

Casavant Frères

In 1837, Joseph Casavant rebuilt a pipe organ for the College of Ste. Thérèse near Montreal. A blacksmith by trade, he had decided at the age of twenty-seven to give up his business in St. Hyacinthe and go back to school. While a student at the College, he was asked by l'abbé Ducharme to restore an old organ to working condition. It is known that he used Dom Bédos de Celles' 'L'Art du Facteur d'Orgues' as a guide in this, his first organ-building venture.

Three years later, Casavant received his first contract for an entirely new organ from the Church of St. Martin de Laval, near Montreal. Then in 1850, he was commissioned by the Bishop of Bytown, now Ottawa, to build a three-manual instrument for the Cathedral there. Until his retirement in 1866, he produced seventeen organs in his St. Hyacinthe shop for churches and seminaries in what was then Lower and Upper Canada.

When Joseph Casavant died in 1874, his two sons, Claver and Samuel, had already shown a great interest in organbuilding. They often worked after school in the shop of Eusèbe Brodeur to whom the older Casavant had handed over his business. But it was soon apparent that if they wanted to follow their father's career, they must acquire a wider experience. In 1875, Claver left St. Hyacinthe for Paris, followed later by his younger brother Samuel. Claver worked for F. and J. Abbey in Versailles, and both he and Samuel spent some time with Cavallé-Coll. Samuel's son, Aristide, was named after the French organbuilder.

The two brothers travelled widely in Europe, visiting builders and significant organs in France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, and England, and on their return to St. Hyacinthe in 1879 they established themselves as Casavant Frères on the site where the present workshops stand. In their first announcement to prospective clients they stated, "We are capable of building instruments boasting the most recent innovations such as: concave pedalboards, balanced expression pedals, keyboard improvements, etc."

Their first contract was a two-manual organ of thirteen stops for La Chapelle Notre-Dame de Lourdes in Montreal. Claver was twenty-four and Samuel not yet twenty-one. Further contracts followed at the rate of two or three a year, notable among which were an instrument for the new Seminary in St. Hyacinthe—their next door neighbor—and a three-manual thirty-eight stop organ for the local Cathedral. This instrument, in continuous service since 1885, featured the first adjustable capture combination action mechanism installed in an organ.

The instrument which firmly established Casavant Frères as organ builders of international repute was completed in 1891 for the Church of Notre-Dame in Montreal, a four-manual of eighty-two stops. This instrument, which will celebrate its centennial in 1991, included adjustable combinations and speaking pipes of thirty-two foot length in the façade. In 1895, they built their first organ for the United States—Notre-Dame Church in Holyoke, Massachusetts. 1899 marked the production of Opus 100. Opus 200 came in 1904, Opus 500 in 1912, and 1000 in 1923. Opus 3700, a contract for a four-manual mechanical action organ for the Temple Complex of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Independence, Missouri, was signed early in 1990.

On the basis of the innovative technical achievements of Claver and Samuel Casavant, and under the artistic and administrative guidance of succeeding directors, the company continues to build fine pipe organs for churches, concert halls, and teaching institutions. The general trend towards classic tonal design and voicing which began in Europe early in the present century, and which later developed in North America after World War II, was adopted by the company in the late 1950's and, since 1960, over 200 modern mechanical action instruments have been built.

During their lifetime, the brothers Casavant established the finest traditions of craftsmanship among their employees and a strong organization to carry on these traditions after them. This organization continues today to stand for the artistic integrity and painstaking care the Casavants cherished.

