WADSWORTH AUDITORIUM

Alisa Weilerstein, Jeewon Park, Courtenay Budd, Tina Milhorn Stallard and Charles Wadsworth perform at Wadsworth Auditorium in February.
— Photo by Steve Hill

The 1939 Newnan Municipal Auditorium Building was one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration projects and is Coweta County's only Art Deco building. The triple door entrance opens to a lobby with a mosaic type stone floor, curved stairway, and striking circular chrome light fixtures. The Auditorium encompasses

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much of the Municipal Building and was renamed the Wadsworth Auditorium in 1998 to honor Charles Wadsworth, the world renowned classical pianist and native of Newnan. Since 1990, Wadsworth has performed annual "Wadsworth and Friends" concerts in Newnan.

The Wadsworth Restoration Committee coordinated the annual concert and collected money from patrons and concert goers to fund expenses to help restore the Wadsworth Auditorium. Projects included enhancing original remaining Art Deco elements such as light fixtures, a pair of murals flanking the stage, geometric wall treatments, and decorative seating. Architects also assisted with improving acoustics and installing a new sound-reflective ceiling. Improvements included a new sound and lighting system and the construction of an interior technical balcony. A new color scheme was created and carpet installed. The city built new dressing rooms and a small kitchen.

In 2007, major renovations continued at the Auditorium. Plans include a new audio and video system, refurbishing the seats, a new theatrical rigging system, murals, sconces and plaques. Money will be designated from the Wadsworth Restoration Committee funds and the City of Newnan. The Wadsworth Auditorium is being used by many school groups, community groups and civic organizations. The Auditorium is a vital part of the arts scene and a favorite performance venue for the community. CL

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