



Inspiring commitment to the Cathedral as a world-class treasure in our community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 12, 2013

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Cathedral Organs restored and ready for debut **Inaugural Concert features organist from Notre-Dame Paris** *SOUND OFF! Campaign nears crescendo*

(Saint Paul, Minn) The Great Cathedral Pipe Organs will *SOUND OFF!* in grand style for the **Inaugural Organ Concert set for 7:30 p.m., Thursday, October 24th at the Cathedral of Saint Paul**, 239 Selby Avenue, Saint Paul. Internationally-acclaimed organist, Olivier Latry, of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame, Paris, will be the featured musician playing both the historic E. M. Skinner and the Æolian-Skinner Pipe Organs for the one-hour program. The celebratory concert will be offered free to the community. Goodwill donations will be accepted to help establish an endowment for maintenance of these grand instruments.

Olivier Latry, the Titular “head” Organist of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris, is one of the world’s most distinguished organists. He is considered a master of improvisation at the organ and is also an ambassador of French organ music. His style has been described by the *New York Times*, as “brilliant ...splendidly clear, steady and buoyant.” Latry has performed in more than 40 countries and 5 continents. The American Guild of Organists New York City Chapter named Latry “International Performer of the Year” in 2009. In addition to his head post at Notre-Dame, Paris, Latry has taught at the Paris Conservatory since 1995.

The Great Cathedral Pipe Organs have undergone a major three-year restoration and enhancement beginning in 2010. The two identical twin consoles stand out as one of the most significant and rare features of this project. The sanctuary console sits behind the main altar; the second console is situated in the choir gallery. One organist will be able to sit at either organ console and control all of the instruments’ stops simultaneously, and two organists may also play together from each end of the building. This will be used to great advantage in the Cathedral due to its acoustical qualities. “The best stop in the Cathedral is the room,” said Michael Quimby, President of Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc. (QPO) “The space here is unique in that the sound can come from both ends when two organs are played, mix together beneath the dome and it envelops the listener for a wonderful acoustical experience.”

During the refurbishment, all original pipes were cleaned and retuned, plus QPO added more than 1,000 new pipes. Combined, the two organs now have 5,566 pipes making up 89 ranks. The Pontifical

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Trompette, 61 pipes, is the most commanding stop in the enhanced instrument. As the name implies, it is meant to be used to “announce” the arrival of the Pope or other prelate. However, it will be used on other special occasions including the dedicatory recital. “We are also excited to have added the 32’ Contre Bombarde in the Pedal Division,” said Lawrence Lawyer, Acting Director of Sacred Music at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. “The lowest pitch emanates from a true 32’ length handmade pipe, which has been beautifully voiced for depth and maximum stylistic flexibility. I am very pleased with the richness of sound that QPO has achieved throughout. The addition of the fourth keyboard and corresponding pipes were needed for our most solemn events. The instruments truly align with the quality of the architecture both in sound and sight,” said Lawyer.

Visitors will notice that the gallery organ pipes are encased in a beautiful, walnut-gilded casework. This casework had been originally envisioned by the Cathedral’s architect, Emmanuel Masqueray, a century ago yet never started. The newly installed casework has been designed based upon Masqueray’s original blueprint by Duncan R. Stroik, renowned Professor of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame, and crafted by Agrell Architectural Carving of San Rafael, California. (See photos of the installation at www.soundoff.cathedralheritagefoundation.org/Updates).

SOUND OFF! Campaign wrap-up

This summer, the \$3.4 million SOUND OFF! campaign to restore the Great Cathedral Pipe Organs has pushed past the \$3.3 million mark with \$98,000 left to raise before the October 24th concert date. “This event will be the culmination of a six-year visioning and planning process to preserve the Cathedral’s historic organs, and finally install gallery organ casework worthy of the Cathedral,” said Mary E. Schaffner, Esq. Cathedral Heritage Foundation Board Chair. “We are thrilled to be nearing the completion of this campaign. It has been a real community effort, with more than 600 donors giving to the project since the SOUND OFF! campaign was officially launched in 2010.”

“Having benefitted from the hard work of those who had the vision for this project, I am humbled to be able to play even a small role in the completion of this great organ restoration,” said Rev. John L. Ubel, Rector of the Cathedral of Saint Paul. “With the sacrifice and support of our Cathedral parishioners, Heritage Foundation Board members and generous benefactors, I am confident that our organ project will be fully funded in time for the dedicatory concert in October.”

As the campaign builds to its final crescendo, the Cathedral Heritage Foundation will be soliciting donors to help finish “rebuilding” the organs and casework. The public is invited to check out the Pipe Organ Registry (www.soundoff.cathedralheritagefoundation.org/DONATE) to pick out a stop, key, pipe or even one of the consoles, to *own* a piece of Cathedral history. The names of donors will be permanently listed in the Pipe Organ Registry in the Cathedral’s Founder Chapel.

Click on UPDATES at www.soundoff.cathedralheritagefoundation.org, to follow a photo timeline of the project and DONATE to select an item on the organ to sponsor and “own” your own piece of Cathedral history.

The Cathedral Heritage Foundation is a community-based charitable 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to support and provide for the preservation, restoration, maintenance, and enhancement of the Cathedral of Saint Paul as a regional and national architectural and artistic treasure, and a historic and civic monument included on the National Register of Historic Places, and to provide educational, cultural and artistic activities for the benefit of all people of the Twin Cities and the surrounding region.

Find more information about current restoration projects at www.cathedralheritagefoundation.org

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