

## **A HISTORY OF THE ORGANS AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE & THE EPIPHANY**

### **Organs at St. Luke's Church**

The first organ for St. Luke's Church was built in 1840 by E. & G. G. Hook of Boston. It had 3 manuals (keyboards) and pedals. The full organ comprised of 29 and a half stops, 1,552 pipes and was at the time noted to be one of the best church organs in Philadelphia. It was well received by visiting organists of the city. The Stoplevel was as follows (1):

#### **Great:**

Great Open Diapason

Second Open Diapason

Stopped Diapason 8

Principal

Night horn

Twelfth

Fifteenth

Sesquialtera III

Trumpet

Clarion

#### **Swell:**

Open Diapason

Stopped Diapason

Clarabella

Principal

Fifteenth

Piccolo

Trumpet

Clarionet

Haubois (Oboe)

Tremulant

#### **Choir:**

Open Diapason

Stopped Diapason

Dulciana

Principal

Flute

Fifteenth

Cremona

Later on the organ started having trouble and eventually was replaced in 1877. The new organ was built by E. & G. G. Hook & Hastings of Boston. Since the first organ was built, the company changed its name. The older Hook organ was traded in as part of the payment towards the new organ. There is a possibility that Hook & Hastings used some of the pipework from the previous organ but that can not be verified. That organ was of larger size with 51 stops. The stoplist was as follows: (2)

**Great:**

Open Diapason 16

Open Diapason 8

Viola di Gamba 8

Gemshorn 8

Dolce 8

Clarabella 8

Doppel Flute 8

Octave 4

Flute Harmonique 4

Twelfth 2 2/3

Fifteenth 2

Mixture V

Trumpet 8

Clarion 4

**Swell:**

Bourdon 16

Open Diapason 8

Salicional 8

Spitz Floete 8

Aeoline 8

Stopped Diapason 8

Flauto Traverso 4

Violina 4

Flageolette 2

Dolce Cornet III

Cornoepen 8

Oboe 8

**Choir:**

Geigen Principal 8  
Dulciana 8  
Stopped Diapason 8  
Melodia 8  
Flute d' Amour 4  
Fugara 4  
Piccolo 2  
Clarinet 8  
Orchestral Oboe 8

**Pedal:**

Contra Bourdon 32  
Open Diapason 16  
Bourdon 16  
Dulciana 16  
Quint 10 2/3  
Octave 8  
Violincello 8  
Super Octave 4

**Organs at The Church of The Epiphany**

Between 1835 and 1882 The Church of The Epiphany went through three pipe organs. The first was built by Henry Corrie of Philadelphia. Corrie was from London and had come to America to build organs. The Corrie organ was replaced in 1850 by a larger organ built by Appleton & Warren, of Boston. The Appleton organ had 3 manuals and pedals. An article in The New York Musical Review and Choral Advocate (April 1855) stated that, Contrary to general expectation, it (the organ) has proved to be quite an inferior instrument both in its mechanical action and tonal voicing. The Church of the Epiphany spent money on numerous repairs over the years. J. C. B. Stanbridge of Philadelphia repaired the organ and rebuilt it to a large extent in 1854. Stanbridge was also organist at Old Christ Church here in Philadelphia

In 1898, The Church of The Epiphany merged with St. Luke's. One of the things that The Church of the Epiphany brought with them was their 1882 organ built by George Jardine of New York City. It was well noted for its sound and size. The stoplist was as follows:

**Great:**

Diapason 16  
1st Diapason 8  
2nd Diapason 8  
Gross Flute 8  
Doppel Flute 8  
Gamba 8

Octave 4

Flute Harmonique 4

Twelfth 2 2/3

Fifteenth 2

Posaune 16

Trumpet 8

**Swell:**

Bourdon 16

Diapason 8

Gedeckt 8

Viola di Gamba 8

Voix Celeste 8

Flute Traverse 4

echo Violin 4

Flautino 2

Mixture III

Cornopean 8

Oboe 8

Vox Humana 8

Tremulant

**Choir:**

Bourdon 16

Geigen Principal 8

Melodia 8

Dulciana 8

Flute 4

Salicet 4

Piccolo 2

Clarinet 8

**Pedal:**

Diapason 32

Diapason 16

Bourdon 16

Gamba 16

Open Flute 8

Flute 8

Cello 8

Trombone 16

Tromba 8

To this day the Diapason 32 listed in the Pedal division is still in use in the current organ. The lowest pipe, CCCC is actually 32' tall and stands from the bottom of the basement to the ceiling of the organ chamber. Currently this is the only church in Philadelphia that still has such a stop.

