

The Auburn Community Players Presents....

# The SOUND of MUSIC

## Shows

October 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 & 18 at 7:30 PM

October 5, 12 & 19 at 2:00 PM

Music by **RICHARD RODGERS**  
Lyrics by **OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II**  
Book by **HOWARD LINDSAY and RUSSEL CROUSE**

Direction by Dave Cox  
Music Direction by Jon Stenson  
Choreography by Stephanie Cox

At the Auburn Ave Theater  
10 Auburn Ave Auburn, WA 98002

Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation  
253-931-3043 | [www.auburnwa.gov/arts](http://www.auburnwa.gov/arts)

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MORE THAN YOU IMAGINED

# About the Auburn Community Players

*“Auburn Community Players is a theater troupe that collaborates with high quality performers and artists to produce contemporary and classical theater works. It is the mission of Auburn Community Players to educate, entertain and enrich lives.”*

*Welcome to the Auburn Community Player’s production of The Sound of Music. This is our 9th production to this date. We are very excited to bring this show to you and we hope you enjoy it.*

*We are very proud to continue to bring great musicals to the Auburn community. We are very excited you are here with us and we hope you continue to come back for each show we do.*

*The Auburn Community Players are produced and presented by the City of Auburn. We also continue to partner with Auburn area businesses to make this a true community theater experience.*

*The actors are residents from the Auburn area and surrounding areas as well; there are all levels of experience, ranging from highly seasoned performers to people that are new to the stage. Here at Auburn Community Players, we truly believe there is a place for everyone. So, come and join us in one of our upcoming productions.*

*We are always looking for behind the scenes help with our productions. Also, if you are interested in being involved as an actor in a show please contact Jim Kleinbeck at [jkleinbeck@auburnwa.gov](mailto:jkleinbeck@auburnwa.gov)*

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## General Information

- The lobby box office opens one hour prior to every performance.
- Visual and audio recording of all performances is strictly prohibited.
- Please silence all cellular phones and any other electronic devices before the start of the show.
- Some Auburn Ave Theater performances may not be appropriate for the very young. Please use discretion when choosing performances. Please no “babes in arms.”
- Late arrivals will be escorted into the theater at appropriate intervals, as determined by the artist and/or theater management.

**Call 253-833-5678 for information about the Auburn Avenue Theater**

The Auburn Community Players Presents....

# The SOUND of MUSIC

## Cast

Maria Rainer | Karyn Plonsky  
Mother Abbess | Katie Jones  
Sister Berthe | Grace Nirschl  
Sister Margareta | Nadine Baxter  
Sister Sophia/Frau Zeller | Jenni Miller  
Captain Georg von Trapp | Joe Blotner  
Franz | Brandon Kinney  
Frau Schmidt | Lisa Hildner

## Strüdel Cast/Schnitzel Cast

Liesl von Trapp | Sammy Cattin/Savannah Smith  
Friedrich von Trapp | Drew bates/Noah Nieves Driver  
Louisa von Trapp | McKenna Webb/Rachel Faria  
Kurt von Trapp | Clayton Weichbrodt/AJ Newbury  
Brigitta von Trapp | Olivia Thomas/Leslie Clark  
Marta von Trapp | Miranda Hildner/Alliya Miller-Espinoza  
Gretl von Trapp | Haley Walker/Ellie Newbury

Rolf Gruber | Jeff Rowden  
Elsa Schraeder | Jessie Glancy  
Novice Nun/Ursula | Anna Van Vleet  
Max Detweiler | Justin Hopkins  
Herr Zeller | Mackenzie Mason  
Baron Elberfeld | Bryan Froslund  
Novice Nun/ Baroness Elberfeld | Cher Thomas  
Novice Nun | Elisabeth Tena  
Postulant/Fraulein Schweiger | Hannah McLaughlin  
Postulant | Emily Van Vleet  
Postulant | Indiana Hopkins  
Admiral von Schreiber | Rod Nirschl

