

The Suffolk Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Presents a Little bit of Old New York City and the 1868 Henry Erben Organ
At the Basilica of Old St Patrick's Cathedral, New York's First Cathedral
October 14th from 10AM to Noon

Our host will be acclaimed organist and Basilica music director, Jared Lamenzo, who has concertized on historical organs in Germany, Italy, Latin America as well as the Vatican. He will demonstrate this National Treasure and then we will have bench time to play and listen to this one-of-a-kind instrument.

You will visit this 200 year old Cathedral, where Mother Elizabeth Seton started the first children's orphanage in New York City, where such dignitaries as the Delmonaco family, who opened one of the first dining establishments, of hospitality fame worshiped. The Venerable Pierre Toussant, a former slave who became a noted philanthropist helped finance the orphanage. Basilica parishioners Andrew Morris, the first Roman Catholic elected to public office as well as Mozart's librettist, Lorenzo Da Ponte who with Dominick Lynn, a wealthy wine merchant, who in 1826 brought the Garcia Company, the first Italian opera company to visit the United States, which was a benefit to raise funds for the Orphan Asylum. The concert was the largest and most successful musical event to take place in the city at that time.



Da Ponte's funeral was held at the Cathedral and he is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Queens. The Basilica was also featured in Martin Scorsese movie, *Gangs of New York* and the Francis Ford Coppolla, *The Godfather Part I*.

Jared has started the Friends of the Erben Organ Society to preserve and restore this instrument and brought music back to this part of the city including a performance by Italy's Cagliari Opera performs an evening of sacred vocal and orchestral work based on the 1826 performance. You can visit their Website www.Erbenorgan.org. We would like to suggest a donation of \$15 per person or more to be donated to the organ fund. Come join us and visit a bit of history in the great City of New York. After our time in the church we will have a brief tour of the cemetery and the catacombs under the church.

Lunch will be on our own at any of the exciting little restaurants within walking distance.

The church is handicap accessible but the organ loft is not. We have made provisions for you to still enjoy this wonderful instrument and the space from the nave..