### **The Merger**

At the merger, the two organs were connected together by another up and coming organ builder, Ernest M. Skinner of Boston. In 1907 he electrified both organs and installed a console in the chancel to play the Hook & Hastings in the back gallery and the Jardine that had been placed in a large chamber on the left side of the chancel.

In time the unified organs began to experience problems. They quit playing during a Christmas Eve service and another somewhere during an Easter season. With a professional choir of 40 at that time they were able to keep the music going.

During the tenure of Dr. Steele, Rector and H. Alexander Matthews, Organist-Choirmaster, the church purchased a new pipe organ which was installed in 1925. The organ was built by the Austin Organ Co. of Hartford, CT. At the time of its installation it was considered to be among the finest in the city. The Austin organ was completely installed in the front of the church. Before then St. Luke's organs had always been in the back gallery with Epiphany's organ later installed in the front left. The stoplist of the Austin organ was as follows:

### **Great:**

Double Diapason 16

First Open Diapason 8

Second Diapason 8

Third Diapason 8

Gross Flute 8

Gemshorn 8

Octave 4

Flute Harmonic 4

Twelfth  $2 \frac{2}{3}$

Fifteenth 2

Nineteenth  $1 \frac{1}{3}$

Twenty-second 1

Trumpet 8

### **Swell:**

Bourdon 16

Diapason Phonon 8

Open Diapason 8  
Clarabella 8  
Chimney Flute 8  
Viole d' Orchestre 8  
Viole Celeste 8  
Aeoline 8  
Principal 4  
Flauto Traverso 4  
Nazard 2 2/3  
Flautino 2  
Tierce 1 3/5  
Fagotto 16  
Cornopean 8  
Oboe 8  
Vox Humana 8  
Clarion 4  
Tremolo

**Choir:**

Violin Diapason 8  
Melodia 8  
Flute Celeste 8  
Dulciana 8  
Vox Angelica 8  
Quintadena 8  
Flute d'Amour 4  
Piccolo 2  
Clarinet 8  
Orchestral Oboe 8  
Tremolo

**Solo:**

Grand Diapason 8  
Flauto Major 8  
Gross Gamba 8  
Gamba Celeste 8

Flute Overt 4  
Tuba Profunda 16  
Tuba Harmonic 8  
French Horn 8  
Tuba Clarion 4  
Tremulant  
Chimes

**Pedal:**

Double Diapason 32  
Open Diapason 16  
Second Diapason 16  
Violone 16  
Bourdon 16  
Gedackt 16  
Dulciana 16  
Octave 8  
Flute 8  
Cello 8  
Dolce 8  
Tuba Profunda 16  
Trombone 16  
Tuba Harmonic 8

The Austin organ served the church longer than any other. At the time the Austin was built the romantic era of organ building was in its prime. The organ's tone was dark and rich with various orchestral stops. It was also a time when most organists were playing transcriptions of orchestral and operatic music. To play organ music such as Bach, Buxtehude and other Baroque composers, it sounded a bit on the muddy side.

In the early to mid 1990's the church felt it was time to do something about the Austin organ. Some wanted to restore it, others wanted to replace it with an electronic substitute while others were in favor of rebuilding and enlarging it. Rebuilding and enlargement was the decided route.

Currently the organ has all of its Austin windchests, mechanicals, etc. During the tenure of the Jonathan Bowen, current organist-choirmaster, the organ has been transformed into an instrument that is able to play organ music from just about all eras of time. Its primary function is to play service music particularly in the Anglican style. In other words, we have a grand English Cathedral organ here at St. Luke & The Epiphany.

Many of the ranks (sets) of pipes have been replaced to achieve this sound. Jonathan has searched high and low, from one end of the country to the other to come up with select ranks of pipes built by E. M. Skinner. It could be said that the organ is built by Skinner on Austin action. Also at the time of the rebuild in 1998 digitally sampled organ stops by Walker Technical Co. were added.