## Production Team

Jim Kleinbeck | Producer  
Dave Cox | Director  
Stephanie Cox | Choreographer  
Jon Stenson | Music Director  
Nick Fitzgerald | Production Assistant/Stage Manager  
Robin Weakland | Costumer  
Austin Taylor | Lights  
Paul Racey | Sound  
Chris Olds | Lead Carpenter  
Grace Nirschl | Scene Painter  
The Cast & Crew | Props  
Sam Mashek | Spot Light  
Auburn Youth Council | Concessions

## The Hills Are Alive Band:

Dean Story | Piano  
Suzanne Messinger | Keyboards  
Jerry Bates | Percussion  
The Sound of Music

## Special Thanks

Children's Dance Theater of Auburn for  
audition and dance rehearsal space.  
Rainer Middle School for sets, costumes,  
props and the really awesome Mr. Cox!  
Kings Player's Organization for costumes  
Snoqualmie Falls Forest Theater for costumes  
Greg & Meridith Heideman  
for Props and set decorations  
Justin Heideman for Props  
Derek Enz of DK Custom Ink  
Rottles of Auburn

THE SOUND OF MUSIC is presented through special arrangement with R & H Theatricals: [www.rnh.com](http://www.rnh.com)

# A Note from The Director

The Sound of Music is, perhaps the most classic of classic American musicals. We each have some fond memory of this show. For so many of us, it conjures memories of spending time with the family on winter nights watching Julie Andrews lilt the title song. For me personally, it brings back visions of my first leading role in a musical (A 17 year old Captain Von Trapp? What could be better?). This show's endearing qualities make it a "go-to" piece for professional and community theater groups across the country.

No matter who we are or what stage in life we are in when we see it, The Sounds of Music entralls its audience. We each have characters that we can identify with; more interestingly, the characters we identify with change as we travel through life. The little girl who loves Gretl this year will likely see herself in Liesl a few years from now. That same young adult, as she matures, will find herself in the character of Maria.

Of course it is the relationships that are the heart of this musical. Some of the relationships are straight forward; the kind of love story you expect to see in all classic American Musicals. While others are grander in scope, like Maria's changing relationship with God or Von Trapp's understanding of what it actually means to be brave. What The Sound of Music does so well and what makes it so iconic is its ability to intertwine so many layers of interconnection in a way that reflects to its audience what it truly means to love.

Please enjoy the production presented to you tonight by the Cast and Production Team.

## Cast Bios



Drew Bates is extremely excited to be playing Friedrich in The Sound of Music! This is his third production with the Auburn Community Players, the other two being Willy Wonka (James) and Seussical (Who). Favorite roles include Into The Woods Jr. (Jack), Seussical Jr. (Horton) and Mulan Jr. (Shang). Thank you to my parents, my vocal teacher Suzanne Messinger, my show siblings, my actual sibling and Dave Cox for working hard to create an amazing production. Enjoy the show!



Nadine Baxter can site many mountain top theatrical experiences, which include roles in Young Frankenstein and The 25th Annual Spelling Bee with the Auburn Community Players, Godspell at Tacoma Musical Playhouse, as Babe in Crimes of the Heart for the Covington, Louisiana Players Theater, and as Antiope for the Eastern Washington University's musical By Jupiter. She toured Germany for 9 weeks as a USO performer. Currently her day job is teaching middle school art in the Fife District.



Joe Blotner: After watching his three children on the Ave stage for years, Joe is excited to make his ACP debut! Thanks to this fantastic cast for such a special experience, and what a wonderful bonus to play "Dad" to two of his real-life children, AJ and Ellie (wish you could have joined us, Bug – keep dancing!). A former actor, Joe got his BA in theatre from Penn State (1990-something), but shifted careers as life led him in other directions. Joe would like to send his love and thanks to his amazing, beautiful wife, Suzie – you are my sunshine!



Sammy Cattin is delighted to be featured in her third show with the Auburn Community Players as Liesl Von Trapp. Since her first production in Into the Woods as The Wicked Stepsister Lucinda, she has been thrilled by how far she's come. Sammy has played roles from the moronic Ziggy the Village Idiot in Young Frankenstein, to the melancholy Jacques in Shakespeare's As You Like it, and she hopes to continue building that repertoire with each show to come.



