

STANDBRIDGE BROTHERS (1869); opened at a "Sacred Concert" by organist Henry Gordon Thunder and other artists, Thursday evening, May 6, 1869

St. Augustine's Church, R.C.
Fourth Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

[Excerpt from:] "The Choirs of Philadelphia. / Number VIII," (*Philadelphia, Pa.*) *Sunday Dispatch* 18, no. 49 (Sunday, March 25, 1866): 1.

the good reputation of their choir.

The organ at St. Augustine's was built by Berger of Baltimore, and has never given that degree of satisfaction which an instrument costing so much money as it did, should. The singular mistake was made in its erection of having it of much larger dimensions in length than the space from the choir floor to the ceiling of its intended apartment permitted, and in consequence it was necessary to lower the entire choir floor, at much cost in money, and at the expense of the symmetry of the church proportions.

The organ contains three boards, great, choir and swell, in each of which are several excellent stops, which, when properly combined, produce elegant and pleasing effects. The present organist is Professor Henry G. Thunder, a gentleman standing in the front rank of his profession, and peculiarly well fitted to have charge of the choir of a leading Catholic church, such as St. Augustine's. The duties of an organist in a Catholic choir are five times more onerous than in any other. The music is more difficult, the services more frequently held, and the usual incidental surroundings require greater musical knowledge, powers of discipline, and general undisputed capacity. All these requirements Mr. Thunder possesses in an eminent degree, and we therefore assert that he is peculiarly well fitted for either his present or a more important position. The clergy and people of

"A Great Organ," *The (Philadelphia, Pa.) Catholic Standard* 1, no. 29 (Saturday, July 21, 1866): 5.

A GREAT ORGAN.—The organ at St. Augustine's Church is being rebuilt and enriched by a *solo* organ of eight stops, with a fourth manual and additional bellows. The new stops will comprise *horn*, *orchestra*, *flute*, *flage*, *clarinet*, *oboe* and *trumpet piccolo* and *vox humana* (with special swell action) on the solo organ, and sixteen feet *trombone*, *metal violoncello*, *principal* and *quint* on the pedal. The great swell and choir organs will also receive additions such as will render this instrument, which has always been noted for its variety and fine quality of tone, equally remarkable for power. It will be first great organ erected in this city in a Catholic church, and the second in the United States, the organ at the Church of the Conception, in Boston, being at present the only one possessing the distinctive feature of a *solo* organ. It is expected to be finished in November next.

"St. Augustine's," CS 2, no. 19 (Saturday, July 6, 1867): 5.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S.—The improvements at St. Augustine's are progressing steadily, and in a short time the fine tower of the church will be surmounted by a steeple, of becoming and handsome proportions. A large force of men are now busily engaged at work in the yard adjoining the church, and they will soon complete this essential improvement.

The following gentlemen have been appointed a Committee to collect funds, in their respective precincts, for the improvements, that are being made:

Messrs. Thomas Dunn, P. E. Robinson, Bernard Corr, Joseph Murphy, W. F. Turner, C. G. Hookay, H. Lambert, A. Turner, P. E. McKenna, P. Kelly, Andrew Farvy, Jas. Carey, B. Rafferty, B. Sheeran, J. T. Peters, W. Finley, P. McMenamy, Thomas Conway, F. McCulloch, M. Haley, M. Garrity, A. McLaughlin, H. Glacken, W. McCormack, M. Griffin, P. Devlin, P. Turner, A. Schneider, M. Barr, J. Ryan, M. Redding, Ald. Hurley, P. Murphy, J. Gice, J. Bradley, John Magee, Jas. Magee, P. Duffy, T. McCullough, F. Falls, A. Campbell, J. Fitzgibbon, J. McWilliams, Michael McGuire, M. Larkey, C. Henry, D. Tierney, J. Gillen, J. Biggs, P. Collins, and D. Donovan.

The fine organ of St. Augustine's has been thoroughly overhauled and substantially renovated by Mr. E. C. Le Droit, the competent organ-builder of Philadelphia, and it now ranks as one of the first instruments in the city. He has introduced a new solo-organ, which, with the exception of the solo-organ in the grand Boston instrument, is the largest in the United States. It contains the following stops, all of which are most excellent, (especially the vox humana,) gemas horn, buffare (two mouthed stopp'd diapason,) clarabella, german figara, flute harmonique, trumpet, hautboy, and vox humana.

In the great organ, there has been placed a new open diapason, melodia and viola: in the choir organ a new clarionet, and in the swell organ, a kreulophone, bourdon, principal, and bassoon. The pedal organ has been reinforced by a trombone, principal and violoncello, with various new couplings, all of which conduce to make the organ most complete and thorough in all its details.

