles outside of Leavenworth, WA, nestled in alpine meadows and surrounded by the beautiful Cascade Mountains, sits a world-class educational music retreat: The Icicle Creek Music Center. This beautiful retreat is a part of the renowned Sleeping Lady Resort. The peaceful setting is the backdrop to musical greatness. Students of all ages come to learn and perform with other students and world-class musicians. It is one of the most picturesque places to hear classical music (as well as other genres) performed in the Central Washington region.

The Icicle Creek Music Center (ICMC) has year round programs for education and performances in music, theater, dance, and literary arts. According to their website ([www.icicle.org](http://www.icicle.org)), ICMC is “an artistic home for those who create, perform, and appreciate music and the performing arts.” ICMC is an independent, non-profit organization that is not affiliated with any commercial enterprise and is supported by donations from individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations.

The history of the sixty-seven acre Sleeping Lady Resort and Icicle Creek Music Center goes back to the days of the Native American tribes who came to the area to fish and trade. From 1934 until 1942 the Civilian Conservation Corps made Camp Icicle the home of the 983rd Company of the CCC. Many of the buildings that were built for the 200 young men who called the camp home are still part of the site today. In 1946 the site became known as the Icicle River Ranch, a private, family ori-

*“an artistic home for those who create, perform, and appreciate music and the performing arts.” - ICMC Website*

ented dude ranch owned by Wilfred and Geraldine Davy. Buildings were renovated and added during this time. Then, in 1957 the property was sold to the Yakima Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church and renamed Camp Field. It operated as a camp for children ages eight and up until 1982. During this time a chapel and several dormitories were added to the existing buildings. After these renovations the camp could operate as a children’s summer camp and an off-season adult retreat.

Around the same time that Camp Field started operations a very important character came on the scene. Father Joseph O’Grady was banished by the church from Spokane to the Leavenworth area due to some questionable teaching practices. By making friends with the locals, and adding things to the camp like a swimming pool, ball fields, an archery range, and a campfire circle, O’Grady turned the camp into a fun place to be. O’Grady encouraged children to play music and his Sunday masses could be raucous events. Father O’Grady’s eccentric ways earned him the title of “the hippie priest.” He was beloved by many and when he died in 1983 the entire valley mourned the loss.

The Diocese stopped offering the summer camps in 1982, but the area was still used year-round as the Camp Field Retreat and Conference Center. It was used for family reunions, non-



Photo By Marshelle Rowley

Canyon Wren Recital Hall

profit group retreats and other events. In 1991 Harriet Bullitt, who owned adjacent property and wanted to preserve the land, purchased the property. Her idea was to redevelop the old buildings into an environmentally friendly conference facility and mountain retreat. The property was again renamed, this time to Sleeping Lady after the mountain profile that lies above the valley. All of the old buildings were saved in the new development. Some were moved to fit the new site plan, and all were modernized. New buildings were constructed to blend with the original style and the land was replanted with native vegetation.

The actual construction of what is there today began in 1994. Sleeping Lady opened by hosting the Icicle Creek Music Center’s first annual Icicle Creek



The Stage at the Meadow

Photo By Marshelle Rowley

Chamber Music Festival in August of 1995. (This year's festival just ended on July 24th.) More buildings were added to Sleeping Lady in 1998, and in 2001 the development of the Icicle Creek Music Center facility began.

The new facilities for ICMC included a remodeled and expanded office building, meeting rooms and practice spaces for students and faculty, and the Canyon Wren Recital Hall. Also included were three ensemble practice rooms, three solo practice rooms, and eight housing units. The ICMC is truly an artist's retreat.

Today Icicle Creek Music Center hosts a wide variety of festivals throughout the year. This year there are the annual Icicle Creek Chamber Music Festival; Burning Word, a bi-annual poetry festival; The Great Leavenworth Wine & Food Festival; The Wild & Scenic Music Festival, a summertime celebration of bluegrass and folk music held at the meadow stage; Sankusem African Music & Dance, a blend of traditional and classical African music and dance; and the Winter Piano Festival, a showcase of international

*- ICMC hosts a wide variety of festivals, performance concert series, and educational opportunities throughout the year.*

piano masters. ICMC also hosts several performance series throughout the year. These include concerts by the internationally renowned resident chamber group the Icicle Creek Piano Trio Concert Showcase, where guests artist join the ensemble in special performances; The Guest Series, which features world class artists performing, lecturing and teaching master classes; and the Annual Gala Dinner & Auction, with performances by the Icicle Creek Piano Trio and the Kairos Quartet (a former resident ensemble).

