

November 19th, 1926

To: Mr Rockefeller, Junior
From: R W G
Re: RIVERSIDE CHURCH ORGAN

The four bids have now been received:

Shops

Steps

152

Firm	Auditorium	Antiphonal	Echo	6 Rank	Chapel	Total	
Cassavant	\$72,000	\$14,000	7,230		17,965	\$111,195	<i>34</i>
With augmented instead of straight pedal	65,470	"	"		"	104,665	

123

Hook & Hastings	64,275	included	included		25,500	89,775	<i>46</i>
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102

Skinner	70,963	"	"	3,000	16,570	90,533	<i>29</i>
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108

Austin	67,500	Triforium included	"		12,900	80,400	<i>22</i>
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RWG

lithing cabinet is not done

Skinner Organ Company

CAPITAL STOCK ISSUED

\$ 500,000

INC.

Organ Architects & Builders for Churches, Auditoriums, Theatres and Residences

ARTHUR HUDSON MARKS - PRESIDENT.
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WALTER G. KEATING - ASST. TREAS.

Boston, Mass.

• FACTORIES AT •
DORCHESTER, MASS.
WESTFIELD, MASS.

January 24, 1927.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.,

New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Rockefeller:

I am told by someone connected with the office of the architects of your new church building that the Skinner Company were considered with respect to the new organ, but were passed by on the strength of the impression that has gone out that I am personally no longer actively connected with the Skinner Company and that the work "is not what it used to be"; that the business has been commercialized.

If any such report as this had any weight with you, I wish to say that there is no foundation for these stories. I never was more actively connected with the technical end of the Skinner product than I am at the present moment. I wish further to say that the quality of our work was never so good as it is at present. I invite a comparison between the organ in St. Thomas's Church or the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, built 15 years ago, and that of Trinity Church, head of Wall Street, built three years ago. These stories have undoubtedly cost the Skinner Company a million dollars worth of business in the last five years

MR. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER,

-2-

1-24-27

and were started and broadcasted by the most unethical set of salesmen on the face of the earth.

I am deeply chagrined that I have not even been invited to submit a figure or specification in connection with this great church, after having built the instruments for almost every conspicuous church in New York City. A former letter to you contained a list of these organs to which I hoped for at least an acknowledgment. Can you not at least write me saying that your judgment was not influenced by these slanders against me? Unless, perhaps you were influenced by them, in which case may I not have a brief opportunity to disprove these statements and perhaps receive the consideration with regard to the organ that our work and name entitles us to, - by which of course I do not mean to imply that you have not a hundred percent right to buy the organ of whom and where you think best, regardless of every consideration.

Very truly yours,

Ernest M. Skinner

SKINNER ORGAN COMPANY

EMS:MEC

January 24-1927

Mr. Kingsbury of the Skinner Organ Company called up and said your letter about the awarding of the organ contract was a keen disappointment. Mr. Skinner feels pretty badly over perhaps a lack of opportunity to meet certain questions which might have arisen and which might have influenced events. If the contract has not actually been signed, they are wondering if Mr. R. and his Committee would perhaps see Mr. Skinner, and give him an opportunity to meet some of the problems involved and to answer questions.

Mr. K. says there have been reports that Mr. Skinner himself had practically nothing to do with the Skinner Organ Company, that he was out of the Company, etc. He also says that it was reported to them that someone from the architects' office had made the statement that the Skinner people were difficult to deal with while work was in process. They had thought that they might have been given further opportunity to explain their position before the contract was awarded. They have been troubled by very persistent efforts emanating from competitive sources, to discredit them, in various ways, so much so that it has been a grave problem with them what to do in the matter. Mr. Skinner himself has been "almost beside himself" about it, and it has hurt their business. Mr. K. feels sure their last work would prove that there has been no change in their capacity to build fine instruments, and he is hoping if the contract has not been signed to be given an opportunity to have Mr. Skinner himself meet Mr. R. and his Committee, since he feels that possibly some of the rumors may have influenced the Com. not to give them the contract.

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GEORGE O. KINGSBURY - SECRETARY

230 6
.. FACTORIES AT ..
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Skinner Organ Company

CAPITAL STOCK ISSUED \$ 500,000 INC.

Organ Architects & Builders for Churches, Auditoriums, Theatres and Residences

677 Fifth Avenue - New York

Telephone - Plaza 5943

August 6, 1926

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
26 Broadway
New York City

RE: Riverside Tabernacle
New York

Dear Sir:

I am in hopes that this letter may reach you and that you will give it your careful personal consideration.

My reason for writing is due to my former experience in relation to your organ problem in the Park Avenue Baptist Church, before your church placed the contract.