Leslie Clark is excited to be in her fourth play with the Auburn Community Players! Previously, Leslie performed as Violet "Blueberry" Beauregarde in Willy Wonka, Shoe Shine Kid in Young Frankenstein, and a Who in Suessical the Musical. She also acts in many other community plays throughout the area and wants to make acting a part of her life always. When not on stage, Leslie is a freshman at White River High School. Leslie would like to thank Dave, Stephanie, Jim and the rest of the performers and techs that have made this production possible!



Rachel Faria is 14 years old and has done 2 shows with the Community Players, you may remember her from Suessical where she played the Grinch. Rachel was very excited when she got the role of Louisa. With that she hopes you sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!



Bryan Froslund is excited to be in his second Auburn Community Players Production. He has enjoyed his time working with the cast and production team. He is looking forward to the next one. Please enjoy the show.



Jessie Glancy is returning for her 3rd show with Auburn Community Players. Hailing from Tucson, Arizona, She relocated to the Puget Sound for the rich theatre environment. Jessie has performed since she was 8 and her favorite performances include Kim in Bye bye Birdie, Terry in Stage Door, Kate in Pirates of Penzance, Marcy Park from The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling bee, and Turtle in A Year With Frog and Toad. Jessie would like to thank her husband William.



Lisa Hildner is grateful to be back on stage after a 20 year hiatus! She studied at Pacific Lutheran University, Majoring in Vocal Performance. While a PLU she also performed in the Tacoma Opera's production of Carmen. Lisa has traveled to Europe with the US National Chorus and toured the West Coast with the Choir of the West. Lisa would like to thank Dave and Stephanie for casting her in her first non-singing role and allowing her the opportunity to focus on acting. This performance is dedicated to her Mom who supported her love of singing and performing and made it all possible.



Miranda Hildner is very excited to be in her third ACP production! Her past roles include Jojo in Seussical and a Villager in Young Frankenstein. Recently Miranda played Tiger Lily in Manestage Theater Summer camp production of Peter Pan Jr. She would like to thank Dave and Stephanie Cox for providing a great environment to learn and grow as a performer, and her parents for all the love and support. Enjoy the show!

# Cast Bios



Indiana Hopkins loves to sing, dance, act, and play the piano and violin. She has appeared in several plays at Rainier Middle School, including *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Twilight Zone*. When she's not on stage, Indiana enjoys writing and directing plays for her friends, singing in her church youth choir, and playing with her younger sisters, Scarlet and Keely.



Justin Hopkins is a veteran of the stage, but acting in his first production with the Auburn Community Players. Justin loves Shakespeare and has appeared in *Much Ado About Nothing*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Love's Labour's Lost*. His musical credits include *Damn Yankees*, *Anything Goes*, *The Sound of Music* (when he was 14 years old), and *The Seattle Opera's* 2008 production of *I Puritani*. Justin is thrilled to be acting alongside his daughter, Indiana for the first time.



Katie Jones is a proud native of Washington State. For a brief time she and her husband lived in Arizona where she had the privilege of singing with the Arizona Opera and the Phoenix Bach Choir (now known as Phoenix Chorale), while she attended ASU with a Musical Theater scholarship. She has played characters such as Ado Annie in *Oklahoma!*, Grizabella in *Cats* and Sonia the Widow in *The Merry Widow*. Katie is thrilled to be in the role of Mother Abbess! This is her first appearance with Auburn Community Players!



Brandon Kinney is excited to be in another Auburn Community Players production. Some of his favorite roles include *The Tin Man* in the *Wizard of Oz* and *Chuck Cranston* in *Footloose*, *Chip Tolentino* from *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling bee*, all of which were played here with the Auburn Community Players. He has also acted at the Valley Center Stage in North Bend.



Mackenzie Mason is happy to be at the Ave for his 3rd show. He played an ensemble role in *Young Frankenstein: The Musical* and *General Genghis Khan Schmitz* in *Seussical*. To be honest, he's not great, but he's nice and Jim's too lazy to tell him to stop coming back. Plus, he bakes, so there's that. Enjoy the show!



Alliya Miller-Espinoza is 9 years old and is very excited to be playing Marta. This is her fifteenth show and her second show with Auburn Community Players. She most recently played *Cindy Lou Who* in *Seussical* and *Mike Teavee* in *Willie Wonka*. She would like to thank Dave and Stephanie Cox for giving her this opportunity and her parents for being so supportive.