Preparations are being made for a formal opening of this splendid instrument, at no distant day, and, as the exclusive management of the affair has been entrusted to Mr. Henry G. Thunder, the accomplished organist of St. Augustine's,—nothing short of a first-class entertainment may be expected.

"St. Augustine's Day," CS 2, no. 27 (Saturday, August 31, 1867): 5.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S DAY.—The feast of St. Augustine this year falls on Wednesday, 23th inst., its observance being duly celebrated in the church of his name on the following Sunday within the Octave. At 10½ o'clock, the solemn High Mass will be celebrated, and the panegyric of the saint delivered by Rev. Father McElroy, S.J. Great preparations have been made in the choral way, and a fine Mass by Gounod will be sung by the choir, who have been rehearsing it for some months. The organ, which had been repaired by Mr. Le Droit, as fully set forth in these columns, was damaged so much by the storm and rain which fell upon it when the spire was being erected, that at one time it was almost impossible to move either register. It will, however, be in fine condition for St. Augustine's Day, and produce some of its most choice tones.

"St. Augustine's," CS 4, no. 7 (Saturday, April 24, 1869): 5.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S.—The repairs to the organ of St. Augustine's Church being now completed, a fine concert of sacred music will be given in the church on the evening of Ascension Thursday, 6th proximo. The members of the choir, and of the musical club recently under the tuition of Mr. H. G. Thunder, will take part in a carefully selected programme, and as they have been rehearsing with diligence and care, under the direct supervision of their able preceptor, a most choice and acceptable entertainment will be given. The price of admission has been fixed at the very reasonable figure of 50 cents.

Standbridge Brothers; Pennsylvania; Philadelphia; St. Augustine's Church, R.C.; 1869; cont'd., page 3:

"St. Augustine's Church [Ad]," *SD* 22, no. 3 (Sunday, May 2, 1869): 2.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH,
FOURTH Street.—An Organ Performance and
Sacred Concert will be given on
THURSDAY EVENING, May 5th.
The vocal selections by the Choir, assisted by Mr.
THUNDER'S CHORAL CLUB.
Tickets, fifty cents. May be had of the Reverend
Clergy, at the various Music Stores and Catholic Book-
stores. ap18-35

"St. Augustine's Church [Ad]," *The (Philadelphia, Pa.) Evening Bulletin* 9, no. 108 (Wednesday, May 5, 1869): 3.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, FOURTH ST.
ORGAN OPENING AND SACRED CONCERT,
THURSDAY EVENING, May 5, 1869.
The Organ, rebuilt, with Electro-Magnetic Action, by
Standbridge Brothers, will be performed upon by
MR. HENRY G. THUNDER
and Master **ROBERT WINTERBOTTOM**, and a choice
programme of Classical Music. Gems from MOZART's
Requiem, etc., etc., will be given by the Choir, aided by
Mr. Thunder's Choral Class.
Tickets 50 cents. For sale at Music Stores, etc., or at
the Church in the evening. 534t

"A Sacred Concert...", *EB* 9, no. 109 (Thursday, May 5, 1869): 5.

A SACRED CONCERT will be given at St. Augustine's
Church, on Fourth street, below Vine, to-morrow
evening, on the occasion of the opening of the new
organ. Mr. Henry Thunder and Master Robert
Winterbottom will perform a choice programme of
classical music.

"Our Religious Column," *The (Philadelphia, Pa.) Evening Telegraph* 9, no. 111 (Saturday, May 8, 1869): 8.

—The advantage from the electro-magnetic
action as applied to the organ of St. Augustine's
Church, is simply a convenience for the organist,
making but little if any pressure necessary for
the keys, as heretofore, when playing on the
full organ, or a great number of stops. The in-
vention is an ingenious one, and will work well.

"Amusements, Music, &C. / The Organ Reopening at St. Augustine's Church," *The Philadelphia (Pa.) Inquirer* (Friday,
May 7, 1869): 2.

AMUSEMENTS, MUSIC, &C.
THE ORGAN REOPENING AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S
CHURCH.—The organ at St. Augustine's Church,
which has lately been remodelled and rebuilt, was
formally reopened, last evening, in the presence of
a large and apparently appreciative audience. A
concert of organ and sacred music was given on
the occasion, the organ soloists in it being Mr.
Henry G. Thunder and an uncommonly promising
pupil of his, but 14 years of age—Master Robert
Winterbottom. Mr. Thunder's eminence and
ability as an organist are universally conceded,
and his performances in this instance were of such
a character as to even add thereto to his
high reputation. His organ prelude and fugue in
B minor from Bach, with which the concert opened,
and Mendelssohn's "Sonata" in F, were splendid
specimens of smooth and finished organ playing,
and must have delighted those present who could
appreciate the perfection which characterized
them.
Master Winterbottom surprised and astonished
the audience by his performance of Rineck's grand
organ Concerto, in two movements. For so young
a performer it was truly a wonderful effort, and
reflected the highest credit on him and his able
preceptor. We question if the difficult piece could
have been more satisfactorily given by older and
professional hands, and we look upon it as an
achievement in organ playing of the very highest
character.
The vocal selections that were given, were all
done in admirable style, and the entertainment
altogether was one of the best affairs of the kind
ever given in Philadelphia.