I was then President of the Steere Organ Company of Springfield, Mass. Our work was being most favorably received. We had built the Municipal organ in Springfield, the Bailey Hall organ at Cornell University, and the very large organ in Woolsey Hall at Yale University. We were being considered for most of the important organ jobs in the country. We had established work of unusual merit and we were trying to establish a price for such work which would assure its continuation and success: this was the hard part because every builder would underbid us and I had found out what our cost limitations were. We had stopped taking unprofitable business.

About this time I received a telegram from Mr. Archer Gibson, organist, to come immediately to New York concerning your proposed new organ: he assured me that he would have the final word regarding the choice of organ builders and that there would be no competition. Before the matter came to a head, the Steere Organ factory was completely destroyed by fire: we were carefully insured, so that I was able to pay off all of our obligations. It then became my problem to refinance the business as well as keep the organization together in the meantime. Mr. Gibson sent me word that he felt confident of getting you to interest yourself financially in the Steere business and he went so far as to wire me to come to New York to keep an appointment which he had made with you for me. I came but the appointment didn't materialize and I couldn't help but feel that it was mostly if not entirely an idea of Mr. Gibson's mind, with the hope that he might become a factor in the future of the Steere Organ Company. My judgment was strongly against having any business affiliation with a man of Mr. Gibson's temperament.

ARTHUR HUDSON MARKS · PRESIDENT ·
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- 2 -

For several years I had believed that the success of highest grade organ building depended upon cooperation, if not consolidation between the Skinner Company and The Steere Company. The Steere work had been made possible through an engineer and a number of men who came from the Skinner organization. Neither of us were getting anywhere with the price competition that existed. About a year before the fire which destroyed the Steere plant, Mr. Arthur Hudson Marks, who is now President of the Skinner Organ Company, had interested himself in the Skinner Company through his love for the organ: he owned an Aeolian organ and he had discovered that the Skinner organ was, in his judgment a finer instrument than the one he possessed. He found that the Skinner Company needed money and that their opportunities were greatly handicapped for the lack of it. He therefore bought the assets and loaned the company needed money.

When I learned of this I obtained a letter of introduction to Mr. Marks but waited to see what might be the outcome of his first year's affiliation with the business. It turned out as I thought it might - Mr. Marks found the need for better organization and at just about the time that the Steere plant was destroyed by fire, he had made himself the active head executive of the Skinner Company. My fire forced the issue with me - I had a conference with Mr. Marks which resulted in the consolidation of the Skinner and Steere organizations.

Before the fire, Mr. Gibson and your present organist, Mr. Harold Vincent Milligan were in favor of a Steere organ. Then when Mr. Gibson learned that I had made business affiliations with Mr. Marks, which precluded his participation, it seemed to me that Mr. Gibson lost all interest, and the contract was placed elsewhere.

I recently got Mr. Milligan to try out the new Skinner Organ in Old Trinity, at the head of Wall Street, and Mr. Milligan was evidently greatly pleased with what he found. He told me that he had considered the Steere work the best that had ever been produced. The present Skinner organ represents the best from out of the developments of both the Skinner and Steere organizations.

We therefore feel confident of being able to produce the very finest organ possible for your new church, and I thought that if you had the history of and causes for the present Skinner work, brought to your attention that you might feel inclined to give serious

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consideration to the Skinner organ.

An independent and unprejudiced vote was recently taken among the leading organists which resulted in 80% first choice for the Skinner organ. The names of the organists were obtained by the chairman of an organ committee from music publishers and the American Guild of Organists.

We shall be very grateful for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Geo. O. Kingsbury

Secretary

SKINNER ORGAN COMPANY

GOK:AY
Literature

MEMO FOR MR R JR

August 3rd 1926

MR GIBSON SAYS ABOUT ORGAN BUILDERS

The three bigger firms he spoke of at the time the question of the Park Avenue Church organ was up were

- ✓ Hook & Hastings
- ✓ Casavant Freres (the Canadian firm)
- ✓ Skinner

He would now suggest for consideration the firm that built the Washington auditorium organ, the

Moller Company of Hagerstown, Maryland

this concern, he says, would probably be lower in their price than Hook & Hastings - they are progressive and under supervision follow specifications very accurately. He thinks they would be eager to get the contract for the organ in the new Church for what it would mean to them, and be willing to make a good price.

He speaks well of Hook & Hastings and Casavant, but repeats that the Skinner people are very "commercial". Casavant would probably be high in their figure because of duties they would be obliged to pay, but would give a very satisfactory contract so far as workmanship goes.

✓ Anstern.

RWG

NATIONAL MUSIC LEAGUE, Inc.

STEINWAY BUILDING

113 WEST 57th STREET

NEW YORK CITY

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EFREM ZIMBALIST

HAROLD V. MILLIGAN, Director

VERA BULL HULL, Associate Director
(in charge of bookings)

May 9, 1927.