Jenni Miller has always loved *The Sound of Music* and is thrilled to be playing *Sister Sophia* and *Frau Zeller*. This is her second production with Auburn Community Players and most recently played as a *Who* in *Seussical the Musical*. She would like to thank Dave and Stephanie for all their hard work and John for helping everyone to sound their best. She would also like to thank her daughter for being a part of this with her and her husband for being so supportive.



AJ Newbury is 10 years old and in 5th grade at Emerald Park Elementary in Kent. This is his first play with ACP, but his 11th play overall. He also plays soccer, runs track, and dances. Oh, and he loves nachos!



Ellie Newbury is 10 years old and in 5th grade at Emerald Park Elementary in Kent. This is her first play with ACP, but her 6th play over all. She also does dance, soccer, and gymnastics! "I am really excited to be doing sound of music!" She thanks her Mom and Dad, sister Katie and brother AJ for always cheering her on.



Noah Nieves Driver is excited to make his return to Auburn Community Players in *The Sound of Music*. Though this is Noah's first time working with director Dave Cox, he hopes this won't be his last.



Grace Nirschl, a friendly person who loves children, thought it would be fun and challenging to take on a character who is cranky. She appreciates Dave for giving her the opportunity to do so by casting her with this great role. This is her third production in a row with Auburn Community Players and she has thoroughly enjoyed being Head Counselor and Set Painter for this past summer's Youth Theater Camp. She thanks all of her friends and family who have come to see her and has appreciated their support VERY MUCH!



Rod Nirschl: This is his first time on the Auburn Ave Stage. Rod is another transplant from Puyallup's ASTRA Theatre group. Rod enjoys singing, acting, working on sets and producing Musicals. He is happy to be on stage again with his wife, Grace. "This is my first time on the Auburn Stage, but I used to see movies in this building as a kid since I grew up here in Auburn."



Karyn Plonsky is a native of Tacoma, WA, where her acting career began at the age of 3 in a local TV spot. As an adult, she studied at the NY Conservatory for Dramatic Arts. Karyn worked in Manhattan for over a decade working as an Actress, Makeup Artist, and Fit and Smile Model. Karyn has appeared in many national TV commercials, daytime and primetime TV shows, in film, on the radio, and in print. One of her favorite print jobs was appearing on the cover of ESPN magazine, as the number one Seahawks Fan. Other notable credits include: *The Good Wife*, *Canterbury's Law*, *One Life to Live*, *SNL*, *Gossip Girl*, and *Sex and The City*. Karyn is currently working on the radio in Jim French's *Sherlock Holmes* and *The Adventures of Harry Nile* series. Karyn's heartfelt gratitude goes to the cast and crew, family and friends, for their love and support. Karyn loves playing the part of Maria and is delighted to perform with the Auburn Community Players.



Jeff Rowden: has been involved with the theater arts for eleven years and this is his third show with Auburn Community Players. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. Jeff also plays bass and sings in a band called *The Out Line*.



Savana Smith is delighted to be a part of this cast full of talented and passionate actors. She has been recently seen with the Auburn Community Players in *Young Frankenstein* and as *Olive Ostrovsky* in *Spelling Bee*. She would like to thank her family members, on and off stage, for all of their support and inspiration throughout this journey.

# Cast Bios



Elisabeth Tena, who plays a postulant and a singer in the Trio of Saengerbunds, is extremely proud to be joining the Auburn Community Players cast of *The Sound of Music*. Elisabeth lives in Auburn with her parents and is a 7th grader at Rainier Middle School, where she loves studying drama, art, and science. This is Elisabeth's third production and she would like to thank her mom and dad for their love and support. She also thanks Mr. Dave Cox for allowing her to enjoy this valuable experience and dedicates her performance to her grandpa.



Cher Thomas has been performing with her daughter for the last six years. Her true joy comes from watching her daughter on stage. She wants to thank her husband for always supporting her and her son for cheering her on.



