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The 1st Annual Lafayette Community Music Festival

By Sophie Braccini

Tom Stack, Town Hall Theater (THT) Board Vice-President, has spent 20 years in the rock and roll merchandise industry. He is married to singer Kiki Stack, and when the two of them brainstorm what they call "fun(d) raising" ideas for THT, they revolve around music. "The first Lafayette Community Music Festival is Kiki's idea,' says Stack, "the East Bay is the most under-appreciated area for musicians. We have plenty of talent and not enough venues to make good music. We had to do something."

On August 27, starting at 8:00 p.m., THT will hold a benefit event featuring Mark Stanley, Drew Harrison, Paul Cotruvo & Toni Bryant, Jack King & Kiki Stack, Katie & Dell Eenor, and special guests. Stack promises a long night of fun and great music.

"Many of these musicians are larger than life figures and they have no place to play after 9:00 p.m. on our side of the tunnel," says Stack. Mark Stanley is a beloved local musician and teacher who just needs a place to play; Drew Harrison, who does vocals, guitar and percussion with the Sun Kings, will present his new solo album, "Go It Alone." "Each musician will play for about 20 minutes -we will have plenty of surprises and a splashing ending," promises Stack. "This place is not a dance hall, just a really great space for coming to relax and enjoy music with friends." The funds raised will be donated entirely to the theater. "This place is a wonderful historic venue and it is perfect for music,' says Stack, "The acoustic is excellent and the downstairs lobby and bar are friendly and welcoming." A silent auction of rare music memorabilia will be run in the lobby prior to the show, starting when doors open at 7:00 p.m. "Our motto is 'no bridge, no tunnel, no freeway'," says Stack. For tickets and more information go to www.thtc.org.

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