

# CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL



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## First Sounding of Cathedral Gallery Organ postponed

(Saint Paul, MN) The first sounding of the Cathedral's restored and enhanced 1963 Æolian-Skinner gallery organ anticipated to be heard at the Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m., has been postponed. The final phase of the comprehensive restoration work on the Cathedral's gallery organ is still in process. After consulting with Quimby Pipe Organs, the organ builders guiding this restoration, the planned Easter debut of the gallery organ has been delayed until the restored instrument can be experienced in its full glory. The date of the first sounding of the restored Gallery organ will be announced at a later time. "While I understand the disappointment," said Reverend John Ubel, Rector of the Cathedral of Saint Paul, "believe me, it will all be well worth the wait."

Cathedral parishioners and visitors will still be able to experience the restored 1927 E.M. Skinner Organ, located behind the sanctuary, at liturgical and musical events. The pipes of the 1927 sanctuary organ received a complete tonal refurbishing and re-installation by Quimby Pipe Organs in April 2011. Restoration work on the historic sanctuary organ was completed with the recent installation of a new organ console and digital controls.

"We are in the unique position of having not one, but two organs at the Cathedral," said Father Ubel. "We will have use of the fully restored sanctuary organ, and it is magnificent."

The 1963 Æolian-Skinner Organ is located in the gallery in the back of the church and is the larger of the Cathedral's two historic pipe organs. The announced postponement is the result of a confluence of unforeseen events, despite the diligent work of contractors and organ professionals to complete this large and intricate project in time for Easter. The Cathedral, in consultation with Quimby Pipe Organs, decided to take the time needed to complete the restoration and voicing of the Gallery organ as fully envisioned.

The \$3.4 million restoration of the Cathedral's two historic pipe organs, casework design, restoration and construction, and balcony renovation began in 2010. As of January 31, 2013, \$650,000 of the total project cost remained to be raised. Almost \$160,000 of this fundraising goal has been achieved over the past 6 weeks, through the generous support of parishioners, neighbors and friends of the Cathedral. Fundraising continues. Everyone can be part of Cathedral history by sponsoring a pipe, a key, a stop, a pedal or a piece of the magnificent new

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organ case. Donations can be made through the online Pipe Organ Registry at <http://www.soundoff.cathedralheritagefoundation.org/node/7>

*The Cathedral Heritage Foundation is a community-based charitable 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to support and provide for preservation, restoration, maintenance, and enhancement of the Cathedral of Saint Paul as a regional and national architectural and artistic treasure. [www.cathedralheritagefoundation.org](http://www.cathedralheritagefoundation.org)*

**Cathedral Hours:** The Cathedral doors are open daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, visit [www.cathedralsaintpaul.org](http://www.cathedralsaintpaul.org) or call the Welcome Center at 651-228-1766.

*Beginning with the festive laying of its cornerstone in 1907, the present Cathedral of Saint Paul serves as an important part of the civic community. It is a popular destination for local students and artists as well as for tourists from around the world. In 2009, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops designated the Cathedral as a National Shrine of the Apostle Paul. It is included on the National Register of Historic Buildings and draws tens of thousands of visitors each year. The architectural engineering and heroic labors it took to build the Cathedral make it an important piece of our region's history. It is a worthy successor to the simple log chapel of 1841 that gave the city its name.*

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