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Published May 13th, 2020

## Town Hall Theatre music, comedy live shows go on - virtually

By Pippa Fisher



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. Photo Craig Isaacs

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 - 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!"

All performances start at 7 p.m. on Thursdays. Details can be found on the THT website  $\frac{1}{2}$  https://www.townhalltheatre.com/up-next-music-comedy

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