Olivia Thomas is 13 years old and goes to Rainier Middle School. Although she has been in over thirty plays, this is her first play with the Auburn Community Players. Olivia participates in her school's orchestra, playing the violin, plays piano, she participates in her church's Affirmation of Baptism (AOB) class, is an Auburn City Junior Council person, she is Vice President of her school's Drama Club, and is ASB President of her school. Olivia would like to thank her mom for being in the play with her, driving her back and forth, and supporting her all at the same time, her dad and brother for welcoming her home after every rehearsal with hugs and food, and her two dogs and cat for welcoming her home with lots of kisses.



McKenna Webb is beyond excited to play the role of Louisa Von Trapp of the *Strüdel* cast in Auburn Community Player's production of *The Sound of Music*! This is McKenna's 3rd full musical that she's done with the Community Players, and her 12th production overall. She'd like to thank her family, friends, and cast for always supporting her, and her directors Dave and Stephanie Cox for letting her join in this great experience. So long, farewell, and enjoy the show!



Anna Van Vleet is very excited to be in her first show with Auburn Community Players. Anna is involved with the drama department at Rainier Middle School and she also does shows with Messiah Players. Anna would like to thank the cast, crew and directors for making this such a fun show to be a part of. Enjoy the show!



Emily Van Vleet: This is her first show with Auburn Community Players. Emily has been in several shows with Messiah Players. She would like to thank the directors and cast for this experience and hopes the audience enjoys the show!



Haley Walker is 9 years old and goes to Ilalko Elementary. She lives in Pacific with her Mom, Dad, 3 dogs and Guinea Pig, Waffles. Haley has been in many plays including, *Willy Wonka* (Oompa Loompa), *Into The Woods*(Goldilocks), *Wizard of Oz*(Lullaby League Munchkin), *Seussical The Musical* (Baby Kangaroo), and recently *High School Musical* (Sharpette). Haley dances at Children's Dance Theater in Auburn and enjoys dancing, singing, acting, playing with friends and her dogs, and just being a kid! She wants to thank her family for being so supportive and thanks everyone for coming...Enjoy the show!!!



Clayton Weichbrodt first acting experience came at the age 6 when he played Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer in *The Elf Impersonator* with Auburn Parks and Rec. He performed in several more plays over the next few years, including *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Goin' Buggy*. After a few years away from the stage he returned this past spring for the Rainier Middle School performance of *The Wizard of Oz*, playing a City Father and Ozian. Off the stage Clayton enjoys playing lacrosse, snow skiing and tennis.

# Production Bios



Dave Cox: This is Dave's 7th show as director with Auburn Community Players. Dave could most recently be seen on stage as Leaf Coneybear in ACP's production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," and in various roles with Auburn Mountain View Theater's Summer Alumni Theater Company. When he's not at the Auburn Avenue Theater, Dave teaches Theater Arts at Rainier Middle School. Dave would like to thank the production team of Stephanie, Jon, Chris and Jim as well as the entire cast. Most importantly, Dave thanks his Family. His two young sons, Davey and Mike, Robin, and the newest addition to the Cox family cast Miss Cassidy "My boss says I can come home soon!" And his beautiful, hardworking, wonderful wife Steph, "We'll have plenty of time to budget now!"



Stephanie Cox received her training from the Evergreen City Ballet, the Hartford School of Ballet and Westlake Dance Center. After receiving a serious ankle injury, Stephanie matriculated at the University of Oregon where she received a Bachelor of Arts with a dance major and double minors in business and art administration. While dancing at the University of Oregon, she received many faculty and university honors, awards and scholarships. Upon returning to Washington, she became a well known jazz, ballet and children's instructor, and began teaching for Pacific Northwest Ballet School and is now the proud owner of Children's Dance Theater and Prestige Dance Studio. In recent years Stephanie has become a well-known choreographer for shows such as *Honk!* (Auburn Riverside), *Annie* (Rainier Middle School), and is the resident choreographer for Auburn Community Players. Stephanie has 3 beautiful children and thanks her husband Dave for all his love and support.



Jon Stenson has been the director of choirs at Auburn Riverside High School for the past seven years and has participated as the music director in many musicals. He feels fortunate to once again have the opportunity to work with such inspired and uplifting actors from our community. It is his privilege to be associated with an Auburn Avenue Production and also to work with Dave and Stephanie Cox, two very talented directors and teachers. He would like to thank all of the actors for bringing so much enthusiasm and joy to the rehearsal process, as well as his wife and son for supporting his participation and being a wonderful inspiration in his life. He hopes you enjoy the show!