ICMC is also host to several educational opportunities for students from beginner to doctoral. There are classes and private instruction at the Icicle Creek Chamber Music Institute during the Chamber Music Festival. Students during this program have the opportunity to work with world-class chamber musi-

cians and perform at the end of the weeklong programs. The annual Piano Festival and the new Young Pianist Festival directed by ICMC's resident pianist and music director Oksana Ezhokina. The Piano Festival is held in January and hosts advanced pre-professional pianists in an intense train-

ing program. The Young Pianist Festival is a summer time camp for middle and high school aged pianists also directed by Ezhokina. Earlier this summer there was also two weeks of Harp Institute. One week for older and more accomplished performers, and a second week for the younger musicians. Each of these educational programs has public performances as part of educational offerings.

The administrative home of the Icicle Creek Youth Symphony is ICMC as well. This ensemble performs throughout the year at the Performing Arts Center of Wenatchee and rehearses at Wenatchee Valley College. Icicle Creek Youth Symphony is under the direction of long time Wenatchee High School choral director, Dan Jackson. During the summer there is an Icicle Creek Summer Symphony that is the summer session of the youth symphony program. This summer program is an orchestral camp held at the ICMC campus for students from all over Washington.

There are an incredible amount of performances throughout the year, too many to list here. If you have an opportunity to go see a performance at Sleeping Lady, in the Canyon Wren Recital Hall or in the meadow at the Icicle Creek Music Center campus, I highly recommend you do so. As a classically trained musician myself, it is nice to know that there is place in the rural part of this state where you can go and listen to world-class classical musicians. The setting at Sleeping Lady Resort and the Icicle Creek Music Center campus is spectacular. I invite you to go visit the websites, check the calendars of upcoming events, and take the opportunity to listen to great music in an unforgettable setting.

For more information visit:  
Icicle Creek Music Center:

[www.icicle.org](http://www.icicle.org)

Sleeping Lady Resort:

[www.sleepinglady.com](http://www.sleepinglady.com)



Photo Courtesy of Leavenworth Summer Theater

## Narrowing The Aperture

### Leavenworth's Summer Theater: The Sound of Music

Dave Rowley

A breeze through the trees, the stars in the sky, and the sound of music in the air, that is what came to my mind as I watched the Rogers and Hammerstein classic *The Sound of Music* at the Ski Hill Amphitheater in Leavenworth. Produced by the Leavenworth Summer Theater program, *The Sound of Music* has been performed each summer over the past 17 years. The Leavenworth Summer Theater is producing a total of three musicals this summer: the aforementioned *The Sound of Music*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* at the Fish Hatchery Park Amphitheater, and *My Fair Lady* indoors at the FestHalle Theater.

According to the program for this summer's productions, the Leavenworth Summer Theater began in 1994 as a vision of John and Susan Wagner and Bill Weis. The icon of the program has been an annual production of *The Sound of Music*, which fits nicely with the Bavarian theme of the town. The outdoor setting also makes it an incredible theater experience. But, it was the performance of the individual actors and actresses that made the experience so wonderful for me.

Now, I realize that some of the performers in this production of *The Sound of Music* do work professionally. However, these performances are still basically Community Theater, albeit Community Theater at the highest of levels. To begin with, the portrayal of Maria by Jenness Klein-Schrenzel is spot on and incredible. She completely embodied the character of Maria Rainier. She was not just a good singer. So many times in rolls like this you get a good singer

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Nate Rowley

The hills are alive with the sound of music, ... no really! Leavenworth is a wonderful place to find oneself in, a Bavarian themed town full of good people, food, and entertainment. If you happen to find that you are in Leavenworth, or are planning on heading up that way soon, I suggest a couple of things. Hit the München Haus for good beer and brauts, chill in the park and enjoy the Village Art in the Park, and go see the Leavenworth Summer Theatre perform Rogers and Hammerstein's, *The Sound Of Music*.

