TO: Village of Aurora Board of Trustees

FROM: Morgan Opera House Committee

RE: 2023 Year End Report

DATE: 18 March 2024

Members: Joanne Baum, Susan Forbes, Donna Goddard, Scott Heinekamp, Chris MacCormick, Ann Mathieson, Julie Kabelac- Treasurer, Mary Ellen Ormiston- Secretary, Lars Peterson, Ellen Baker Wikstrom- Chair

Performances: Attendance:

5/27 Petty Thieves 109

6/28 Brig Juice – brass band 38

7/29 Little House of Blues Band 97

9/24 &25 “The Fairer Sex – postponed due to poor turn out at casting call

10/21 Fraser & Haas 100

10/29 Skaneateles String Quintet 85

11/5 BLB Author – Tom Wilbur 32

11/18 CU Klezmer Ensemble 91

12/3 (Trom) Bones East (CIA) 92

12/16 Shepherds Play 58

Again this year, all performances were free with a “Suggested Donation of $10” with the one exception of the Skaneateles Quintet asking $20. Artists’ fees totaled $7650 and the Village helped fund $2500 of that. In addition, the Fraser & Haas concert and the Skaneateles String Quartet were partially funded by a NYS Decentralization Grant of $2375. Our remaining operating expenses were covered by individual donations and the generosity of performers who waived artist fees. Donations from the (Tom) Bones East concert at Christmas in Aurora, $406, were donated to the King Ferry Food Pantry per the group’s request.

Our efforts to rebuild our audiences showed considerable gains, up from 368 in 2022 to 728.

With help of a local donation and a Library Construction Aid grant, we hope to have air-conditioning in the theater by 2025 which will greatly enhance our ability to schedule events during the peak of summer visitors and residents.

The Morgan Opera House Committee deeply appreciates the continued support of the Village of Aurora. Without its financial assistance our efforts to provide quality, live performing arts events for the community would be severely limited. Thank you for partnering with us to improve access to the arts and enhance the lives of our community members.

3/18/2024 EBW