The American Institute of Organbuilders
2022 Photographic Survey

The Recent Work of North American Pipe Organ Builders
ABOUT THE PROJECT

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL joined the Richards, Fowkes & Co. family as Opus 24 with the signing of a contract for a new organ in December 2013. The organ was completed in 2020 but finished in 2021 in the midst of challenging Covid-19 restrictions and dedicated by David Higgs in October 2021. The church’s twice-rebuilt interior was tastefully done, but not in any strong style. Ralph Richards and Trent Buhr worked with the visual cues present in the chancel arch which stacked, flipped, and embellished the components of the arch, ultimately taking on an Art Deco form. This not only unified architectural elements present in the room, but paid homage to the heavy Deco influence seen throughout downtown Cincinnati’s architecture.

While most of our instruments are steeped in the classic North German and Dutch traditions of the 17th and 18th centuries, we are building American organs for 21st-century congregations. They often have ideas and traditions about singing and accompaniment that draw upon other stylistic traditions and which can’t be considered mere inconveniences if an organ is to succeed. An Episcopalian Cathedral organ must be versatile, capable of handling a broad spectrum of accompanimental flexibility for choral music and psalms. The Cincinnati organ therefore features two divisions under expression with heavy walls and thick shutters for maximum dynamic range. The Positive is the largest of the manual divisions with a broad range of color at mezzo and piano dynamic levels, two celestes, and colorful consort reeds. The Positive Chamade in the French tradition is mounted horizontally inside the case. The Great and Pedal reeds are patterned after Schnitger while the Swell Trompet and Oboe are inspired by Central German traditions. The temperament is a mild well-tempered system: Neidhardt for a small city (1732).
ABOUT THE SURVEY

Individual members of the Institute who participated in these organ projects are listed as AIO MEMBERS. Instrument size is given in stops for organs employing little or no unification. Action types refer to the organ’s key mechanism.

DESIGN AND PRE-PRESS LEN LEVASSEUR

PIPE ORGANBUILDING in the United States and Canada is a thriving art practiced in scores of shops throughout the continent. Organbuilders combine a wealth of knowledge from the past with new technologies to meet contemporary design challenges. North American organbuilders, compelled by a unique spirit of cooperation and openness, are successfully raising the artistic standards of this time-honored craft.

ABOUT THE AIO

The American Institute of Organbuilders is an educational organization dedicated to advancing the art of organbuilding “by discussion, inquiry, research, experiment, and other means.” Among the Institute’s nearly 400 members are professional organbuilders, service technicians, and suppliers who subscribe to its objectives and Code of Ethics. Affiliate membership is available to consultants, organists, and those in other allied professions. Student membership is also available.

The AIO has held annual conventions since its founding in 1973. These meetings are structured around a schedule of technical lectures, visits to local organ shops and instruments, product exhibits, and business meetings. Small-group seminars provide hands-on training with knowledgeable experts in specific organbuilding skills, and are held in shops around the United States.

JOURNAL OF AMERICAN ORGANBUILDING

The Institute publishes a quarterly journal featuring technical articles, shop tips, convention and seminar reviews, and a forum for the exchange of building and service information and techniques. Subscriptions are provided free to AIO members, and are available to non-members at nominal cost. Please visit the website to subscribe.

AIO WEBSITE

Membership and scholarship applications are on our website as well as a roster of members, plus links to related organizations and suppliers. The members-only area has archived Journal copies in addition to lecture and seminar videos. Upcoming events are also posted, as are the Institute’s Bylaws and Code of Ethics. Please contact the Executive Secretary’s office for more information.

Mark Hotsenpiller, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
FIRST PARISH (UNITARIAN)
JAMAICA PLAIN, MASSACHUSETTS

E. & G.G. Hook, No. 161, 1854/1860

3 manuals | 37 stops, 36 ranks | Mechanical

Mechanical restoration. The organ has undergone its first major renovation since George Hutchings last modified the instrument in the 1880s. The instrument was dismantled and thoroughly cleaned, a new blower and static reservoir were supplied, and the manual reeds, keyboards and key action were restored.

AIO MEMBER
Scot Huntington

AIO PROJECT CONTRIBUTORS
Amory Atkins
Joshua Wood

PHOTOS WILLIAM T. VAN PELT

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

1 manual | 9 stops, 4½ ranks | Mechanical

A continuo organ made in the style of the 17th-century Restoration organs of Father Smith and specifically the famous Brattle organ, with all pipes of wood except the tin facade of Open Diapason trebles. Contained in a case of antiqued cherry, the instrument is transposable between 415 and 440. All stops are divided treble and bass.

