

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hartland, MI - May 13, 2024 - Cromaine District Library and the Hartland Messiah Chorus are thrilled to announce the overwhelming success of the recent fundraiser event aimed at preserving and maintaining the iconic Kilgen Pipe Organ located at the Historic Hartland Music Hall. The event, initially scheduled for March 21, 2024, but rescheduled due to inclement weather, took place on May 3rd, 2024, and marked a pivotal moment in the restoration journey of this cultural treasure.

Guests enjoyed a welcome by event sponsor and longtime caretaker of the Hall, Don Thompson, a video history of the Music Hall and Organ, followed by a delightful concert performed on the Kilgen Organ by organist, Rick Helderop.

"Friday's Kilgen Organ Fundraiser was a great evening filled with local history, community connection, and beautiful music. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the care and maintenance of this historic gem! We are proud to be part of a community that is not only rich in history but also passionate about the preservation of that history. Thank you for your generosity!" remarked Liz Welch, Community Engagement Manager of the Cromaine District Library

"I'd like to thank our talented and dedicated Adult Librarians, Erik Nilsen and Rachel Stock, for creating a visual history of our Kilgen organ. If you weren't able to attend the fundraiser, you'll enjoy [watching this video](#) detailing the story of how and where Kilgen pipe organs are made, and how one came to be in our Historic Hartland Music Hall!" said Sarah Neidert, Director of the Cromaine District Library.

Those who missed the fundraiser but would still like the opportunity to contribute to the maintenance of our beautiful pipe organ, are welcomed to visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/cdl> to make a secure donation of any amount.

With Phase 2 fully funded, restoration work is set to commence in the coming fall, bringing the community one step closer to ensuring the Kilgen Pipe Organ remains a functioning instrument that can continue to be played for the next 100 years. Cromaine District Library and the Hartland Messiah Chorus remain committed to preserving this historical treasure and are immensely grateful for the community's continued support.

For further information and inquiries, please contact:

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About Cromaine District Library:

Cromaine District Library is a vibrant community hub dedicated to providing resources, programs, and services that enrich the lives of Hartland residents. With a strong emphasis on education, culture, and community engagement, Cromaine District Library plays a pivotal role in fostering lifelong learning and personal growth. Visit www.cromaine.org for more information.

About Hartland Messiah Chorus:

Hartland Messiah Chorus is a renowned vocal ensemble dedicated to performing choral masterpieces and enriching the cultural landscape of Hartland and beyond. Comprising talented singers passionate about their craft, Hartland Messiah Chorus continues to captivate audiences with their exceptional performances. Visit <https://hartlandmessiah.com/> for more information.

Photo Below: Organizers of Friday's event stand with the Kilgen Organ at the Hartland Music Hall.

Left to Right, Front Row: Don Thompson, Event Sponsor and longtime Caretaker of the Hartland Music Hall, Liz Welch, Community Engagement Manager of Cromaine Library, and Sarah Neidert, Director of Cromaine Library.

Left to Right, Back Row: Rick Helderop, Master of Music in Organ performance and organist for the Hartland Messiah Chorus, and Carlton Davis, Business Manager of the Hartland Messiah Chorus