I have dabbled in theatre arts. When I say dabbled I mean I played a lead role in *Honk!* (the ugly duckling story set to music), worked as a tech for many high school productions, and I even played a female witch in (*Annabell Broom, the Unhappy Witch*). My theatre days ended when I graduated, but my love and appreciation for the musical and theatre arts never diminished. When we decided to make Leavenworth our focus for LENS, I didn't expect we would be seeing a musical. To be honest I wasn't really thrilled about it, only because I had to work the next morning and I knew it was going to be a late night. My lack of enthusiasm was changed when I sat down to watch the performance.

Of course, I have only watched Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer in the 1965 film *The Sound of Music*. Naturally, most would compare the film with the stage version, but they are not one and the same. While the theatre is a much different place than the cinema, both can be rich and colorful, display exquisite acting, and come alive with emotion and passion that is re-

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that is an adequate actor, or you get a good actor with only adequate singing chops. This was not the case with Klein-Schrenzel; she was simply incredible in both respects. Her counterpart Ernest Palmer, playing Captain Georg von Trapp, did an equally commendable job. His voice was especially strong. What is difficult about performing in this musical, especially for the leads, is that no matter what your performance will be measured against the performances of Julie Andrews (nominated for an Oscar for the performance) as Maria, and Christopher Plummer as Captain von Trapp in the 1966 Best Picture Oscar winning movie. If you are a theater patron, the chances are that you have seen this movie before you have seen a live performance. What was wonderful about this particular show was

that within minutes I was not making the comparison. The two actors playing the leads completely sold me on their characterizations. I was in their world.

With that being said, truly it was the children who stole the audience's heart. The producers of this show do a very smart thing when it comes to casting the children. They have two completely different casts for the von Trapp children and the character Rolf. There are 20 performances throughout the summer, so having two casts of children helps keep the kids fresh. They also work together in teams, and you can tell. There is chemistry between the children that comes from working as a team. Not only is the acting done really well, their singing is outstanding. The kids that play these parts are local, mostly from the Wenatchee Valley area. I was blown away by their abilities, and by the job that we as an audience don't see: the director's job in getting two teams of children performance ready. I have directed high school-aged children for years, and I have directed young elementary-aged students as part of a larger high school cast. Directing young non-professional actors is not easy with one group; I can't imagine what it was like with two. All I can say is, well done. The evening I saw the performance it was what they called

Photo By Marshelle Rowley



Ski Hill Amphitheater before showtime

laid through the actors either on stage or in front of the camera. I have seen bad plays and musicals, and even more bad movies. This was not the case nestled in the hills outside Leavenworth. The Leavenworth Summer Theater did not disappoint me in the least.

The production of *The Sound of Music* by the Leavenworth Summer Theater has been running for 17 years. It sells out every night, and is a theatre experience that all can enjoy. The stage is set in the trees on the Ski Hill Amphitheater just outside of town. A quick walk up the hill and you find yourself sitting in a wonderful setting, with the mountains behind the stage setting the perfect picture, the trees behind you, and the actors, sets, and musicians set in the middle. This is a unique and inspiring place to perform and to watch indeed.

The first thing I would like to touch on, as part of this review, is the sound. The musicians performed the music very well with attention to detail and mixed perfectly with the singers and actors on stage. The sound technicians performed their job on par, with no noticeable hiccups save for a mic coming on slightly late in a few instances. Of course, the main focus of this production is the singing and the acting.

The acting exceeded my expectations, and several characters really stood out to me. The lead, Jenness Klein,-Schrenzel's performance of Maria was perfect. Every moment she was on stage there was emotion and passion, fun and liveliness. Ernest Palmer did an excellent job as Captain von Trapp, while Gary Hesse's performance as Max Detweiler was hilarious and entertaining. Of course, the most difficult part of this production is the children. The seven actors that we had the night we watched were perfect, that is really the only word to use. Their acting was above my anticipations and the seven young actors brought the entire production together. The entire cast did a wonderful job; from the nuns to the Nazi's, the entire cast brought the production to life with stellar acting.

Madeline's cast. This was the cast led by Madeline Winters who played Liesl. All of the children sang extremely well. I heard no pitch or balance issues throughout the evening. I was especially impressed with the performance of Do-Re-Mi. The contrapuntal lines in the last half of that production number is hard for trained adult singers to get right. All the children were great, but I have to mention that the little lady who played Gretl, Annie Bowles, stole my heart. I am sure she is only 4 or 5 years old, but her stage presence was wonderful for one so young. She reacted within the scenes well, and had the audience in the palm of her little hands whenever she had a solo part in a song or a line. Well-done young lady!