AIO MEMBER
Scot Huntington

PHOTOS WILLIAM T. VAN PELT
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
CLEVELAND, OHIO

2021 | 4 manuals | 43 stops, 51 ranks | Electro-pneumatic

New organ incorporating pipework from Aeolian-Skinner, Opus 1188 and E.M. Skinner, Opus 245

AIO MEMBERS
John Muller
Ryan Boyle

AIO PROJECT CONTRIBUTORS
David R. Beck
David Schopp

STEINBORN PIPE ORGANS, LLC
1319 SILK OAK DRIVE, FORT COLLINS, COLORADO 80525

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY
MORROW, GEORGIA

1982 Visser-Rowland | 2 manuals | 4 stops, 3 ranks | Mechanical

Relocated from a residence in Lake City, Colorado and moved to Clayton State University.

AIO MEMBER
Jim Steinborn
MARBLETOWN REFORMED CHURCH
STONE RIDGE, NEW YORK

1896 | J.W. Steere & Son., No. 413
2 manuals | 9 ranks | Mechanical


AIO MEMBERS
William F. Czelusniak
Richard M. Frary, Jr.
Gary W. Smith
Jon R. Van Houten

PHOTOS GERARD M. McGOVERN
UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE
DUBUQUE, IOWA
2020 | 3 manuals | 58 stops, 43 voices, 51 ranks | Mechanical

Opus 97

AIO MEMBERS
Lynn Dobson
Don Glover
Ryan Mueller
John Panning
Jon Thieszen

PHOTO BENJAMIN HOSKINS

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
MALCOLM, NEBRASKA
2021 | 2 manuals | 10 ranks | Mechanical

Restoration of 1905 Vogelpohl & Spaeth Opus 43, moved to the church by Ernest Vogelpohl in 1922 and sympathetically restored without change by Bedient Pipe Organs in 2021.

AIO MEMBER
Ryan Luckey

PHOTO RYAN LUCKEY
BROAD STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COLUMBUS, OHIO

2022 | 5 manuals | 70 ranks
Electro-pneumatic slider/unit

Organ redesigned with new 5-manual terraced console, major tonal revisions and additions with new organ chassis.

AIO MEMBERS
Arthur E Schlueter, Jr
Arthur E Schlueter, III
Kerry Bunn
Marc Conley
Peter Duys
Jeremiah Hodges
Patrick Hodges
John Tanner

ST ANDREW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA

2022 | 3 manuals | 38 ranks
Electro-pneumatic slider/unit

New organ

AIO MEMBERS
Arthur E Schlueter, Jr
Arthur E Schlueter, III
Kerry Bunn
Marc Conley
Peter Duys
Jeremiah Hodges
Patrick Hodges
John Tanner
MARKET SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

2021 | 4 manuals | 83 ranks | Electro-pneumatic

Organ contains restored windchests and pipework from the church’s two previous pipe organs: Aeolian-Skinner, Opus 1048 and M.P. Möller, Opus 11805.

AIO MEMBERS
Andrew Forrest
Daniel Hancock
Samantha Koch

AIO PROJECT CONTRIBUTOR
Megan Farrell

PHOTO OLLIE SILVER

ST ROSE OF LIMA PARISH, ROMAN CATHOLIC  
JAY, MAINE

2021 | 1 manual | 9 stops, 10 ranks | Mechanical

Historically informed renovation of an 1868 organ by Latbrop C. Hilton. The project included a full redesign of the key action, wind system, expressions box, a new pedal division, and a thorough restoration of the original pipework and case.

AIO MEMBERS
David Wallace
Nick Wallace

PHOTO NICK WALLACE
Belen Jesuit Preparatory School
Miami, Florida

2022 | 3 manuals | 30 voices, 33 ranks | Electro-pneumatic

AIO Members
Jack Bethards
David Anderson
Louis Patterson

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Fitchburg, Massachusetts

2022 | 2 manuals | 20 ranks | Electric slider

Swell and Great under expression. All windchests, casework, winding, and framing were constructed based on a Frank Friemel-designed case that fits this small, post-modernist 1970s building. Aside from the new facade Pedal Violone and reeds, flue-work is from the church’s existing Hook & Hastings, No. 1127, 1896 originally built for the Calvinistic Congregational church in Fitchburg. Some pipework from E. & G.G. Hook, No. 616 (Kinsley voiced), 1872, augmented the organ’s resources.

AIO Members
Patrick J. Murphy
Matt Farrell
Megan Farrell
Matt Jones

AIO Project Contributor
Frank Friemel
AHREND & BRUNZEMA, 1967
Leer bei Loga, Germany

2022 | 2 manuals | 11 ranks | Mechanical

Installed in the music room in a 1974 custom-built home designed by architect Charles Moore for Leland Smith Burns (1933–2021), Professor of Urban Planning at UCLA. Funds for the restoration of the organ were provided by the estate naming organ builders Gregory Harrold and Manuel Rosales. The hillside home in the Santa Monica Canyon was donated to the Charles Moore Foundation as a residence, under its care, for visiting musicians, scholars, and educators.

