



Saginaw, Michigan—St. John's Episcopal Church

Two manuals and pedals, 28 stops, 35 ranks

Detached tablet moveable console, compass 61/32

Electro-pneumatic action

Casavant Opus 2739 (1963); Refurbishing and tonal enhancement, 2001

Photograph: Amy Simons

When building this instrument in 1963, 14 ranks of pipes from the previous instrument were retained in the new 33-rank organ, which was an uncommon practice at Casavant at that time.

The voicing style of the old and new pipework was quite different, and the existing ranks were not revoiced to blend into the new tonal scheme. One of the main goals of the project completed in 2001 was to revoice the entire organ into a cohesive ensemble.

Another problem was that the Great Prinzipal 8' is divided in the two tone openings, one facing the Chancel, the other facing the Nave, making this stop less useful to support the choir. In order to correct this problem, the Pedal Prinzipal 16' was extended to manual compass in order to provide a second principal rank to the Great.

In order to increase the flexibility of this two-manual instrument, the Great Trompette and Swell Oboe were made available on the other manual.

The Swell was revised to make it more adapted for the Anglican liturgy. The high pitched Zimbel was replaced with a chorus mixture. The rather nasal reeds were

replaced with a Bassoon 16' and a colorful Clarinet. The old Oboe, which was pretty nice, was reconditioned.

In the Pedal, the Schalmey 4', which was unstable, was replaced with a more useful open flute 4'. We found room to add a full-length Posaune 16' to provide solid undergirding to the foundation of the entire organ. The more subdued Fagott 16' was retained as a secondary reed.

The Casavant console was rebuilt with solid-state systems. The wind system and Swell expression motor were recovered. The leather valves in the electro-pneumatic windchests were sound and did not require releathering.

The compared specifications follow.

	1963		2001	
	Great		Great	
Gedackt (old)	16	Gedackt	16	
Prinzipal	8	Prinzipal	8	
		Oktav (new, ext. Prinzipal 16)	8	
Rohrflöte	8	Rohrflöte	8	
Oktav	4	Oktav	4	
Spitzflöte (old)	4	Spitzflöte	4	
Oktav	2	Oktav	2	
Mixtur IV	1 1/3	Mixtur IV	1 1/3	
Trompete	8	Trompete (revoiced)	8	
		Oboe (Swell)	8	
	Swell		Swell	
Salizional (old)	8	Salizional	8	
Vox Coelestis (old)	8	Vox Coelestis	8	
Gedackt (old)	8	Gedackt	8	
Prinzipal (old)	4	Prinzipal	4	
Koppelflöte	4	Koppelflöte	4	
Waldflöte	2	Waldflöte	2	
Nasat (old)	1 1/3	Nasat	1 1/3	
Sesquialtera II (added 1971)	2 2/3	Sesquialtera II	2 2/3	
Zimbel III	1/2	Plein Jeu III (new)	2	
Dulzian	16	Bassoon (new, ext.)	16	
Oboe (old)	8	Oboe	8	
Klein Klarine	4	Clarinet (new)	8	
Tremulant		Tremulant		
		Trompete (Great)	8	

1963 Pedal		2001 Pedal	
Prinzipal	16	Subbass (resultant)	32
Subbass (old)	16	Prinzipal	16
		Subbass	16
		Gedackt (Great)	16
Oktav (old)	8	Oktav	8
Pommer (old Gemshorn)	8	Gemshorn	8
Choralbass (old)	4	Choralbass	4
		Flöte (new)	4
Rauschquinte II (old)	2 ² / ₃	Rauschquinte II	2 ² / ₃
		Posaune (new, ext.)	16
Fagott	16	Fagott	16
		Bassoon (Swell)	16
		Trompete (Great)	8
		Oboe (Swell)	8
Schalmei	4	Klarine (Great)	4
		Oboe (Swell)	4

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