

Legacy

An Original Musical Play

Written by: Steve Dunn Hanson

Music by: Jackie Frost Halversen

Legacy is based on Steve's article published in *The Ensign* in 1981, "[What to Do with Adversity](#)," about his pioneer grandparents who faced heart-wrenching experiences as they immigrated from Sweden to Salt Lake. Steve wrote the script and lyrics for the songs, and Jackie composed and arranged the music for choir, solos, piano accompaniment, cello, and synthesizer.

Legacy portrays a contemporary father who counsels his daughter and son-in-law who have just lost a baby by using the story of his pioneer ancestors to help them in their struggles to deal with their sorrow. He helps them see how the pioneer experience is a *type* of our own lives. An allegory of our journey from the presence of our Heavenly Father to this earth to learn how to become like Jesus Christ. **Legacy** is a witness of Jesus Christ and His role in our individual "plan of salvation."

The performance is about 80 minutes in length and appeals to mature teenagers and adults of all ages. The poignant songs convey the message of struggling with adversity and choosing to focus on the Savior as a result. The corresponding PowerPoint slides with compelling images and words of the songs enhance the spiritual power of the presentation. There are five soloists (three men and two women) and a speaking only part for a woman. There is a 4-part choir, pianist, synthesizer player, and cellist. The staging and props are simple with three vignettes. The production was first performed in the Spokane East stake center chapel in April 2024. There were an estimated 1200-1500 in attendance with many expressing the life changing effect **Legacy** had on them (See below).

Jackie is well known for her stake Christmas shows and other productions she has written, produced, and directed over the years. She is an accomplished pianist and organist and has composed and arranged scores of songs, many of which have been published commercially. One of her songs won the all Church song competition and was published by the Church and performed in the tabernacle at temple square.

Steve is a published author of poetry, books (non-fiction and fiction), and articles for *The Ensign & Meridian* magazines. He has written scripts for Church Audiovisual Department videos that have been used throughout the world.

Written responses sent by production participants and viewers include:

A highlight for me that I will never forget.

The whole Legacy experience is now a part of our spiritual DNA.

Truly helped us find joy in Jesus Christ.

Blessed us more than you can know.

The spirit was so strong.

An inspired production.

I'm forever grateful to have been a part of such a great story.

The most meaningful and memorable event we have had the privilege of attending.

It has left an indelible impression on our souls.

We felt true joy tonight during the performance.