2022 work undertaken included cleaning, releathering, earthquake bracing, tuning.

AIO MEMBERS
Gregory Harrold
Manuel Rosales
Morgan Byrd

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Aeolian-Skinner, Opus 1444, 1965

2 manuals | 12 stops, 22 ranks | Electro-pneumatic

This was a restoration of a very unique organ installed in a movable, self-contained metal box backstage, with a stop tablet console located in the orchestra pit.

AIO MEMBERS
Victor Schantz
Jeffrey Dexter
Eric Gastier
Luke Tegtmeier

ROSALIES ORGAN BUILDERS
3020 EAST OLYMPIC BOULEVARD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90023

CHARLES MOORE FOUNDATION
THE BURNS HOUSE
SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

Ahrend & Brunzema, 1967
Leer bei Loga, Germany

2022 | 2 manuals | 11 ranks | Mechanical

Installed in the music room in a 1974 custom-built home designed by architect Charles Moore for Leland Smith Burns (1933–2021), Professor of Urban Planning at UCLA. Funds for the restoration of the organ were provided by the estate naming organ builders Gregory Harrold and Manuel Rosales. The hillside home in the Santa Monica Canyon was donated to the Charles Moore Foundation as a residence, under its care, for visiting musicians, scholars, and educators.

2022 work undertaken included cleaning, releathering, earthquake bracing, tuning.

AIO MEMBERS
Gregory Harrold
Manuel Rosales
Morgan Byrd

PHOTO COURTESY CHARLES MOORE FOUNDATION

PHOTO JEFFREY DEXTER
ARMERDING CENTER FOR MUSIC AND THE ARTS
WHEATON COLLEGE, WHEATON, ILLINOIS

2021 | 3 manuals | 38 stops | Mechanical

AIO MEMBERS
John Boody
Joel VanderZee

PHOTO AARON REICHERT

ST. ALBAN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE

2022 | 2 manuals | 19 stops, 25 ranks | Electric slider

Opus 3

AIO MEMBERS
Bart Dahlstrom
Jonathan Ortloff

AIO PROJECT CONTRIBUTORS
Jonathan Ambrosino
Amory Atkins
Chris Broome
Duane Prill
John Roper
Peter Rudewicz
Stephen Russell
David Schopp
Joshua Wood

PHOTO JONATHAN ORTLOFF
GROTON SCHOOL
GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

2022 | 2 manuals | 5 stops | Mechanical

The organ is situated in a classroom for student lessons and practice. The instrument is fully contained within a casework of black walnut with polychromatic basswood grillwork. A built-in dolly allows placement against a wall. The instrument is a gift of the Ralph B. Rogers Foundation.

AIO MEMBERS
Ron Wahl
Christoph Wahl

Jonathan Ambrosino, consultant

RED RIVER PIPE ORGAN COMPANY
3501 WELLSITE DRIVE, SUITE 135, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73080

ST JAMES THE GREATER CATHOLIC CHURCH
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

1966/2009 | 3 manuals | 9 ranks | Electro-pneumatic

2021 relocation and upgrade of M.P. Möller Double Artiste, with additions.

AIO MEMBERS
John Riester
Justin Dana
Sol Rizzato
Carolyn Sargent
Luke Staisiunas
CATHEDRAL OF ST. PAUL
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

2021 | 3 manuals | 60 stops, 67 ranks
Mechanical action, electric stop action

Opus 164

AIO MEMBERS
Didier Grassin
David Rooney
Aaron Tellers

AIO PROJECT CONTRIBUTORS
Amory Atkins
Richard Houghten
Joshua Wood

PHOTO MARY DILLARD

ST. JAMES BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA

4 manuals | 64 stops, 78 ranks | Electric slider

A project collaboration for a new organ, between Rosales, Opus 42 and Parsons, Opus 51.

AIO MEMBERS
Peter Geise
Aaron Grabowski
David McCleary
Calvin Parsons
Matthew Parsons
Richard Parsons
Duane Prill
Manuel Rosales
ST GEORGE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GERMANTOWN, TENNESSEE

2007–2022 | 3 manuals | 54 stops, 58 ranks
Electro-pneumatic slider


AIO MEMBERS
Mark Goulding
John Seest

AIO PROJECT CONTRIBUTOR
David Schopp
CELEBRATING
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With the right tools and a palette of colors at their disposal, there is no limit to what talented artists can create. Today, the artistry of pipe organ builders can be paired with the unprecedented power and flexibility of the Peterson ICS-4000™ Integrated Control System to maximize every organist's creative potential.

For full details and an interactive demonstration of this remarkable system, please visit www.ICS4000.com.