

# GIFTS TO FRIENDS OF THE ERBEN ORGAN, INC.

A 501(c)3 non-profit | Tax ID: 81-3920899 | P. O. Box 472, New York, NY, 10276 | 1-833-68-ERBEN | [www.erbenorgan.org](http://www.erbenorgan.org)



## Mission

Founded in 2017, Friends of the Erben Organ, Inc. ("FREO") is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and presentation of the magnificent 1868 Henry Erben pipe organ, and to building a vibrant community of music and the arts around it. One of the most important historical instruments in the nation, the monumental organ is located in Little Italy in the national and New York City landmark: the historic Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral.

FREO holds unique concerts, tours, and educational programs that highlight the history of the pipe organ, which was built by immigrants in Manhattan's legendary Five Points area. We also emphasize its important cultural role, including in the introduction of Italian opera in America. Your generous gift will help preserve this unique and glorious instrument for the next 152 years and build our music, arts, and education community.

Thank you for your generous support!



**"Listening to the transcendent sound of this 19<sup>th</sup>-century American masterpiece will take us where we need to be." -Martin Scorsese, Honorary Chair**

## Background

- The 1868 Erben organ is the greatest surviving instrument built by 19<sup>th</sup>-century America's pre-eminent organ builder, Henry Erben. Erben shipped organs to the new western territories, South America, Latin America, Canada, and the Caribbean.
- His factory, the largest in NYC at the time, was destroyed by fire six times. Yet, each time he rallied, and continued to build the finest instruments money could buy. His quality was second to none: one reason why this instrument still plays after hundreds of thousands of hours of use.
- Though an Episcopalian, he cultivated friendly relationships with the Catholic hierarchy. Our instrument, the third organ he built for the Cathedral, was a summative masterpiece commissioned by the first American Cardinal, John McCloskey. **As we move toward our goal of raising \$2 million to restore the pipe organ,** we have some immediate needs to support our ongoing mission.

**Donor Advised Funds:** Checks from DAFs may be sent to FREO via U.S. mail to **P. O. Box 472, New York, NY, 10276**. Simply contact your financial institution and designate a grant for Friends of the Erben Organ, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit. **Tax ID: 81-3920899**.

**Matching Gifts:** Many companies sponsor matching gift programs which match contributions made to FREO by their employees or their employees' spouses. Matching gift companies will match the dollar value of your gift. Complete details and a form are available from your company.

**IRA Accounts:** IRA owners age 70½ or older may transfer up to \$100,000 per year or \$200,000 per couple as a charitable donation to FREO which can be excluded from income tax. Checks, made to Friends of the Erben Organ, Inc., can be mailed to our P. O. Box.

**Foundations:** Gifts from family foundations, community foundations, and corporate foundations help us keep the music playing for future generations.

**Securities:** Most gifts of securities can be made easily by electronic transfer. Please contact Frank Alfieri, Treasurer, at 833-683-7236 to set up a transfer. Or, if you prefer, telephone your banker or broker, then follow-up with a confirming letter to that person, with a copy sent to FREO, which includes the banker's or broker's telephone number.

**Life Insurance Policy:** You may designate FREO as beneficiary of your current life insurance policy, a policy provided by your employer, or a policy that is completely paid for or has outlived its purpose. These types of donations provide tax deductions.

**Estates:** Friends of the Erben Organ, Inc. may be named as a beneficiary in your will by indicating the percentage of the estate or the dollar amount you wish to give to FREO. Property and assets may also be designated with FREO as beneficiary. These charitable designations provide estate tax deductions.

**Trusts:** By naming FREO as a beneficiary in your trust, your estate will be able to secure certain charitable estate tax deductions and ensure the future of our mission to preserve the pipe organ and establish a community of music and the arts around it.

**Legacy:** FREO offers naming opportunities for those who wish to honor a living person or remember a loved one who has died. For more information, **call 1-833-683-7236**.

**Retirement Plan:** In many cases, surviving heirs will have to pay estate or income taxes on the inheritance of a retirement plan. Listing FREO as a beneficiary of your retirement fund would preserve those funds free from taxes and allow loved ones to benefit from cash and other assets you own which are not subject to the high taxes imposed on retirement accounts.



**Tourism:** 50,000+ walk through the inner workings of the all-mechanical organ every year.



**Concerts:** Artists from all over the world come to perform on the Erben and experience its sound.



**Education:** In our bespoke summer music experience, kids build their own working pipe organ.

\*Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax advisor.