



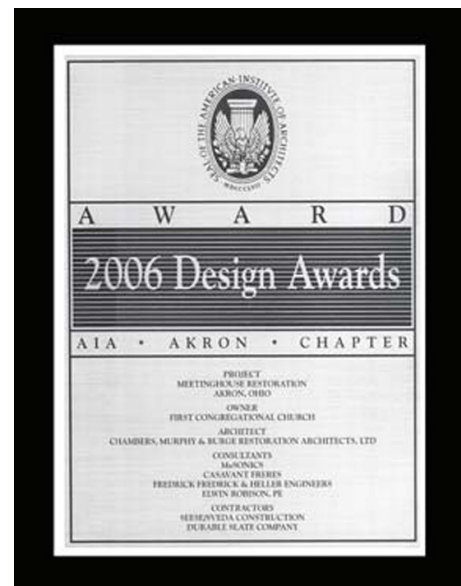
Akron, Ohio—First Congregational Church

Four manuals and pedals, 54 stops, 67 ranks
 Detached moveable drawknob console, compass 61/32
 Electro-pneumatic action
 Casavant Opus 2085 (1951); Refurbishment, 2006
 Photographs: Simon Couture

The Casavant organ of First Congregational Church in Akron was installed in 1951. This instrument was among the first Casavant organs to feature tonal elements inspired by the ideals of the then prevailing American Classic organ style.

The comprehensive refurbishment of this organ was as ambitious as the truly spectacular restoration of the meetinghouse, which received a Design Award from the American Institute of Architects. The first thing one will notice is the impressive new organ façade. Conceived by Casavant's designer Benoît Gendron, it is inspired by the façade of the church's 1911 Kimball organ, which had been removed in 1951.

From mechanical standpoint, the original electro-pneumatic windchests, expression motors, and the reservoir wind system were releathered and restored in the Casavant shop. A new Casavant four-manual console was provided. In addition to being moveable, which allows it to be installed in different locations in



the choir loft for optimal interaction with choirs and other musical instruments, the console is MIDI compatible and features a combination system of 128 levels of memory. Casavant personnel did all the work on site, which included the thorough cleaning of the organ and the installation of the refurbished and new components.

The revised tonal specification was developed in close collaboration with Director of Music Valerie Thorson. Tonal finishing on site was done by Casavant voicers, under the supervision of Tonal Director Jacquelin Rochette. The intrinsic musical qualities of the instrument were respected, and the overall tonal palette was enhanced so the organ literally blossoms in the significantly improved acoustics of the meetinghouse. The organ supports congregational signing far more efficiently now. The overall aural impression is one of majesty and nobleness; the organ sounds fuller, as choruses were completed, and is more varied in tone, as a number of colorful stops were added.

The compared specifications follow.

	1951 Great		2006 Great	
Quintaton	16	Double Diapason (new, in façade)	16	
Diapason	8	Open Diapason I (new, in façade)	8	
		Open Diapason II (ext.)	8	
Bourdon	8	Bourdon	8	
Gemshorn	8	Gemshorn	8	
Octave	4	Octave (new)	4	
Rohrflöte	4	Open Flute (new)	4	
Octave Quint	$2 \frac{2}{3}$	Twelfth	$2 \frac{2}{3}$	
Super Octave	2	Fifteenth (new)	2	
		Cornet III (new)	$2 \frac{2}{3}$	
Fourniture IV	$1 \frac{1}{3}$	Mixture IV (new)	$1 \frac{1}{3}$	
Cymbal III	$\frac{1}{2}$	Cymbal III (new)	$\frac{1}{2}$	
		Double Trumpet (new, ext.)	16	
		Trumpet (new)	8	
		Festival Trumpet (Solo)	16	
		Festival Trumpet (Solo)	8	
		Festival Clarion (Solo)	4	

