

Casavant Frères

Tuning

A pipe organ is a natural acoustic instrument and, like a piano, flute, trumpet or violin will need to be tuned. In North America most instruments are tuned approximately twice each year. This activity usually coincides with the seasons related to heating and air conditioning and involves tuning the reed stops and any other pipework that is out of tune at that time. A complete re-pitching and/or re-tuning of the entire instrument including setting the temperament probably would be done at ten to fifteen year intervals.

The subject of temperature and humidity control for a pipe organ sometimes is raised by proponents of electronic instruments as a source of difficulty for owners of pipe organs, usually suggesting that the building would need to be kept at a constant temperature throughout the year. One only needs to look at the history of the instrument and the fact that there are many organs in European churches, which predate modern heating systems, to realize that such requirements are absurd. The tuning of all acoustical instruments is influenced by the temperature of the air surrounding them, therefore an organ will be in-tune when the temperature at the time of its playing is the same as when it was tuned.

See also: [Temperature and Humidity](#)

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