

# LOUISVILLE MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

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## Press Release

### Holiday Season Returns with Live Music and Stage Performances!

**November 21, 2021**

**Louisville, KY** – As other performance venues, the historic **Louisville Memorial Auditorium** has returned to hosting live music, stage productions and special events for the **92<sup>nd</sup> holiday season!**

**Thanksgiving weekend kicks off with “A Night of Soul” on Friday, November 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** Grammy Award Nominee **Freddie Jackson** headlines the memorable evening featuring **Shirley Murdock, Keyona LaShawn, and Sheryl Rouse with the Unlimited Show Band.** Tickets are available for sale at Better Days Records (Broadway location) and online at [www.FreddieJacksonLouisville.Eventbrite.com](http://www.FreddieJacksonLouisville.Eventbrite.com) or night of show at the auditorium’s box office.

Next will be the Louisville debut of **“Justice on Trial: The Play” on Friday, December 3, 2021 at 8 p.m.** Acclaimed director, writer and actor **Chad Lawson Cooper** debuts the timely production for one special performance. In a time when the nation is reeling from the pain of the pandemic and racial unrest, this riveting production challenges everyone to ask hard questions that make the world a better place. Tickets are available for sale online at [www.thechadcoopercompany.com](http://www.thechadcoopercompany.com) and night of show at the auditorium’s box office.

**Holiday Dance Recitals** return with local dance studios presenting a variety of seasonal productions highlighting talented local dance artists and performers. Interested patrons can contact their favorite dance studio for event and ticketing information.

**The William H. Bauer Foundation presents “It’s A Pilcher Pipe Organ Holiday Concert!” on Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 3 p.m.** to close out the holiday season. Start a new tradition by attending a unique experience featuring holiday favorites as played on the magnificent instrument built in the late 1920’s especially for the auditorium. Award winning guest organist **Margaret Dickinson and Tim Jones, President of Bluegrass Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society,** join resident organists **Timothy Baker and David Pilkinton.** Donations of \$10 for admission will be accepted at the door on the day of event at the auditorium box office.

Last year the **Wyncote Foundation made a generous contribution** as a **matching grant of \$75,000 for the World’s Largest Pilcher Pipe Organ** which, once achieved, will fund extensive repairs and rebuilding of the pipe organ’s mechanisms. Additional work will involve electrical upgrades in the building to sufficiently power the system changes.

The auditorium’s foundation continues efforts with a capital improvement campaign to fund installation of heating and air systems for the community’s only public auditorium and WWI War Memorial. Upgrades will also include repairs and improvements to the auditorium’s ceiling, seating and stage systems.

To assist, supporters can visit [www.lmafoundation.org](http://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 and the auditorium as a performance hall.

Visit [www.louisvillememorialauditorium.com](http://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 27, 2019. Then in Spring of 2020, the 91<sup>st</sup> season was cancelled due to the COVID-19 public health pandemic. The historic multi-purpose facility resumed to limited operations late 2020, allowing limited capacities with guidelines. The 92<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary on Monday, May 30, 2021 was celebrated live with "Honor and Remember: Patriotic Concert" featuring the magnificent instrument. Award winning Guest Organist, Margaret Dickinson performed a recital of powerful arrangements showcasing the incredible range of the world's largest Pilcher Pipe Organ.

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, Kentucky 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 invite weddings and meeting events to be held at the historic landmark.

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