

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

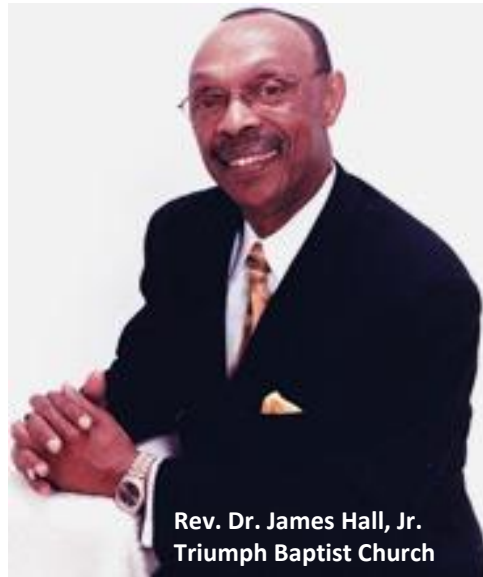
CONTACT: Christine Reimert / 610-639-2136 / creimert@devineandpartners.com
Brianna Taylor / 215-568-2525 / btaylor@devineandpartners.com

**THE MANN'S PHILADELPHIA FREEDOM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH
WITH AN OLD STYLE CHURCH REVIVAL**

*Invited Choirs from Across the City will Rejoice in Song in Celebration
of Octavius V. Catto's 175th Birthday*



Rev. Dr. Mark K. Tyler
Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church



Rev. Dr. James Hall, Jr.
Triumph Baptist Church



Rev. Dr. Alyn E. Waller
Enon Tabernacle
Baptist Church

PHILADELPHIA (Feb. 4, 2014) – On Saturday, Feb. 22nd the Mann presents a community jubilee to commemorate the life and legacy of 19th century African American civil rights pioneer, Octavius V. Catto. The all-Negro Spiritual Church Revival, part of the Philadelphia Freedom Festival, will be hosted by Mother Bethel A.M.E Church from 2-4 p.m.

“The Mann is thrilled to take the first event of the Philadelphia Freedom Festival on the road through an old fashioned church revival at Mother Bethel church. This event will truly celebrate the legacy of Catto in a way people can connect to – through song and fellowship,” expressed Rhoda Blount, Project Director for the Festival and Vice President of Education and Community Engagement for the Mann. “This is a new and exciting endeavor for the Mann and we are delighted to continue to present more events in the future that go beyond the main stage at the Mann.”

The program will consist of Negro Spirituals, sacred music born out of the African Diaspora experience, praise dancers, and special words from several special guest ministers. On Catto's 175th birthday and

amidst Black History Month, this event presents an opportunity for the community to join together in song and prayer to celebrate the legacy of an early civil rights hero.

“Catto's legacy is, in part, his courageous stand for human equality through peaceful resistance and unwavering perseverance. This community jubilee will feature Negro Spirituals that reflect these themes and inspirational messages from three of Philadelphia's stellar preachers expositing these themes, reminding us all that the legacy of Catto – and its place in the continuing narrative of our nation's strivings towards equal rights – is still very relevant today,” said Rev. Nolan William, Jr., Artistic Director of the Philadelphia Freedom Festival.

Participating ministers, Reverend Dr. Alyn E. Waller from Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. James Hall, Jr. from Triumph Baptist Church, and Reverend Dr. Mark K. Tyler from Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church, will be joined by their choirs for this joyous afternoon.

This program is free and open to the public.

About Octavius V. Catto

Octavius V. Catto, Philadelphia's 19th-century African-American civil rights pioneer, made a lasting impact on civil rights in Philadelphia and the nation. Born in Charleston, SC in 1839, Catto later settled in Philadelphia with his family in 1850. A well-educated man with a dedication to learning, he graduated valedictorian from what is now known as Cheyney University. Catto was insistent on the equality of all men and became a leader of local and national prominence for enfranchisement and civil rights for African Americans. He worked alongside other black leaders, including Frederick Douglas, to fight for equality. On election day, October 10, 1871, Catto was murdered on his doorsteps for his efforts. Catto remains an important figure in early civil rights history for both the region and the nation.

About the Mann

The Mann Center for the Performing Arts' Education & Community Engagement Program is the region's largest free education program, impacting more than 50,000 young people annually and more than 400,000 since 1997. The Mann's Connecting Arts-N-Schools program offers city-wide schools a wide array of multicultural performances in music, theater and dance. This gives thousands of students the opportunity to experience the sights, sounds and rhythms of live performances – often for the very first time.

As one of the most important outdoor music centers in the country, the Mann Center for the Performing Arts presents top artists in a world-class, entertainment destination in association with AEG Live and Princeton Entertainment. Each summer season, renowned symphony orchestras, iconic rock stars and the latest touring artists in indie rock, hip hop, R&B and pop take the stage here, and today's success is a nod to the venue's storied history. The Mann has been the summer home of The Philadelphia Orchestra since the 1930s and presented critically acclaimed performers in every decade since then. Located in the heart of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park, the Mann hosts more than 170,000 visitors annually. Signature concert experiences are surrounded by Philadelphia's stunning nighttime skyline and include seats beneath the Mann's magnificent shed; picnics, blankets and music under the stars on its famous lawn; and dining in Crescendo, the venue's spectacular tented restaurant. For more information, visit www.manncenter.org.

#