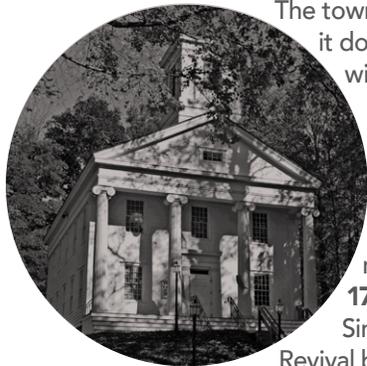


Building update

Repairing, Restoring, Renewing
The Academy's makeover continues



The town of Austerlitz marks its bicentennial this June, and when it does, the 212-pound bell atop the Spencertown Academy will ring in the occasion from a newly built bell tower.

The bell-ringing itself marks a historic milestone, representing the first and most visible stage of an extensive restoration of the Academy that began last fall. Upon their completion, the improvements will ensure the Academy's ability to continue offering the arts in its many forms to the community for decades to come.

170+ years of wear and tear

Since opening its doors as a school in 1847, the Greek Revival building has served as a teacher training college, an arts center, a concert hall, and a community space. But the years have taken a heavy toll on the Academy's physical condition, creating a critical need for major repairs.

Workers last fall began at the top, with the replacement of the metal roof and reconstruction of the bell tower, cornice and chimney. Progress slowed during the winter months and the snowier-than-normal March, but work will resume in the coming weeks, as the weather becomes more temperate.

An extensive to-do list

"We're far from finished," says Academy president Nick Van Alstine. "There are decades of rot in the wooden columns, siding, windows and trim. And the parking lot, driveway, drainage systems and walkways all need a serious makeover."

Last year, the Academy launched a \$600,000 capital campaign to fund the improvements and maintain them going forward. To date, more than half of the required funds have been raised.

"That will enable us to continue the work and move on to the next phase," says Nick. "But we're not there yet. We need to raise another \$280,000." Contributions to the Academy's year-end Annual Appeal, as well as membership fees and the proceeds of Academy events are earmarked for general operating costs and not commingled with donations to the Building Campaign.

"Portrait of an Artist"

One event that is specifically designed to advance the Building Campaign is "Portrait of an Artist," a benefit performance by Tony Award-winning actress Linda Lavin and her husband, painter-jazz musician Steve Bakunas. Over the course of 90 minutes, Linda will answer questions from Steve about her life and career while he paints her portrait on stage. Proceeds from the event will be earmarked exclusively for the Building Campaign and the portrait will be raffled off at the end of the evening. The performance will take place at the Academy on Saturday, April 28, at 5pm. Reservations are required. Tickets are available at spencertownacademy.org.

"Other exciting events will be planned and announced later in the year," says Nick. "They will add immeasurably to the richness of our programming content, while generating the funds we need to complete our repairs and save our priceless building."



what's coming up

 **MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY**

Intentional Jazz Ensemble

A Jazz Timeline
Saturday, May 5, 7:30pm
Tickets: \$20/\$10 students

conversations with neighbors

What's It Worth?

An Insider's Look at Today's Antiques Market
Sunday, May 6, 2pm
Panel Discussion and High Tea
Tickets: \$20/\$10 students

 **THE GALLERY**

Members Art Show

Works by 50+ Academy member artists
April 21-May 13
Opening reception: April 21, 4-6pm

 *an evening with...*

Portrait of an Artist

Benefit performance by actress Linda Lavin and painter Steve Bakunas
Saturday, April 28, 5pm
Cocktail reception to follow
Tickets: \$100

arts VOYAGE
Imagining the World

Children's artwork from the ArtsVOYAGE program
May 19 & 20, 11am-4pm
Story-telling performance by Tom Lee
Sunday, 2:30pm - Admission is free

 **THE GALLERY**

Woodlands and Wetlands

The Academy's Spring Show
May 26 - June 17
Opening reception: May 26, 4-6pm

 **MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY**

Rachelle Garniez:
Songs, Streams, NYC Dreams

An evening of lyrical and rhapsodic story-songs by the singer/composer
Saturday, June 2, 7:30pm
Tickets: \$20/\$10 students