

LOUISVILLE MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM



Press Release

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The Phantom of the Opera Returns to the Louisville Memorial Auditorium!

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Louisville, KY – the **Louisville Memorial Auditorium** in conjunction with **The William H. Bauer Foundation and FORCHT Bank** will be hosting a fundraiser on **Friday, October 13th 2017 from 7:00pm – 10:00pm**. The silent movie version of “**The Phantom of the Opera**” will be presented and accompanied by Timothy L. Baker and David Pilkinton/Guest Organist playing the historic **Pilcher Pipe Organ**.

“We are thrilled to be working with The William H. Bauer Foundation and Forcht Bank on this unique opportunity to invite both supporters of the pipe organ and interested people who may not know much about the auditorium or this type of movie experience. Aside from having an entertaining evening, the event will also educate the community how important it is to preserve the oldest and still operating Pilcher Pipe Organ in the world and the auditorium which represents the history and culture of our community” said **Kelly J. Gream/Louisville Memorial Auditorium, Executive Director**.

The admission will be a donation of \$10 per person to see the original 1925 movie production starring Lon Chaney featuring the movie score as played on the pipe organ as it was during the original showing of the masterpiece. No advance tickets or donations will be needed so interested guests can show up that evening for general admission seating where cash or credit card payments will be accepted.

The evening will start with a reception in the main lobby beginning at 7:00 p.m. which will have a delicious Hors d'oeuvres Bar by **Get It On A Bun at Booty's** and a fun photo balloon wall inspired by the legendary movie as presented by the creative team from Ah, Whatta 'Bout Mimi! There will also be a raffle for a basket of movie memorabilia and other collectibles available for purchase. For guests' comfort there will be lounge areas set-up so everyone attending can experience the beauty of the remarkable venue. Guests are welcome to come in their favorite costume from the era!

“Since the beginning of motion pictures, the organ was the voice of silent cinema. Its ability to conjure emotions from grief to gladness and fear to frivolity make it the perfect choice to enhance the viewer's experience. The finest compliment I have been given as a photoplay organist was 'I forgot you were playing.' Come to our presentation to relive the Golden Age of Motion Pictures as they were meant to be” said **Timothy Baker/President of The William H. Bauer Foundation**.

After the fundraiser a series of renovations will begin including new carpeting in the main hallway outside of the auditorium as well as fresh paint in public areas and ceiling fans in the main rehearsal hall and dressing rooms. The projects will be completed before the holiday season and programming begins in late November 2017.

About the Louisville Memorial Auditorium

Louisville Memorial Auditorium offers rich history, architectural beauty, and a remarkable stage experience complete with lighting and sound systems to produce a memorable event. A Louisville Landmark on the National Register of Historic Places, dedicated on Memorial Day in 1929. The auditorium was built from the outgrowth of two movements: one for a public auditorium, the other for a memorial to commemorate the deeds of the sons and daughters of Louisville, KY and Jefferson County who served in WWI. Over the years many concerts, graduations, dance recitals & competitions, stage productions and other interesting events have been held at the venue. Under new management the non-profit will be inviting weddings and meeting events to be held at the historic landmark.

About The William H. Bauer Foundation

The William H Bauer Foundation was formed in December 1994 after Mr. Bauer's death the previous summer. Bill loved all things concerning the Pilcher Pipe Organ Company formerly of Louisville. His forethought to interest others in the preservation of this instrument is why we are here today. After a highly successful experience during the 1993 Organ Historical Society Convention held in Louisville that year, we were encouraged to do what we could to preserve this musical treasure. 2017 celebrates our 27th year as a non-profit foundation preserving The World's Magnum Opus Pilcher Pipe Organ.

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