I have to mention one more specific performance and that is the portrayal of Max Detweiler by Gary Hesse. Hesse's performance was spot on. I enjoyed watching an older actor really relish a part and show us the love of their craft. I don't know what Mr. Hesse's theater experience is, but he worked like a true professional and made acting seem easy. Although, I was very impressed with all of the performances I needed to specifically point out the performances of Klein-Schrenzel, Palmer, the children, and Hesse. However, all of the great performances would have been for naught if it weren't for the overall production. It has always amazed me that the actors and actresses get so much press, but the production team so little.

The first member of the production team that needs acclaim is Mother Nature. The setting that is offered by The Ski Hill Amphitheater is perfect for The Sound of Music. Being outdoors with the Cascade Mountains that surround Leavenworth as a backdrop does just as good of job as any actor at making the audience believe that they are actually in 1930's Austria. Along with what Mother Nature gives us, the set itself works so well for a community theater production. The set is designed exceptionally well, and you can tell that there have been several years of making it work so seamlessly. The sets, coupled with quality sound and lighting, make for a wonderful theater experience. Additionally, Susan Noland's costume design was especially good. I particularly liked the children's curtain costumes. I

Photo By Marshelle Rowley



Fish Hatchery Park Amphitheater where Seven Brides for Seven Brothers is performed

The singing, my ears were fine-tuned for a critique of the singing. I love this musical. It is not my absolute favorite, that would be My Fair Lady, which LST also performs and I intend to see. But, my classically trained ears were excited to enjoy the songs being sung outdoors by new voices. The singing was spectacular! Each song was performed with great interpretation, emotion, and passion that made me get lost in the production. There were several instances when I found myself completely involved in the drama unfolding in front of me. Of course Klein-Schrenzel sang Maria's songs beautifully and commanded the audience's attention with her infatuating voice. Susan Gubsch's stunning and powerful voice brought Mother Abbess to full life, and sitting a few rows back my hair, if I had any, would have been blown off. Ernest Palmer sang the Captain's songs

flawlessly and had an amazing voice that portrayed the deep softness that is hidden under the character's stoic exterior. I applaud Mr. Palmer for his singing and would gladly watch him sing in any musical.

The children, this play has some difficult music that can be troublesome for younger singers. With counter melodies, syncopation, high register notes, and of course the fact that there are seven plus singing songs all together while acting and dancing can make the roles a little cumbersome for some young actors. The cast of children that were on stage the night we attended was splendid. Each young actor played their part perfectly and used their counterparts on stage to feed off of, creating rich and involving scenes that were entertaining and amazing! The singing by each individual melded into a choral of enchanting melodies that brought the production to life and entertained me completely.

I invite you to watch any of the Leavenworth Summer Theater productions, but I especially encourage you to go see The Sound of Music. Of course make sure you get your tickets soon, as the tickets are hard to come by the closer you get to show dates. There are several dates in August and if you do not get a chance to see any of the LST productions this year you are missing out for sure. Enjoying the culture, art, music, and theatre that our area has to offer is something all should

also have to give special recognition to Dawn McCormick, who was the Vocal Director for the children. This play doesn't work without quality vocal performances from the children. And, it should be added that the orchestra under the direction of Robert Collins did an outstanding job as well.

This entire production was professionally presented, and of course that doesn't happen without the passionate work of a director. Jan Johnston has done an incredible job of putting together an outstanding and professional production of one of America's best-loved musicals. Having myself directed over 20 shows over the past two decades, I understand the time, energy, and pure love of theater that it takes to put together a show. The only thing I can say is well done; well done everyone.

There are still several shows available for you to see this summer, not only The Sound of Music, but also Seven Brides for Seven Brothers and My Fair Lady. The Leavenworth Summer Theater has an incredible thing going here, you should go see what they do, and consider being a patron to make sure this incredible community theater program continues for years to come.

For more information, go to:

[www.leavenworthsummertheater.org](http://www.leavenworthsummertheater.org)

Photo By Marshelle Rowley



The Ski Hill Amphitheater  
nestled in the woods

experience and none will regret. I invite everyone to visit Leavenworth and enjoy all that the Bavarian hideaway has to offer, especially its Summer Theater.



# The Sandbox

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# Microscopic Details: A Look at Leavenworth