

**Brief History** – This organ was originally built in 1916 for the new Skinner Memorial Chapel and was dedicated on October 9, 1916 with the Dedication Recital being played by W. Lynnwood Farnam. At the time he was the organist at Emmanuel Church, Boston.

It should be noted that most of Minnesota did not have electricity at that time, but Carleton College had its own fairly new steam/electricity generation plant and the campus did have electricity. The massive 10 horsepower organ blower is still working but the electric motor has been upgraded several years ago. Another fact is that the organ was very unusual for the time. Most of it is on 6 inches of wind pressure with the exception of the Solo Division which is on 10 inches of wind for the main chest and 15 inches of wind pressure for the Bombard Rank. Most organs built then and now are usually on 3-4 inches of wind pressure.

Over the 102 years of its existence the organ underwent a number of changes. For most of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Harry Oliver Iverson was the builder/technician for the instrument. He had a number of “improvements” he wanted to do and some were accomplished. But, there were two major rebuilds after the initial installation in 1916. The first was by representatives of the M. P. Moller Organ Company of Hagerstown, Maryland. For the most part, their representatives took care of the instrument into the 1980’s. The second rebuild, which is what you see and hear today, has been done by the Rutz Organ Company of Morristown, Minnesota – who have maintained the instrument for the past 35 years.

**Pipes** – About half of the pipes are from the original installation by Steere. The other half of the pipes are from the Moller rebuild in 1953. Three ranks are from the Rutz rebuild in 2018. The Zimbelstern was moved from the Concert Hall organ by request of Dr. Lawrence Archbold, Professor and Organist Emeritus. Dr. Archbold and College Organist Janean Hall were consultants on the project.

**Chests** – Some of the pipe chests in each division are original to the 1916 J. W. Steere and Sons installation. Many of the other chests are from the 1953 M. P. Moller Organ Company rebuild. Several of the chests are from the Durst Organ Supply Company. All of the chests are of the electro-pneumatic design.

**Major Changes** – Two important changes should be pointed out – besides the physical rebuild of the organ. Two additional tone openings were supplied during the construction period. One of them is to the Swell Chamber on the right and the other one to the Solo Chamber on the left. Up until now there were no pipes that spoke directly to the audience with the exception of the barely audible Echo in the tower.

The old Choir Division was buried in a room at the very bottom level of the building. Its tone opening and shutters spoke directly into the 32’ Bourdon pipes. The sound had to travel at a right angle up 25 feet to the front window and be reflected to the choir pews. It was decided to make a change and put the entire division in what used to be an Echo Division Chamber located above the balcony seating – in the bell tower.. The specification was expanded to better represent the original Choir Division specification and be much more audible.

Along with all of the organ renovations, a new bell carillon system was installed. It is controlled at the organ console and speaks into the chapel and out to the campus.

R. R. Rutz, August 8, 2018