



Ann Arbor, Michigan—St. Mary Student Parish

Two manuals and pedals, 8 ranks
Detached movable tablet console, compass 61/32
Electro-pneumatic, unit action
Casavant Opus 1980 (1949); Renovation, 2004
Photograph: Simon Couture

St. Mary Student Parish serves the Catholic community on the campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The seven-rank unit organ was selected in 1949 by Robert Noehren, then University Organist and Professor of Organ.

The instrument, which was chosen for budgetary reasons, had not been designed specifically for the space. It was a series instrument, which was a common practice of most organ builders at that time. Being inadequate to fill this large building, it did not fulfill the liturgical requirements. The various ranks did not blend well together. The Open Diapason was rather opaque, the strings were very bright, the Dulciana was muted, and the flutes were too small in scale.

In order to maximise the presence of the instrument in the room, while not enlarging it, we replaced most pipework as new, with the exception of the Viola da Gamba, which was thoroughly revoiced, the sixteen-foot octave of the Bassoon 16', and the Pedal Bourdon 16'. We also made the two 16' stops available on the manuals.

The instrument was thoroughly renovated and releathered. The console was rebuilt with solid-state systems. As the instrument is played by many organ students, the console was provided with a new multilevel combination system.

Great Organ	
Bourdon	16
Open Diapason	8
Major Flute	8
Viola da Gamba	8
Octave	4
Spindle Flute	4
Sesquialtera (from TG)	2 ² / ₃
Fifteenth	2
Flute	2
Mixture II	1 ¹ / ₃
Bassoon	16
Trumpet	8
Clarion	4

Pedal Organ	
Bourdon	16
Octave	8
Cello	8
Stopped Flute	8
Choral Bass	4
Principal	2
Bassoon	16
Trumpet	8
Clarion	4

Swell Organ	
Contra Gamba (TC)	16
Major Flute	8
Viola da Gamba	8
Octave	4
Spindle Flute	4
Twelfth (TC)	2 ² / ₃
Fifteenth	2
Flute	2
Seventeenth (TG)	1 ³ / ₅
Nineteenth	1 ¹ / ₃
Trumpet	8
Tremulant (affecting entire organ)	

Analysis	
Open Diapason (new)	8
Major Flute (new)	4-2
Viola da Gamba (revoiced)	8
Octave (new)	4-2
Seventeenth (new)	1 3/5
Nineteenth (new)	1 1/3
Trumpet (new)	8
Bassoon (ext.)	16
Pedal Bourdon	16-8