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Town Hall Theatre music, comedy live shows go on – virtually



Photo Craig Isaacs

The Sun Kings at a previous performance, from left: Scott Southard, Bruce Coe, Tom Stack, and Drew Harrison. Harrison will be performing live May 21.

By Pippa Fisher

At Town Hall Theatre it takes more than a pandemic to stop the music, as they pivot instead to online live performances.

As with all nonprofits, Lafayette's THT is struggling with the financial cost of the shelter-in-place shutdown but, since no one understands "the show must go on" philosophy better than a

theater, Interim Board President Tom Stack barely missed a beat to keep the music playing – virtually –

All performances start at 7 p.m. on Thursdays. Details can be found on the THT website <https://www.townhalltheatre.com/up-next-music-comedy>

turning instead to live streaming performances.

The series kicked off with a performance by Stevie Coyle from Mighty Fine Guitars and since then, says Stack, shows are building on each other, increasing in viewers.

The shows, sponsored by Canyon Club Brewery in Moraga and by Lamorinda Music, take place every Thursday evening at 7 p.m. and have an impressive lineup for its remaining performances, including comedian Johnny Steele on May 14, and Drew Harrison, leader of the Beatles tribute band the Sun Kings on May 21.

Mark Shaw covering music of the Rat Pack, Ralph Woodson from the Jimi Hendrix tribute band Purple Haze, and Dave Martin from Dave Martin's House Party and the Buzztones will bring the series through the middle of June.

"We have had live music at Town Hall Theatre for the

past 10 years. We have painstakingly built an audience, show by show. I am counting on those folks, who want to see it happen again, to support this series, enjoy it in this medium, and help keep us afloat," says Stack.

Stack hopes people will donate what they can to help generate some income and support the arts during these tough times. There is a link for those wishing to donate on the Facebook live streaming page.

Stack explains that for him it's always been about the educational component. "This medium gives these musicians a chance to tell you how they got into a particular artist, who their influences were, and why. I find that part fascinating – that's what I hope to accomplish with this streaming series."

"Week to week will be different, engaging, informative," says Stack. "Get on the bus, it's gonna be a great ride!"

Volunteers spearhead collaborative push to test seniors at all Lamorinda residential facilities

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"We are pleased to report that all of the 124 tests that were administered to residents and team members came back negative for the virus," says Goo. "In addition, a resident who had previously tested positive on April 26 has now tested negative for the virus."

Goo says that while this

gives peace of mind, they remain vigilant in the fight against COVID-19. "Our Enhanced Resident Protection Protocol remains in place at the community."

Orinda Vice Mayor Amy Worth, who is leading the project like Candell as a private citizen in Orinda, echoes the sentiment of gratitude for the initiative and especially the

generosity of the community. She also acknowledges the immediate response by OCF President Sue Severson in getting the fundraising up so quickly.

Lafayette City Manager Niroop Srivatsa who was pre-

sent as the doctors and their assistants went into Merrill Gardens says that it was a privilege to see them walk into the facility with their kits to test the residents and staff members.

"Everywhere in Lafayette," says Srivatsa, "people are stepping up to help each other and this great endeavor by local doctors and nurses is no exception. #LafayetteStrong."

To donate to this joint initiative, residents should visit the Community Foundation websites: Orinda Community Foundation website: <https://orinda2010.wixsite.com/ocfwebsite> Lafayette Community Foundation website: <https://lafayettecf.org/> Moraga Community Foundation website: <https://moragacommunityfoundation.org>



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