The Organ Specification (Opus 3688)

GRAND ORGUE (II)

16'	Bourdon	12 pipes
8'	Montre	61 pipes
8'	Flûte à cheminée	61 pipes
8'	Flûte harmonique	61 pipes
4'	Prestant	61 pipes
4'	Flûte ouverte	61 pipes
2'	Doublette	61 pipes
III	Cornet (2 $\frac{2}{3}$ ')	183 pipes
IV	Fourniture (1 $\frac{1}{3}$ ')	244 pipes
8'	Trompette	61 pipes
	Tremblant	
	Chimes (from previous organ)	

RECIT (III)

8'	Flûte majeure	61 pipes
8'	Viole de gambe	61 pipes
8'	Voix céleste	49 pipes
4'	Flûte octaviante	61 pipes
2'	Octavin	61 pipes
V	Plein jeu (2')	305 pipes
16'	Basson-hautbois	12 pipes
8'	Trompette	61 pipes
8'	Hautbois	61 pipes
	Tremblant	
	Récit 16'	
	Récit 4'	
8'	Trompette-en-chamade	

CHOEUR (I)

8'	Salicional	61 pipes
8'	Bourdon	61 pipes
II	Flûtes célestes	110 pipes
4'	Principal	61 pipes
4'	Flûte à fuseau	61 pipes
2'	Principal	61 pipes
1 $\frac{1}{3}$ '	Quinte	61 pipes
III	Cymbale	183 pipes
8'	Cromorne	61 pipes
	Tremblant	
8'	Trompette-en-chamade	

ANTIPHONAL (Floating)

8'	Bourdon	61 pipes
4'	Prestant	61 pipes
III	Petite fourniture (1')	183 pipes
8'	Trompette-en-chamade	61 pipes

PEDALE

32'	Basse acoustique	
16'	Montre	12 pipes
16'	Soubasse	32 pipes
16'	Bourdon	
8'	Octavebasse	32 pipes
8'	Bourdon	
4'	Octave	32 pipes
III	Mixture	96 pipes
16'	Bombarde	12 pipes
16'	Basson-hautbois	
8'	Trompette	
4'	Hautbois	

ANALYSIS

	Stops	Ranks	Pipes
Grand Orgue	9	14	866
Récit	8	12	732
Choeur	9	12	720
Antiphonal	4	6	366
Pédale	4	6	216
Totals:	34	50	2,900

INTER-MANUAL COUPLERS

8'	Grand Orgue / Pédale
8'	Récit / Pédale
8'	Choeur / Pédale
4'	Choeur / Pédale
8'	Antiphonal / Pédale
8'	Récit / Grand Orgue
8'	Choeur / Grand Orgue
8'	Antiphonal / Grand Orgue
8'	Antiphonal / Récit
8'	Récit / Choeur
8'	Antiphonal / Choeur

ADJUSTABLE COMBINATIONS

(8 memories, solid-state, capture system)

Grand Orgue	1 2 3 4 5	Thumb
Récit	1 2 3 4 5	Thumb
Choeur	1 2 3 4 5	Thumb
Antiphonal	1 2	Thumb
Pédale	1 2 3 4 5	Toe
General	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Thumb & Toe
Cancel		Thumb
Adjuster		Thumb
Combination action adjuster lock		

REVERSIBLE PISTONS

Grand Orgue / Pédale	Thumb & Toe
Récit / Pédale	Thumb & Toe
Choeur / Pédale	Thumb & Toe
Récit / Grand Orgue	Thumb
Choeur / Grand Orgue	Thumb
Clochettes (10 bells)	Toe
Full Organ	Thumb & Toe

ACCESSORIES

Crescendo on all stops and couplers
Récit Expression
Choeur Expression

Console is oak matching surrounding woodwork. Manual natural keys are ebony; manual sharps are rosewood with ivory caps. Stops and intramanual couplers are controlled by rosewood drawknobs. Pedal naturals are maple, pedal sharps are of rosewood.

This bulletin is dedicated to the volunteers who have donated many hours of service and to all who have contributed in any way. We thank you one and all, for without you, this would not have been possible.

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Organ Company

Casavant Frères, St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada

The entire organ and renovation project has been funded by the members and friends of Emanuel Lutheran Church.

The organ dedication recital will be Sunday, February 10, 1991, at 3:30 p.m., with W. Robert Morrison, Church of the Savior, Canton, Ohio, as our guest organist. All are cordially invited to attend.

We apologize for any errors or omissions. Your forgiveness is sought for those we have committed and omitted.

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