

History of the Organ at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart 1906 – 1991

The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (Richmond, Virginia) organ was built by the John Brown Company of Wilmington, Delaware, and installed by Mr. C. B. Brown prior to the dedication of the Cathedral on November 29, 1906. The dedication booklet states that when it was installed, it was the largest in the country (this is doubtful.) The original organ contained forty-seven ranks, seven couplers and nineteen accessories; it had a total of 3,916 pipes. The action was tubular-pneumatic, with an extended console placed in the center of the gallery.

In 1912, just six years after the organ was built, it was rebuilt by M. P. Moller, Inc. of Hagerstown, Maryland, and provided with the more up-to-date electric action. It was necessary to reduce the number of ranks to thirty-nine. The new console was placed at right angles to the organ, and the couplers were increased from the original seven to twenty.

In 1931, Moller added a new drawstop action to the console. Also, the diapason basses were installed and the tonal balance was improved in depth, sparkle, clarity and color.

In 1940, the organ was completely rebuilt and redesigned by the Tellers Organ Company. New ventil chests were added throughout. Also a new console was placed again in the center of the gallery. Several new ranks of pipes were added to the 1912 Moller organ. Only the case (facade) pipes remained of the original John Brown organ.

The blower was added by Tellers in 1940. It appears to be a used 1925 vintage kinetic blower from a theater organ. It puts out 24 inches of wind pressure. Tellers again updated the organ in 1949 by extending several ranks of pipes.

In 1967, the organ was given a more “baroque” sound by the addition of eight new ranks, including several trumpet stops and a 16 foot metal pedal open diapason. This work was done by Thomas Schaettle, the Cathedral organist at that time. This pipework was provided by the [A. R. Schopp's Sons Company](#).

The current Cathedral organ was renovated in the early 1990's by Robert G. Lent of the Shenandoah Organ Studio, as it was falling into disrepair. Over a period of two years, Mr. Lent completely rebuilt the organ, replacing the three manual Tellers console with two large, four manual consoles, one in the gallery and the other in the chancel. A solid state multiplex relay system was installed that controls the organ. Also added was the 8' brass Trumpet En Chamade, the pipework was done by A. R. Schopp's Sons Company.

As a part of the Renovation in the 90's, there was to be the installation of a fifteen rank chancel organ, but this never happened. This organ was to act as an antiphonal organ to the gallery organ and assist in accompanying the choir and congregation for liturgical events and concerts when singing in the front of the church.

ORGAN SPECIFICATION

Great

16	Violone
8	Open Diapason
8	Bourdon
4	Octave
2 ^{2/3}	Nasard
2	Fifteenth
IV	Fourniture
8	Trompette en Chamade
	Chimes
	Zimbelstern
16	Sw to Gt
8	Sw to Gt
4	Sw to Gt
16	Chancel Sw to Gt
8	Chancel Sw to Gt
4	Chancel Sw to Gt
16	Ch to Gt
8	Ch to Gt
4	Ch to Gt
8	Bomb to Gt
4	Bomb to Gt

Swell

16	Bourdon
8	Flute
8	Quintadena
8	Viola
8	Voix Celeste
4	Octave
4	Flute Harmonique
2 ^{2/3}	Twelfth
2	Fifteenth
2	Principal
IV	Plein Jeu
III	Carillon
16	Contra Fagatto
8	French Trumpet
8	Oboe
4	French Clarion
4	Oboe Clarion
	Tremolo

16	Sw to Sw
	Swell Unison Off
4	Sw to Sw

Choir

8	Bourdon
8	Dulciana
8	Unda Maris
4	Fugara
4	Spindle Flute
2 ^{2/3}	Nasard
2	Piccolo
1 ^{3/5}	Tierce
1	Sifflole
8	Trompette en Chamade (Gt)
	Tremolo
16	Ch to Ch
	Choir Unison Off
4	Ch to Ch
	Chimes
8	Chancel Gt to Ch
8	Sw to Ch
8	Chancel Sw to Ch
8	Bomb to Ch

Bombarde

8	Double Flute
IV	Mixture
8	Trompette Heroique
8	Clarinet
4	Clarion Heroique
4	Bomb to Bomb
16	Gt to Bomb
8	Gt to Bomb
16	Chancel Gt to Bomb
8	Chancel Gt to Bomb
16	Sw to Bomb
4	Sw to Bomb
16	Chancel Sw to Bomb
8	Chancel Sw to Bomb
4	Chancel Sw to Bomb
8	Ch to Bomb

4	Ch to Bomb
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Pedal

32	Resultant
32	Bourdon
16	Pedal Open
16	Open Diapason
16	Violone (Gt)
16	Bourdon
16	Lieblich Gedackt (Sw)
8	Octave
8	Cello
8	Open Flute
8	Bourdon
4	Choral Bass
4	Flute
IV	Mixture
16	Contra Bombarde
16	Contra Fagatto
8	Bombarde
8	Fagatto
4	Clarion
8	Gt to Pd
8	Sw to Pd
8	Ch to Pd
8	Bomb to Pd
4	Bomb to Pd
8	Chancel Gt to Pd
8	Chancel Sw to Pd
4	Ch to Pd

Chancel Organ (Prepared)

Great

8 Principal
8 Gedackt
4 Octave
2 Super Octave
IV Mixture

Swell

16 Rohr Bourdon
8 Rohr Flute
8 Gemshorn
8 Gemshorn Celeste
4 Principal
4 Rohr Flute
2 Flute
2 Principal
1 1/3 Quinte
8 Trumpet
Tremolo

Pedal

16 Rohr Bourdon
8 Principal
8 Flute
4 Octave
4 Rohr Flute

