

The Legacy Theater in Carthage is launching a series of regional performance videos entitled “Continuing the Legacy”.

The first show features Rick Marshall of Nauvoo, singing a program of timeless classics and show tunes. It can be viewed beginning Thursday, Feb. 18, running for two weeks on the theater’s website and Facebook page.

In succeeding weeks, additional performers will offer country rock group Mad Hoss Jackson of Mt. Sterling; “Forgottonia” story telling by Jock Hedblade of Macomb; contemporary Christian music by the E Free Church Worship Team; Bluegrass fiddling by Kirk Brandenberger of Keokuk, Iowa; and solos and duets by pianists, Joanne Chang and Alvin Ho, from Western Illinois University.

“Continuing the Legacy” is a free showcase series of regional talent offered by The Legacy Theater this spring while the theater remains unable to host live entertainment.

These performers have been recorded on stage at The Legacy Theater. The shows will be accessible at any time at www.thelegacytheater.com or on Facebook at “The Legacy Theater.”

“This series of video shows promotes the arts, showcases local talent, and continues the mission of The Legacy Theater, which is to bring great entertainment to the region,” explained Amy Graham, Legacy Theater Foundation board member, and chairman of the theater’s performance recruitment committee.

“All of these performers have been hand-picked to create a high quality series, and each group has willingly donated their time and talent to be a part of it,” Graham said.

The first show will run from Feb. 18 to Mar. 4. Rick Marshall has a degree in music from BYU and is now director of the Nauvoo Orchestra and Choir. Rick Marshall Sings is a compassionate service through song. Marshall has conducted various concerts and cantatas through the years.

Shows, each about 15 minutes in length, can be viewed at any time during the two-week period on the website or on Facebook. New shows will launch for two weeks each.

“We are saddened that our theater has been dark for nearly a year,” said Doug Groth, chairman of The Legacy Theater Foundation board. “We believe our patrons miss our shows as much as we do. This is one way for the theater to provide entertainment and highlight some great performers from this part of the Tri-State area.”

Without ticket sales for most of 2020, The Legacy Theater has relied on donations to cover ongoing theater expenses – utilities, maintenance, insurance, the limited staff, and deposits for future performers.

While there is no charge for viewing the “Continuing the Legacy” series, a button is available if viewers choose to make a donation.

Many of the shows that had to be canceled in 2020 have been rescheduled for the coming year, and a full-schedule of performances has been slated for 2021.

“While we cannot say when the theater will reopen, plans are moving forward. We have some great talent lined up for 2021,” said Groth. “We are excited about the future, when we can again gather for live entertainment at The Legacy Theater.”