

Chris Falteisek to Perform in Pierce County Historical Association Concert on September 27

Chris Falteisek, musician, composer and recording artist will perform a concert, "Images From Norway," at 7:00 p.m., Friday, September 27 at the Ellsworth High School Cafetorium, 323 Hillcrest St., Ellsworth, Wisconsin.

Falteisek will celebrate his Norwegian heritage, giving recognition to Ellsworth photographer, Haakon Lawrence, a Trondheim native, in this special concert.

Haakon and Julia Lawrence arrived in Pierce County in the fall of 1904 and took over a photography studio on Main Street in Ellsworth. Lawrence took photographs of buildings, weddings, confirmations, and graduations until health in the late 1940's forced him to slow down. His daughters, Hilma and Opal, then ran the business until about 1980 when they retired.

The Lawrence Studio and house were donated to the Pierce County Historical Association by the great grandchildren of H.W. Lawrence along with thousands of photographs and negatives. The Lawrence family also provided \$30,000 to match fund-raising for renovation and restoration of the property. This money went toward modernizing the house which provides space for offices, a research library, and work space. A new roof was installed and work has begun on making the buildings handicap accessible.

Much more needs to be done. Help is needed to restore the 1896 photo studio and the 1879 former Lord Abstract building which will provide museum space. A handicap accessible bathroom is needed on the main floor. Supplies are needed to safely store the old negatives.

The needs are many, so Falteisek and the Pierce County Historical Association have teamed up to help with the Haakkon Lawrence Building Complex renovation.

The concert will include some of Chris' personal compositions, as well as familiar Norwegian songs and will also include a multi-media show of pictures from Falteisek's trip to Norway, pictures of Haakon Lawrence and his family, as well as a music video celebrating the life of Chris' Norwegian-Swedish grandmother.

Falteisek, a native of Prescott, WI, started playing organ and piano for church while in the 6th grade. In addition to currently working in several churches as an accompanist and choir director, Chris has also composed and recorded 15 albums. His musical performances have brought him to Sweden, Norway and around the United States. Chris' musical style is eclectic and mirrors his love of various historical periods. In his spare time, Chris enjoys genealogy and researching his Czech, Polish, Norwegian and Swedish family history.

The concert is sponsored by the Pierce County Historical Association, and will be approximately 75 minutes in length. During the concert, a free-will offering will be taken to help with the renovation of the Haakon Lawrence Building Complex. Refreshments will follow the concert. The Ellsworth High School Cafetorium is handicap accessible.

This concert also celebrates the release of Falteisek's latest album project, "Nordic Notes" and Pierce County Historical Association's Volume 10 of their Heritage Book Series on Ellsworth.