Despite space and funding limitations at the time of the rebuild, The Church of St. Luke and the Epiphany now has an organ that not only serves the needs of the parish but the community as well. The parish has always had great choral, orchestral, and chamber music ensembles using the space for music making. Now, there are more choral groups interested in using the space due to our magnificent pipe organ. It is now currently the second largest church organ in Philadelphia. Total count of pipe and digital ranks is 147. The current stoplist is as follows:

**Great:**

Double Diapason 16

Open Diapason 8

Second Diapason 8

Flute Harmonique 8

Chimney Flute 8

Erzahler 8

Octave 4

Harmonic Flute 4

Quint 2 2/3

Super Octave 2

Tierce 1 3/5

Furniture IV

Cymbal III

Trombone 16

Tromba 8

Clarion 4echo

**Swell:**

Bourdon 16

Gamba 16

Open Diapason 8

Second Diapason 8

Clarabella 8

Gedeckt 8

Spitz Flute 8

Gamba Celeste 8 II

Salicional 8

Voix Celeste 8

Flauto Dolce Celeste 8 II

Unda Maris 8 II



Octave 4

Flauto Traverso 4

Nazard 2 2/3

Tierce 1 3/5

Harmonic Piccolo 2

Mixture IV

Double Trumpet 16

Cornopean 8

Oboe 8

Vox Humana 8

Clarion 4

Tremolo

**Echo:**

Open Diapason 8

Melodia 8

Unda Maris 8

Doppel Flute 8

Echo Salicional 8

Voix Celeste 8

Fugara 4

Flute d' Amour 4

Flautino 2

Orchestral Bassoon 16

English Horn 8

**Choir:**

Open Diapason 8

Concert Flute 8

Lieblich Gedeckt 8

Kleine Erzahler 8 II

Dulciana 8

Unda Maris 8

Principal 4

Flute d' Amour 4

Nazard 2 2/3

Fifteenth 2

Mixture III

Bassoon 16

Flugel Horn 8

Clarinet 8

Tremolo

Fanfare Trumpet 8 (gallery)

**Solo:**

Diapason Major 8

Flauto Mirabilis 8

Claribel Flute 8

Gamba 8

Gamba Celeste 8

Octave 4

Orchestral Flute 4

Gamba 4

Gamba Celeste 4

Mixture V

Tuba 16

Heckelphone 16

Tuba 8

French Horn 8

English Horn 8

Orchestral Oboe 8

Musette 8

Vox Humana 8

Tuba 4

Harp

Temolo

Tuba Mirabilis 8

Fanfare Trumpet 8

**Pedal:**

Double Diapason 32

Violone 32

Bourdon 32  
Gamba 32  
Open Wood 16  
Open Diapason 16  
Second Diapason 16  
Violone 16  
Bourdon 16  
Gedeckt 16  
Echo Lieblich 16  
Gamba 16  
Dulciana 16  
Principal 8  
Flute 8  
Cello 8  
Dulciana 8  
Principal 4  
Open Flute 4  
Mixture III  
Double Ophicleide 32  
Trombone 32  
Ophicleide 16  
Tuba 16  
Trombone 16  
Second Trombone 16  
Double Trumpet 16  
Tuba 8  
Trumpet 8  
Clarion 4  
**Antiphonal:**  
Open Diapason 8  
Gedeckt 8  
Gamba Celeste 8 II  
Viole d' Orchestre 8 II  
Erzahler Celeste 8 II

Orchestral Flute 4

Octave 4

Fifteenth 2

Mixture III

Clarinet 16

Trumpet 8

Oboe 8

Vox Humana 8

Tremolo

**Antiphonal Pedal:**

Bourdon 32

Open Diapason 16

Bourdon 16

Gamba 16

Erzahler 16

Principal 8

Posaune 32

Posaune 16

---

(1)Source: The North American and Daily Advertiser, Philadelphia, PA. October 12th 1840. The Organ Historical Society Archives.

(2)Source: Vox Humana, March 1877. States that O. A. Knipe was the Organist.