



Iliion, New York –First Presbyterian Church

Three manuals and pedals, 37 stops, 51 ranks
Detached movable drawknob console, compass 61/32
Electro-pneumatic action
Opus 3854, 2006
Photograph: Donald DuLaney

The origin of First Presbyterian Church of Iliion, New York dates to January 1871 when a group of interested individuals attended the meeting of the Utica Presbytery to request that they be permitted to organize a church in Iliion. Following the approval of the Presbytery in May of 1871, a group of eighteen individuals met for the first time as the Presbyterian Church in Iliion. As the congregation grew they began to plan for a building of their own, which was dedicated in 1875. In 1912 tragedy struck when a devastating fire destroyed the building and its contents including an organ. Immediately the congregation rallied and began plans for a new building to replace the first church. In December 1913 this church was dedicated. It contained a new two manual

tubuler-pneumatic Möller organ with twenty-nine speaking stops. The action of this instrument was subsequently converted to electro-pneumatic and several additions were made over the years.

Several years ago the congregation began to explore the possibility of replacing the existing organ with a new instrument. The project provided an opportunity to realize a three-manual organ of medium size that incorporates a melding of English and American tonal aesthetics. The high ceiling of the sanctuary and attendant large cubic volume results in a favorable acoustical environment.

The organ has a rich complement of foundation stops, including two célestes. The Great 16' plenum exhibits weight while preserving clarity. Of note is the chorus of harmonic flutes on the Swell. The Choir Clarinet has a lovely wooden quality reminiscent of those found in Casavant organs from the early 20th century. Cohesion of ensemble and the color of individual stops have been emphasized.

The former organ's façade, including speaking pipes that constitute the lowest pitches of the Prestant 16' on the Great and Octavebasse 8' in the Pedal, was retained. The large-scale 16' open wood pedal stop from the previous organ gives a solid grounding to the instrument while contributing a *gravitas* not found in similar stops made of metal. The façade, which is in excellent scale with the front of the nave, provides a visual tie with the past while effecting an advantageous blending of the sound in the space. The terraced console may be moved to the center location for recitals.

Great Organ		Swell Organ	
Prestant ¹	16	Gedackt	16
Prestant	8	Open Diapason	8
Chimney Flute	8	Traverse Flute	8
Octave	4	Viole de gambe (slotted)	8
Flute	4	Voix céleste (Slotted, GG)	8
Fifteenth	2	Octave	4
Cornet III (TC)	2-2/3	Harmonic Flute	4
Mixture IV-V	1-1/3	Piccolo	2
Trumpet	8	Mixture V	2
Great 16', Unison Off, Great 4'		Bassoon	16
Chimes ³		Trumpet	8
		Oboe	8
		Tremulant	
		Swell 16', Unison Off, Swell 4'	
Choir Organ		Pedal Organ	
Cor de nuit	8	Contra Bourdon ⁴	32
Dulciana	8	Contrabass ³	16
Unda Maris (TC)	8	Prestant (Great)	16
Fugara	4	Bourdon	16
Spire Flute	4	Gedackt (Swell)	16
Nazard	2-2/3	Octavebass ²	8
Italian Principal	2		
Tierce	1-3/5		
Larigot	1-1/3		

Cymbal III	2/3	Stopped Flute (Ext. Bourdon)	8
Clarinet	8	Octave	4
Tremulant		Mixture III	2-2/3
Choir 16', Unison Off, Choir 4'		Contra Trombone (Half length ext.)	32
		Trombone	16
		Bassoon (Swell)	16
		Trumpet (Great)	8
		Bassoon (Swell)	4

¹ Nos. 1-24 in façade from previous organ

² Nos. 1-12 in façade from previous organ

³ From previous organ

⁴ Digital

© Casavant Frères