The Program from the Catholic Archives in Philadelphia:

St. Augustine's Church, Fourth Street.

THE ORGAN, as re-built by Messrs. STANDBRIDGE BROTHERS, will
be formally re-opened on

Thursday Evening, May 6th, 1869.

The following selection of Sacred and Organ Music will be
given by the Choir, assisted by Mr. Thunder's Choral Club and other
distinguished amateurs.

Organists: { Mr. HENRY G. THUNDER.
Master ROBERT WINTERBOTTOM.

Programme.

PART I.

1. Organ Prelude and Fugue in B Minor, J. S. BACH.
2. Chorus—"Lift up your Heads," HANDEL.
3. Baritone Solo—"Pro Peccatis," ROSSINI.
4. Organ Transcription—Andante from the Clarinet Quintet, MOZART.

PART II.

Selections from Mozart's Requiem.

1. Introduction and Choral Fugue.
2. Quartett—"Tuba Mirum,"
3. Chorus—"Dies Irae."

PART III.

1. Organ Sonata in F. (Four movements.) MENDELSSOHN.
2. Soprano Solo—"Shew me Thy Way," TORRENTE.
3. Forest Hymn. (Unaccompanied.) MENDELSSOHN.
4. Organ Concerto. (Two movements.) C. H. RINCK.
5. Trio—"Ave Verum," KREUTZER.
6. Anthem—"Veni Sancte Spiritus," DIETSCH.

FINALE.

To commence at Eight o'clock.

TICKETS, FIFTY CENTS—May be procured of the Reverend
Clergy at St. Augustine's, and at the Music Stores, &c.

Description of St. Augustine's Organ.

This Instrument (originally built in Baltimore by H. F. Berger, 1852,) has been remodeled, with Additional Stops and New Solo Manual, by STANDBRIDGE BROTHERS. The ELECTRO-MAGNETIC ACTION is used for the Solo Organ, and is introduced for the first time in this country by the Messrs. STANDBRIDGE, and Messrs. CHESTER, PARTRICK & Co., Electricians, 38 South Fourth Street.

Specification of Stops.

GREAT ORGAN.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Melodia. 8 ft. | 6. Principal. 4 ft. |
| 2. Open Diapason. 8 ft. (New.) | 7. Fifteenth. 2 ft. |
| 3. 2d Open Diapason. 8 ft. | 8. Twelfth. 3 ft. |
| 4. Gamba. 8 ft. (New.) | 9. Mixture. (Four ranks.) |
| 5. Bordun. 16 ft. | 10. Trumpet. 8 ft. Reed. (New.) |

CHOIR ORGAN.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Stop'd Diapason. 8 ft. | 5. Flute. 4 ft. |
| 2. Open Diapason. 8 ft. | 6. Principal. 4 ft. |
| 3. Violin. 8 ft. | 7. Fifteenth. 2 ft. |
| 4. Dulciana. 8 ft. | 8. Clarinet. 8 ft. Reed. |

SWELL ORGAN.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 1. Stop'd Diapason. 8 ft. | 6. Principal. 4 ft. | |
| 2. Open Diapason. 8 ft. | 7. Fifteenth. 2 ft. | |
| 3. Keraulophon. 8 ft. | 8. Vox Humana. 8 ft. New. | } Reeds. |
| 4. Bordun. 16 ft. | 9. Hautboy. 8 ft. | |
| 5. Flute. 4 ft. | 10. Trumpet. 8 ft. | |

SOLO ORGAN. (New.)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Gemshorn. 8 ft. | 5. Piccolo. 2 ft. | |
| 2. Clarabella. 8 ft. | 6. Hautboy. 8 ft. | } Reeds. |
| 3. Biffare. 8 ft. | 7. Trumpet. 8 ft. | |
| 4. Harmonic Flute. 4 ft. | 8. Clarinet. 8 ft. | |

PEDAL ORGAN.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Sub Bass. 16 ft. | 5. Principal. 4 ft. * |
| 2. Op. Diapason. 16 ft. | 6. Fagotto. 8 ft. } |
| 3. Dulciana. 16 ft. | 7. Trombone. 16 ft. } Reeds |
| 4. Violoncello. 8 ft. | |

Couplers to all the key-boards. Tremulant and Bellows Signal. Making a total of fifty Registers, comprising 2,180 pipes.