

Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

Where the Tracker Action Is!



Kirby Spencer
Christadelphian Chapel
600 Frederick Rd
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

February 24, 2025

The 1870 Hall & Labagh organ at the former Christadelphian Church in Catonsville, Maryland was originally commissioned for Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. The church building was originally constructed for Paradise Presbyterian Church. Sometime later, the congregation was renamed Catonsville Presbyterian and so continues today. This organ was cited in The Baltimore Sun Paper 06-06-1890; Volume: CVII; Issue: 18; Page: Supplement 1, in a lengthy article about the town of Catonsville and the organ in the Presbyterian church as having come from Brown Memorial. The organ had been built by Hall & Labagh for Brown Memorial Presbyterian, Park Ave., Baltimore in 1869. Brown replaced the Hall organ with a Steere organ in 1889. The original Hall organ was larger than the present organ and some large pedal ranks were not installed. Additionally, the original case was divided in half and each half was placed in the balcony in such a way as not to block the large window. The organ has received some restorative repairs over the last several decades. It still functions but is need of continued repair to put it back into dependable, useful condition. There are no other organs near here by this same builder. It is an outstanding example of American history in organ building and it occupies a unique place in the Baltimore area's musical history.

Sincerely,

Charles English

Chairman Charles English - 2910 Moores Road, Baldwin, MD 21013 (410) 557-7990

Vice-Chairman Vacant

Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Lamb Booth - 9200 LaBelle Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20879 (301) 869-6271

Editor Carl Schwartz - 12802 Ruxton Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904 (301)-221-4815

<https://hilbus-ohs.org/> <https://organhistoricalsociety.org/>
hilbus.ohs@gmail.com