Organ Crawl to visit four historic churches in downtown Syracuse and feature performances on churches' organs

Published: Thursday, April 26, 2012, 4:46 PM    Updated: Friday, April 27, 2012, 10:28 AM

By Melinda Johnson / Post-Standard arts editor

The sights and sounds of the Cathedral Square Neighborhood will be explored during Organ Crawl on Sunday in downtown Syracuse. Onondaga Historical Association Executive Director Gregg Tripoli will lead a behind-the-scenes tour of four historic churches and their organs. Organists will perform at each stop. The fundraiser tour begins at 1 p.m. Sunday. Churches on the tour are:

Park Central Presbyterian Church, 504 E. Fayette St. Its organ, built in 1967 by M.P. Moeller Co., is an Opus 10313, with 2,999 pipes in 55 ranks. Will Headlee, organist at Park Presbyterian since 1990 and professor emeritus at Syracuse University, will perform.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral, 310 Montgomery St. The church’s M.P. Moeller organ was redesigned and rebuilt in 2002. The 74 rank organ has 4,327 pipes. Jim Potts will be the organist for the event.

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 259 E. Onondaga St. Timothy Davenport, director of music for the Diocese of Syracuse and the cathedral, will play the Roosevelt Organ, which was installed in 1892 and refurbished in 1974.

Plymouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, 232 E. Onondaga St. Jim Downing, the church’s director of music, will play a 1930 Moeller organ with 2,600 pipes in 40 ranks. In the fall, the organ will be rebuilt with a state-of-the-art fiber...
optic electrical system.

Proceeds from Organ Crawl will benefit the **Cathedral Square** Neighborhood Association, which was established in 2010 to improve and promote the Montgomery Street-Columbus Circle national historic district and Fayette Park. City Hall, Onondaga Historical Association, Carnegie Library, YMCA, Mizpah Tower, Columbus Circle, John H. Mulroy Civic Center, Everson Museum of Art are located within the neighborhood’s boundaries.

Organ Crawl will start at Park Central Presbyterian Church, 504 E. Fayette St. It costs $10 per person. For reservations and information, call Karen Cooney at 428-1864, ext. 312.

© 2012 syracuse.com. All rights reserved.