# Production Bios



**Nick R. Fitzgerald:** This is Nick's third show stage managing and is thrilled that he has been able to spend it with such a talented cast and crew. As a Theatre Graduate of Washington State University, GO COUGS!, Nick is no stranger to being on stage and has been broadening his theatrical horizons in the Auburn area for the past year. He would like to thank his family and friends and the Auburn Community Players for all their support. Enjoy the Show!



**Robin Weakland:** Robin has really enjoyed adding her vintage and authentic Austrian and German costumes to this production. Costuming 2 sets of VonTrapp children (14, count them 14!) has been challenging but still very rewarding. Other AAT productions costumed by Robin were Into The Woods, Wizard of Oz (in which she also played the Wicked Witch of the West) and Young Frankenstein. Robin has also costumed for theaters from Everett (Northwest Savoyards), 4 years at Snoqualmie Falls Forest Theater and assisted with costumes for KingsPlayers and Tacoma Little Theater. Robin wants to thank to Dave, Stephanie & Jim for their continued confidence and support. She also wants to thank her wonderful husband, Len, for his patience and support.



**Jim Kleinbeck** Jim has been involved with the Auburn Ave Theater since 1993, acting, directing, producing, and anything else you can imagine.

Along with Jim Westhusing and Dave & Stephanie Cox, they created the Auburn Community Players in 2010 and now are producing show number 9, with the hopes of many more. Jim is the Theater Operation Coordinator for the City of Auburn, WA. Jim is a performer himself and plays bass and sings with The Fabulous Murphtones. Jim would like to thank his wife for her understanding when it comes to tech week and runs for these shows. Sit back relax and enjoy the show.

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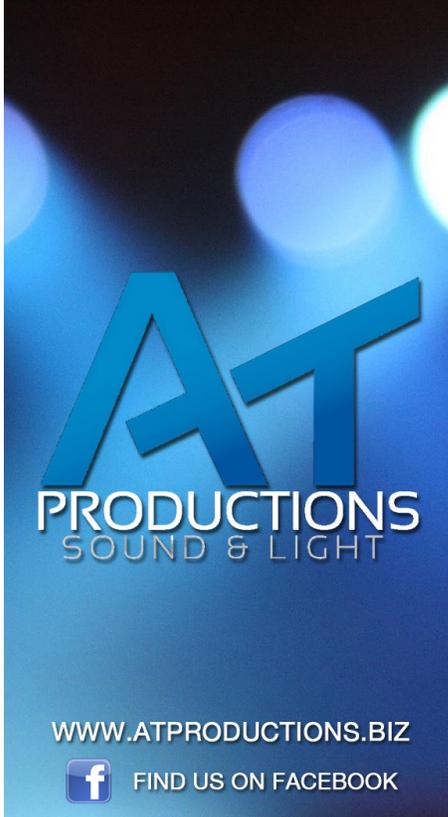


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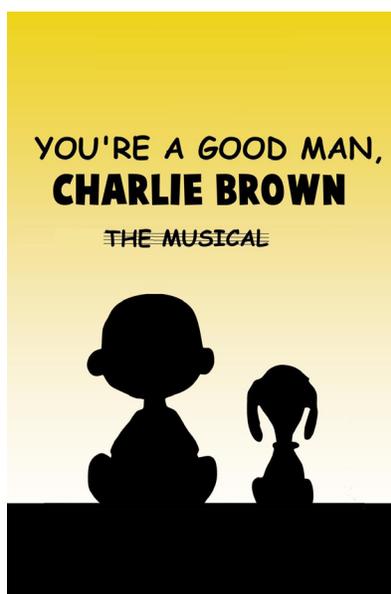
# Upcoming Auburn Community Players Productions...



Disney's My Son Pinocchio JR. | April 17, 18, and 19, 2015



9 to 5, the new musical from Dolly Parton | June 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 19 & 20, 2015



You're a Good Man Charlie Brown | July 17, 18, 19, 2015

for more information visit [www.auburnwa.gov/arts](http://www.auburnwa.gov/arts)