



Vancouver, British Columbia — Holy Rosary Cathedral

Three manuals and pedals, 42 stops, 51 ranks
Detached moveable drawknob console, compass 61/32
Electro-pneumatic action
Karn-Warren (1900), Reconstruction, 2000
Photograph: Stephen D. Miller

This Roman Catholic parish traces its origin to 1885 when the first Mass was said on the Feast of the Holy Rosary. The present building opened in 1900. In 1916 it was consecrated as the Cathedral of the Holy Rosary. Built in the Gothic style and cruciform in plan, the building is 161 feet long, 62 feet wide—104 feet at the transepts—and 62 feet high. The hard interior surfaces and large cubic volume of the room give it a spectacular acoustic with a virtually flawless decay rate. When the building was completed it was regarded as the “finest piece of architecture west of Toronto and north of San Francisco”.

The original organ, which had the reputation of being the oldest romantic style organ of its kind in British Columbia remaining in its original location, was purchased from the Karn-Warren Organ Company of Woodstock, Ontario in 1900. By the latter part of the twentieth century the instrument was not in good

condition owing to neglect and to external problems such as a leaking roof. In 1999 the instrument was removed from the building and transported to our workshop where it was given a new mechanism. The pipework was repaired and reincorporated in the rebuilt instrument. The façade pipework was stripped of subsequent layers of paint to reveal the colors and pattern of the original stenciling. Because the interior of the building had been repainted a different color from what it was in 1900, the colors of the newly stenciled pipes were changed to work with the present interior color scheme; otherwise the stenciling replicates what was seen in 1900.

Great Organ		Choir Organ	
Double Open Diapason	16	Geigen Principal	8
Open Diapason	8	Dulciana	8
Principal	8	Melodia	8
Dolce	8	Gamba	8
Doppel Flute	8	Harmonic Flute	4
Wald Flute	4	Fugara	4
Principal	4	Harmonic Piccolo	2
Twelfth	2 ² / ₃	Quint Flute	1 ¹ / ₃
Fifteenth	2	Clarinet	8
Mixture IV-V	1 ¹ / ₃	Tremulant	
Trumpet	8		
Clarion	4		
Swell Organ		Pedal Organ	
Bourdon	16	Resultant	32
Open Diapason	8	Contrabass	16
Viola da Gamba	8	Open Diapason	16
Salicional	8	Subbass	16
Voix céleste	8	Bourdon (Swell)	16
Stopped Diapason	8	Octave Bass	8
Principal	4	Bass Flute	8
Flauto Dolce	4	Octave (ext.)	4
Flautino	2	Trombone	16
Cornet II	2 ² / ₃	Bassoon (Swell)	16
Mixture V	2	Trumpet (Great)	8
Bassoon (ext.)	16	Oboe (Swell)	4
Cornoepen	8		
Oboe	8		
Vox Humana	8		
Clarion	4		
Tremulant			