

LOUISVILLE MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

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Press Release

Virtual Holiday Pipe Organ Concert and Silent Movie Experience Announced!

December 21st 2020

Louisville, KY – The **William H. Bauer Foundation** is proud to announce the virtual premiere of **“Magic of Christmas Past: Pipe Organ Concert and Silent Movie”** event.

As other venues, the historic **Louisville Memorial Auditorium** is currently not hosting largely attended events due to COVID-19 restrictions issued by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The virtual experience will feature organist **Timothy Baker** presenting works titled **“Grant Fantasia”** by Marc Cheban and festive fanfare of **“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”** by Dan Miller.

Guest organist, Timothy Jones, President of Bluegrass Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society will accompany the silent movie classic, **“Santa Clause: A Year in the Life”** with various seasonal arrangements. Last year, Jones performed live for various presentations of the event during the holiday season.

Organist **Philip Hines** will perform classical Christmas selections by J.S. Bach, Louis Claude Daquin and Janette Fishell on the 1929 **Henry Pilcher’s Sons OPUS 1454 Pilcher Pipe Organ**.

Viewers will also get a glimpse into the massive organ chambers which have rarely been seen since the original construction and installation in the late 1920’s.

Interested viewers can go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uDR3GOySsE> to view the holiday pipe concert and silent movie experience.

As other seasonal tourism experiences, the auditorium cancelled numerous events hosting thousands of local guests and out of town visitors including group tour trips for the holiday season. **“It’s more important than ever to share the beautiful sounds of the magnificent Pilcher Pipe Organ while offering a new holiday tradition to the community,”** said Kelly Gream, Executive Director, Louisville Memorial Auditorium.

In the past, **William H. Bauer Foundation** has funded various pipe organ projects by hosting benefit events to raise awareness and financial support of the **Henry Pilcher’s Sons OPUS 1454 Pilcher Pipe Organ**. These included organ concerts, masquerade balls and movie presentations.

Local videography company, Red House Reels produced the video which also highlights the architectural uniqueness of the landmark. **“I really enjoyed working on this project. The Louisville Memorial Auditorium is an amazing building and I enjoyed learning about the history behind the venue and the amazing pipe organ that is a part of it,”** said, Jake Drescher, Red House Reels.

Jake Drescher started his videography company, Red House Reels, in 2017. He has worked on major TV productions like American Idol, Undercover Boss and numerous sports productions for NBCSN and FloSports. He specializes in documentary style filmmaking, real estate commercials and music videos.

Recently the **Wyncote Foundation made a generous contribution** as a **matching grant of \$75,000** which, once achieved, will fund extensive repairs and rebuilding of the pipe organ's mechanisms. Additional work will include electrical upgrades in the building to sufficiently power the system changes.

There are also plans by the auditorium's foundation to raise the funds for installation of heating and air systems to the building, as well as improvements to the auditorium's ceiling, seating, and stage systems.

To assist, supporters can visit (www.lmafoundation.org) to make generous donations while learning more about the mission to preserve and continue to restore both the world's largest Pilcher Pipe Organ as well as the

Visit (www.louisvillememorialauditorium.com) to learn more about the landmark as a venue and memorial.

About the Pilcher Pipe Organ

The Henry Pilcher's Sons Opus 1454 organ at Memorial Auditorium is the largest instrument constructed by the firm who built organs in Louisville between 1874 and 1944. In addition to the many instruments which dot the Kentucky countryside, they provided quality installations in the far reaches of the U.S., including several in Texas, California, and New York.

The Memorial Auditorium installation is no exception to their legacy. In fact, its core tonal philosophies, while reflecting those of its time, calling for warm "orchestral" voicing, was not limited by this factor as were many contemporary instruments. It was quite capable of rendering the vast repertoire available for organs. The placement in the four corners of the auditorium provided a unique quadraphonic experience before the invention of stereophonic recordings. It was considered the pride and joy of the Louisville music scene at the time, and some of the greatest world-class organists have graced its bench, including Charles Courboin (organist of St. Patrick's Cathedral, NYC), Marcel Dupre (Organist of St. Sulpice, Paris), E. Power Biggs and others.

Louisville Memorial Auditorium

Louisville Memorial Auditorium celebrated its 90th Anniversary on Memorial Day Monday, May 27th 2019. Then in spring of 2020, the 91st season was cancelled due to the COVID-19 public health pandemic. Currently the unique multi-purpose facility is awaiting guidelines from the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Governor to resume operations.

The unique venue 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 and 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.

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