The popular Pipe Organ Extravaganza, featuring internationally acclaimed concert organist Ronald Wyatt, returns Saturday evening, December 3, 2011 to historic Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Galveston, Texas.

A fixture of Galveston’s Christmas celebrations for more than 20 years, Extravaganza performances were halted following Hurricane Ike in 2008. Cleanup and repair made necessary by the weather catastrophe has taken more than three years, but the church’s sanctuary, built in 1857, is now completely restored, including the huge and spectacular stained glass Tiffany window, located above the altar.

Long-planned alterations have brightened the sanctuary’s acoustics, making the space ideal for live musical performances.

In addition to great music and Christmas carol singing, the evening will include a special appearance by Houston choral group The Sons of Orpheus, under the direction of Edgar Moore.

Following the Pipe Organ Extravaganza, authentic Victorian refreshments will be served by candlelight the church’s 1882 Eaton Hall, designed by the renowned architect Nicholas Clayton.

The Pipe Organ Extravaganza celebrates Galveston Historical Foundation’s Dickens on The Strand festival, now in its 40th year.

**Schedule of Events**

The schedule for the evening will be:

**7:30-8:00 p.m.**—Performance by The Sons of Orpheus
**8:00 p.m.**—Pipe Organ Extravaganza, Ronald Wyatt, concert organist

**Program**

All the stops will be pulled out with a performance by Mr. Wyatt. The program will include:

- Fanfare by John Cook
- Concerto in B by Johann Walther
- Ave Maria by Enrico Bossi
- Pièce Heroïque by César Franck
- Prelude and Fugue in C by J.S. Bach
- Prélude in F by Nadia Boulanger
- Scherzo by Eugène Gigout
- Final (Symphonie I) by Louis Vierne

more
The audience will also have the opportunity to sing a selection of favorite Christmas carols with Mr. Wyatt’s accompaniment.

Because the organ console will be moved to the center of the church’s chancel, the audience will be able to watch and be amazed at the skill and artistry of the renowned musician.

Ronald Wyatt

Mr. Wyatt holds degrees from the University of Texas and Trinity University, where he was awarded the Master of Arts degree in organ. He spent a year in Europe as a student of the celebrated Marie-Claire Alain, with whom he performed on network television. He was also a student of Marie-Madeleine Duruflé, the noted concert organist and wife of one of the twentieth century’s greatest composers, Maurice Duruflé.

Mr. Wyatt has played numerous recitals throughout the United States and Europe, in addition to holding professional posts in churches of various denominations. He was a founder of the first statewide organ playing competition in Texas, which draws students to San Antonio each year to compete for scholarships. He has also been featured in a weekly radio series, and has participated in oratorio accompaniment and master classes at colleges and universities.

The scope of his musical activities ranges from performing Bach’s Brandenburg Concerti on the harpsichord with orchestra to playing the calliope in a parade celebrating the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.

“He plays with a totally sensitive, yet articulate style that few concert organists have mastered,” wrote one music critic. “It is apparent that he has a total comprehension of the works he performs.”

The Sons of Orpheus

The Sons of Orpheus, founded by their music director, Edgar Moore, in the spring of 2001, is a performing ensemble of auditioned male voices chosen from the greater Houston area. The membership represents a wide cross section of musical talent. Membership includes students, both music majors and non-majors, undergraduate and graduate, amateur singers, and professional musicians who have distinguished themselves in notable careers both in the United States and abroad. All have come together because of a genuine love of singing and the choral art.

The goal of the Sons of Orpheus is to provide expressive and artistic performance of works written and/or arranged for male chorus from all musical stylistic periods. Repertoire includes great choral masterpieces, opera choruses, folk songs, spirituals, 19th century part songs, patriotic songs, hymn arrangements, Broadway and operetta medleys, popular songs, and holiday favorites.

The Instrument at Trinity Church

The instrument at Galveston’s Trinity Episcopal Church was built by the Austin Organ Company of Hartford, Connecticut. Its primary purpose is to lead the congregational singing and accompany the choir. It is also capable of playing organ literature from all musical periods.

Completed in 1989, the organ includes 4,086 pipes, ranging in length from approximately one inch to more than 18 feet. The pipes are constructed of various woods and metals. The three-manual drawknob console controls five divisions, including an antiphonal division with a brilliant trompette-en-chamade, located in the rear gallery of the church.

Tickets

Admission to the event is $10.00. Tickets are available online at www.trinitygalv.org, at the door, and in advance from the church office. Telephone (409) 765-6317.

Trinity Episcopal Church is located at 22nd and Winnie in Galveston.

For more information, visit www.trinitygalv.org