1951		2006	
Swell		Swell	
Flûte conique	16	Flûte conique	16
Geigen Principal	8	Geigen Principal (revoiced)	8
Stopped Diapason	8	Stopped Diapason	8
Salicional	8	Salicional	8
Viola da Gamba	8	Viola da Gamba	8
Voix Céleste	8	Voix Céleste	8
Octave Geigen	4	Octave (new)	4
Traverse Flute	4	Traverse Flute	4
Twelfth	2 ² / ₃	Twelfth	2 ² / ₃
Fifteenth	2	Piccolo (new, harmonic)	2
Plein Jeu IV	1 ¹ / ₃	Chorus Mixture III (new)	2
		Full Mixture V (new)	2
Contra Fagotto	16	Contra Fagotto	16
Trumpet	8	Trumpet (revoiced)	8
Oboe	8	Oboe	8
		Vox Humana (Kimball pipes)	8
Clarion	4	Clarion (revoiced)	4
Tremulant		Tremulant	
		Festival Trumpet (Solo)	8
Choir		Choir	
Viola	8	Viola	8
Cor de nuit	8	Cor de nuit (new)	8
Spitzflöte	8	Spitzflöte	8
Flûte Céleste	8	Flûte Céleste	8
Gemshorn	4	Fugara (new)	4
Koppelflöte	4	Spindle Flute (new)	4
Nazard	2 ² / ₃	Nazard (new)	2 ² / ₃
Blockflöte	2	Recorder (new)	2
Tierce	1 ³ / ₅	Tierce (new)	1 ³ / ₅
Clarinet	8	Cromorne (new)	8
Tremulant		Tremulant	
		Festival Trumpet (Solo)	
Solo		Solo	
Gross Flute	8	Flauto Mirabilis (new, harmonic)	8
Gamba	8	Gamba	8
Gamba Celeste	8	Gamba Celeste	8
Octave	4	Octave	4
Concert Flute	4	Concert Flute	4
Cor anglais	8	Clarinet (from Choir)	8
Tremulant		Tremulant	
		Festival Trumpet (ext.)	16
Harmonic Trumpet	8	Festival Trumpet (revoiced)	8
		Festival Clarion (ext.)	4

1951		2006	
Pédale		Pédale	
Contrebasse (wood)	16	Contra Violone (new, digital)	32
		Contra Bourdon (new, digital)	32
		Contrabass	16
		Open Diapason I (new, in façade)	16
		Open Diapason II (Great)	16
Violone (metal)	16	Violone	16
Bourdon	16	Bourdon	16
Flûte conique (Swell)	16	Flûte conique (Swell)	16
Quintaton (Great)	16		
Cor de nuit (Choir, ext.)	16	Cor de nuit (Choir, ext.)	16
Quint (metal, tapered)	10 ² / ₃	Quint (derived from Bourdon 16')	10 ² / ₃
Octave	8	Octave (new, in façade)	8
Cello (ext.)	8	Cello (ext.)	8
Stopped Flute (ext.)	8	Stopped Flute (new, independent)	8
Flûte conique (Swell)	8	Flute Conique (Swell)	8
Cor de nuit (Choir)	8	Cor de nuit (Choir)	8
Octave Quint (ext.)	5 ¹ / ₃		
Super Octave (ext.)	4	Octave (new, independent)	4
Cor de nuit (Choir)	4	Cor de nuit (Choir)	4
		Theorbe III (derived; 10 ² / ₃ ' + 6 ² / ₅ ' + 4 ⁴ / ₇ ')	
Mixture IV	2 ² / ₃	Mixture IV (recomposed)	2 ² / ₃
		Contra Trombone (new, ext.)	32
Trombone	16	Trombone (revoiced)	16
		Double Trumpet (Great)	16
Fagotto (Swell)	16	Fagotto (Swell)	16
Tromba (ext)	8	Trumpet (ext.)	8
		Festival Trumpet (Solo)	8
Clarion (ext.)	4	Clarion (ext.)	4
		Festival Clarion (Solo)	4