

LOUISVILLE MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

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Press Release

Louisville Memorial Auditorium Celebrates 90th Anniversary with Free Community Concert!

May 16th 2019

Louisville, KY – To celebrate 90 years of operation on **Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th 2019** the historic **Louisville Memorial Auditorium** will be honoring veterans in remembrance of Memorial Day, as well as a ceremony acknowledging the landmark's rich history as the region's auditorium, with a free community concert featuring **"The Thoroughbreds"** chorus who will be performing a classic selection of patriotic songs such as **"Star Spangled Banner"** and **"God Bless America"**. **This holiday season also marks the 71st year the legendary group will be performing their annual concert in the auditorium.**

Complimentary concert tickets can be requested at www.louisvillememorialauditorium.com while available with a small service fee for each ticket requested. **Chick-fil-A Louisville Catering & Delivery** will generously be offering **Box Lunches to Go** at an affordable price of **\$10.00 each**. Box lunches will have their delicious chicken sandwich, chips and a tasty sweet tea and will be ready for pick-up after the concert. There will also be soft-drinks and water for sale before and during the event. **As an event sponsor a percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the auditorium's preservation fund. Orders can be made in advance under the Events tab at www.louisvillememorialauditorium.com.**

Mayor Greg Fischer and Council Woman Barbara Sexton-Smith are scheduled to speak during the ceremony, then **Pastor Steve Orr with the Kentucky American Legion** will give the invocation prayer. **The American Legion** has kept a regional office inside the auditorium building for over 40 years serving veterans and the community where they live. The local office also donated a new **United States of America flag** for the long-standing flag pole which stands proudly outside of the auditorium's main entrance.

The preservation campaign will also be announced, which will initially focus on raising funds to install modern heating and air-conditioning systems in the historic facility allowing the acoustically perfect auditorium and venue to be available for hosting events year around. **"It makes perfect sense especially now to begin the fundraising efforts as one of our community's most beloved and respected landmark's turns 90 years old. We already host a variety of events when in season, so can you imagine what programming could be held again if the facility was comfortable all year-long!"** said, **Kelly Gream, Louisville Memorial Auditorium Executive Director.**

A pictorial timeline will be projected on the movie screen as resident organist, **Tim Baker** and guest organists **Philip Hines Jr., and David Pilkington** play various patriotic music on the historic and world's largest **Pilcher Pipe Organ**. The presentation will include a collection of rare and interesting photographs from the late 1920's construction of the auditorium to highlighting famous artist performances, stage productions, music acts, concerts and numerous dance events held over the years to present day.

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In conjunction with the anniversary celebration, the auditorium received a second grant from the **Belgium UN Security Council** to host the internationally acclaimed **“Belgian Comics Expo – Highlights of Belgian Comic Strip Art”** for two months beginning **Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th 2019 through July 2019**. This will be a free exhibit for the community to visit on select dates and times which will be announced prior to the Memorial Day ceremony and community concert. Interested visitors can go to www.louisvillememorialauditorium.com to request tickets. **The exhibit includes 48 vibrant prints, including 45 covers of Belgian comic strip books**, which are a distinct subgroup in comics history playing a major role in the development of European comics. **As one of the few arts where Belgium has had an international and enduring impact in the 20th century, comics are known to be “an integral part of Belgian culture.**

“The opportunity to host another international exhibit from the country of Belgium is greatly appreciated and even more significant as the auditorium enters a new era as the community’s auditorium.” said, Kelly Gream, **Louisville Memorial Auditorium Executive Director.**

This past year the auditorium received a grant to both host the international **“WWI Exhibit: The World War in Broad Outlines,”** international exhibit and opening reception sponsored by the **Belgian UN Security Council** that attracted visitors of all ages.

About the Louisville Memorial Auditorium

Louisville Memorial Auditorium is a unique venue that 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 organization will be inviting and offering affordable rental packages for special events, weddings, meetings, concerts, stage productions and other functions to be held at the historic landmark and venue.

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