

**ORPHEUM THEATRE GROUP**

**MEMPHIS, TN**

**FACT SHEET *as of May 2017***

**President & CEO:** Brett Batterson

**Mission:**

The mission of the Orpheum Theatre Group is to enhance the communities we serve by utilizing the performing arts to entertain, educate, and enlighten while preserving the historic Orpheum Theatre and the Halloran Centre for Performing Arts & Education. For more information, visit [www.orpheum-memphis.com](http://www.orpheum-memphis.com).

**Venues:**

Orpheum Theatre (ca. 1928) – Auditorium Capacity: 2,308

Halloran Centre for Performing Arts & Education (ca. 2015) – Auditorium Capacity: 361

**Organizational Status:**

Registered 501(c)3 nonprofit / performing arts Centre – OTG remains financially soluble because of generous donors, dedicated volunteers, and loyal patrons.

**Preservation Efforts:**

### Since it first opened in 1928, the Orpheum has dazzled patrons with its artisan millwork, gilding, original fixtures, a Mighty Wurlitzer organ, and architectural beauty. Under the leadership of the then-Memphis Development Foundation, the Orpheum was one of the first buildings in Memphis placed on the [National Register of Historic Places](http://focus.nps.gov/nrhp/AssetDetail?assetID=d8ef952f-eed1-4590-9d2b-7016e44b68ee). With annual maintenance expenses of over $650,000, in the last 35 years the Orpheum has undergone more than $15 million in renovation and improvements that have made it a world-class performing arts facility while preserving the historical and architectural integrity of the vaudeville palace. Recent improvements include reordering the first several rows of the orchestra section to allow for additional legroom and re-cushioning and reupholstering all orchestra level seats. A major restoration project restoring and repairing paint and gold leaf in the historic Orpheum auditorium wrapped up in August 2016. Current preservation projects include bathroom renovations on the Lower Lounge, Balcony, and Gallery levels. After a recent study of the Orpheum’s 90-year-old Wurlitzer organ, a financial campaign will launch to restore the instrument to its original 1928 splendor.

**Entertainment Programming:**

* Presenter of Annual Broadway Series (Orpheum)
* Concerts, Comedians, Dance (Orpheum, HC)
* Annual Summer Movie Series (Orpheum)
* Family Friendly Performances (Orpheum, HC)
* Special Events: Annual Auction, Dinner On Stage
* Community Events – International Blues Challenge, Memphis in May, Indie Memphis Film Fest, Ballet Memphis, Collage Dance Collective

**Education Programming:**

* Annual High School Musical Theatre Awards
* Student Matinee Series
* Workshops/Masterclasses
* Professional development
* Classroom visits / Kennedy Center Teaching Artists

**The Mighty Wurlitzer Organ:**

* Ship Date: 9/25/1928
* Opus No: 1956
* Style: [240](http://www.theatreorgans.com/AU/opus/OPUSLIST/SP/SP240.htm)
* Utilized for annual summer movie series and special events
* Operators: Vincent Astor, John Hiltonsmith, Tony Thomas

**The Ghost:**

The historic Orpheum Theatre is said to be the home of several paranormal residents. Throughout the years, paranormal investigators, psychics, and skeptics alike have been drawn to the old theatre to see if they will encounter a spirit from the beyond.

The Orpheum’s most famous spirit is a young girl named Mary. She is believed to be twelve years old with dark braids dressed all in white. Her favorite song is “Never Never Land” played on the Orpheum’s Mighty Wurlitzer Organ.