THE OPENING OF BING CONCERT HALL IN JANUARY 2013 MARKED THE BEGINNING OF A NEW era in the arts at Stanford. The university now has a performance venue equal to the aspirations of its students, faculty, and world-class visiting artists.

Named in honor of major supporters Helen and Peter Bing, ’55, this state-of-the-art hall allows Stanford to present superb live performances and better integrate the arts into academic and student life. It also encourages more active engagement with the Bay Area community. The Bing is the first of three buildings scheduled to open by 2015. Paired with the McMurtry Building and the Anderson Collection at Stanford University, these significant venues will define the new Arts District.

“It will really transform the arts here to have a place on campus devoted to sound and how things sound,” says music major Jacob Boehm, ’12. “And it will be incredible to be able to perform in a space like that. It changes the way you hold yourself if you’re performing in a place where the acoustics have really been thought through.”

“Anyone engaged deeply with the arts knows that it can change your life—not just make it more pleasant and offer a diversion, but change how you see the world and interact with it. My hope is that the Bing Concert Hall will help foster those sorts of life-changing experiences.”

Wiley Hausam, Executive Director, Stanford Live and Bing Concert Hall

BING CONCERT HALL IS THE PRINCIPAL VENUE FOR EVENTS SPONSORED BY STANFORD LIVE (formerly Stanford Lively Arts), the university’s chief presenter of performing arts on campus. In addition to showcasing in-profile and emerging artists, Stanford Live serves as an incubator for new and commissioned works.

The hall enables Stanford Live to engage a broader range of artists and more in-demand performers who can in turn work with students in master classes and other academic and residence-based activities. Its cutting-edge technical capabilities also allow for computer and multimedia productions that blend electronics with traditional instruments, recorded media, and physical movement.
Enhancing the Academic Connection

IN ADDITION TO CONNECTING STUDENTS AND FACULTY WITH TOP PERFORMING ARTISTS, Bing Concert Hall showcases student and faculty musicians. It provides acoustics superior to those of existing campus venues and meets a growing demand for rehearsal and performance space.

Members of Stanford’s Department of Music will make frequent use of the new hall. This includes the Stanford Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Chorus, the Grammy-nominated St. Lawrence String Quartet (Stanford’s ensemble-in-residence), and the innovative composers at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA). The university’s drama and dance programs will also mount occasional productions in Bing Hall, and some student groups will have access to the facility.

The Bing allows Stanford to blend academic study and public performance in dynamic new ways. Music professor Stephen Hinton, the Avalon Foundation Professor in the Humanities and the Denning Family Director of the Arts Initiative and the Stanford Arts Institute, taught a freshman seminar titled The Beethoven Project that coincided with a series of Beethoven concerts produced by Stanford Live and the Department of Music. Studying Beethoven in the classroom while also attending live performances is just one example of how the new hall helps students develop stronger skills for both aesthetic and interpretive inquiry.

BING CONCERT HALL HAS BEEN DESIGNED FROM THE INSIDE OUT, STARTING WITH THE connection between artist and audience. Everything from the acoustics to the amenities fosters an intimacy that allows works and performers to connect directly with listeners.

Designed by Ennead Architects with acoustic design by Yasuhisa Toyota of Nagata Acoustics and theatrical design by Fisher Dachs Associates, the hall has 842 seats in a vineyard-style configuration, with terraced sections wrapping all the way around the stage. The shape allows sound to radiate naturally and places audience members closer to performers for an enhanced communal experience.

The 90,000-square-foot building features the Gunn Atrium, artists’ suites, a performers’ lounge, a recording studio, and a 2,300-square-foot rehearsal studio. The rehearsal studio is equipped to function as a black box performance space, with room for about 100 spectators. The hall also provides generous back-of-house spaces and integrated outdoor areas.

With your support, Bing Concert Hall will lift the aspirations and abilities of artists and scholars to new heights.

Building an Experience

For more information, please contact:
Maude N. Brezinski
Director of Development, Arts Programs
T 650.723.0044
F 650.725.4365
maude.brezinski@stanford.edu

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SCIENCES

Giving Opportunities

PROGRAM ENDOWMENT | To ensure that students and faculty can create and perform works in the hall and that Stanford can bring in world-class artists for the campus and broader community. Gifts of $250,000 or more will be prominently recognized in the building.

INSTRUMENTS | Concert-quality instruments worthy of the hall are needed for both performances and practice. Gifts of $1,500 or more will provide instruments for the hall.

ANNUAL SUPPORT | Because the small size of the hall precludes high-volume ticket sales, Stanford needs donor support to supplement ticket revenue. These funds not only help underwrite the concert series but also support original student works, visiting artists, and reduced-price tickets for students.