

Pasi

PASI ORGAN BUILDERS
Incorporated

From the Builder:

We are pleased to present our newest organ Opus 28 to Saint George's Episcopal Church. It is an instrument that will not only accompany the church choir and lead congregational singing but also encourage musical improvisations as well as a large range of solo organ literature.

The organ draws its principal tonal inspiration from the great German organs of the 18th century. Those organs are prized for the gentle and yet colorful and intense sounds of their foundation stops (the Principals and Bourdons), the silvery quality of the choruses (the Plenum), the colorful mutation stops (Tierce, Quint), and the brilliant sound of the Trumpet.

This tonal foundation excels in interpreting a broad range of solo organ repertoire from the Renaissance to the present day. The quality of the foundation stops is ideal for supporting choral singing, and the full chorus sounds provide solid leadership for singing congregations both large and small. While satisfying its liturgical requirements, it will also transform and enhance those important segments of the organ literature, such as the works of Bach and many others.

The pipes of the Great and Swell Organ are placed on the façade at the impost level of the main case, where they blend and project the length of the nave. The larger Pedal pipes are located behind the main case. The key action is entirely mechanical allowing the organist's fingers to open the valves beneath the pipes through a system of levers and thin wood connections called trackers. This ancient system gives the organist intimate control over the speech and release characteristics of the pipes for a sensitive control of musical phrasing and articulation. This suspended key action, in which the keys are hinged at the rear and literally hang from the valves, or pallets, in the wind chests, promotes a light and very responsive touch. The stop action is electric with solid-state combination system presets.

The four major families of organ tone, principal, flute, string and reed, are all represented in this concept. The principals are the foundation stops of any fine organ, a sound unique to the pipe organ. The tonal essence of the organ springs from the eloquent quality of the façade Principal, with its clear, articulate speech under the sensitive control of the mechanical key action. The full chorus of principals, representing the higher harmonics of the sound, are developed on the Great division.

Flutes are represented in several forms and pitches (open, stopped, half-stopped, conical), providing interesting colors to support both choral singing and the organ literature. The string stops provide a colorful sound useful in choral accompaniment and Romantic organ literature. The organ's reed stops are well suited to the demands as solo stops as well as strengthening the foundation stops in the organ.

From the casting of the metal alloys through to rolling and shaping, all of the pipes, both metal and wood, were made in the Pasi workshop. The metal pipes are made of several alloys, according to the sound to be produced: for the flute and mutation stops 97% lead, with trace impurities of copper, bismuth and antimony, which help stiffen the metal; for the string stop 90% tin. To enhance the intensity of the pipes' sound, the 97% lead alloy is hammered following casting, which tightens its molecular structure. The largest Subbass and Posaune pipes are made of wood.

An electric centrifugal blower supplies wind to the organ, which is stored and regulated in a wedge-shaped bellows. This wind system imparts a gentle flexibility to the organ's sound, allowing the pipes to sound more like a choir of human voices than an impassive machine.

Designed to harmonize with the architecture of the church the organ is sited to speak clearly into the Nave. The organ is entirely encased in solid wood casework, which assumes the vital tonal function of blending and focusing the sound of the pipes, while also protecting them from dust. The organ is tuned in an unequal temperament, which favors the keys nearer C Major, and yet remains harmonious through all keys.

This handcrafted bespoke organ will provide a wide tonal range and musical flexibility. Its distinctive voice will help lead worship and inspire lovers of great music for many generations.

-- Martin Pasi