Rev. Eugene C. Carder,
Park Avenue Baptist Church.
New York City.

My dear Mr. Carder:

As the position of the organ console is of vital importance to the music, second only to the organ itself, I hope that the matter will be given careful consideration. The main point at issue is to place the console in such a position that the organist and choir director will be plainly visible by all the choir. This is obviously a prime requirement as no musical organization even as small and closely knit as a string quartet can perform music without a ~~musical~~ *visible* leader, and of course a choir of fifty or sixty singing eighty or more programs during the course of a year, naturally must be able to see the director. At the same time it would be desirable to have the organist so placed that the necessary motions of directing the choir shall not obtrude themselves upon the attention of the congregation.

Just how to obtain this "high visibility" for the choir and "low visibility" for the congregation is our problem. There are other details in connection with the chancel which I would like to know before expressing too definite an opinion, as to the placing of the chancel, for instance: Will the choir stalls be placed at right angles to the congregation or will they conform to the circular effect at the back of the chancel? Will they all be on the same level or will the singers in the back row stand on low platforms, enabling them to look over the heads of the singers in front? How widely separated will the two parts of the choir be?

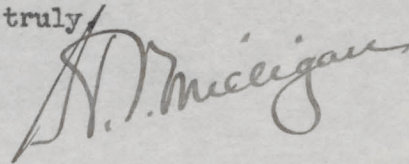
Experience has shown that it is better to have the organist face the congregation with his back to the altar. This places the organist sideways to the choir. You will find this condition in Trinity, Grace, St. Bartholomew's St. Thomas's, and in practically all churches with chancel choir. At St. Thomas's the organist is elevated slightly above

the heads of the choir, protected from the view of the congregation by a large stone pillar. At Trinity he sits somewhat below the level of the choir protected from the congregation by the back of the unusually large console.

The enclosed rough sketch will give you some idea of what I think would be perhaps the best arrangement as our console is at present outlined. It might be found advisable to drop the console eight or ten inches below the floor so that the top of the console would not stick up prominently above the choir stalls and the railing. This however might not be necessary. With this arrangement, I believe that the director would be practically invisible to the congregation when the choir is standing and singing as I think their standing figures would entirely screen him. I think that practically all of the choir could see the organist in this position with the exception of those in the first two choir stalls on his side. For these important singers a mirror could be arranged on the opposite side of the chancel.

In considering the chancel it might be well to keep in mind the possibility of a processional hymn by the choir which I believe would have to take place from the doorway at the right of the chancel, the choir marching up the front chancel steps and dividing in the chancel.

Yours truly



emh

January 20, 1927.

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Building Committee of the Park Avenue Baptist Church, I desire to thank you for the helpful suggestions which you have made in connection with the several organs which it is proposed to install in the Riverside Church.

While appreciating your courtesy in this matter, I regret to inform you that the Committee has not found it practicable to award the contract to your Company.

Very truly,

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR.

Mr. George O. Kingsbury, Secretary,
Skinner Organ Company,
677 Fifth Avenue,
New York City

RIVERSIDE CHURCH - ORGAN BIDS

	FIRM	AUDITORIUM	ANTIPHONAL	ECHO	6 RANKS	CHAPEL	TOTAL	
<i>Revised</i>	Cassavant Frers	\$72,000	\$14,000	7,230		\$17,965	\$111,195.	75 300
	<i>see 17th 1926</i>	<i>51 995</i>	<i>14 455</i>	<i>6 250</i>		<i>(34 stops)</i>	<i>90 625.</i>	
	With augmented pedal instead of straight	65,470 <i>46,995</i>	"	"		"	104,665. <i>85,625</i>	70 300.
	Hook & Hastings	64,275	(included)	(included)		25,500	89,775.	
	Skinner	70,963	"	"	3,000	16,570	90,533.	
	Austin	67,500				12,900	80,400	

Mr Milligan was interested in these figures.
His comment on the Chapel organ prices was:
the Hook & Hastings instrument figure is
for a bigger organ, and one better adapted
for the uses of large weddings or other
important Chapel services.

Nov 18th 1926

RWG

dup in 23081

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THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH - ORGAN BIDS

<u>AUDITORIUM</u>	CASSAVANT	HOOK-HASTINGS	SKINNER	AUSTIN
153 stops	\$93,230.			
123 stops	72,700.	\$64,275.		
102 stops			\$73,963.	
108 stops				\$67,500.

With augmented
pedal instead
of straight deduct \$5,000.

<u>CHAPEL</u>				
34 stops	\$17,965.	\$19,875.		
46 stops		25,500.		
29 stops			\$ 16,570.	
22 stops				<u>12,900.</u>
See Total Below			\$90,533.	\$80,400.

TOTAL BID - AUDITORIUM AND CHAPEL

	123 stops	34 stops
CASSAVANT	\$90,625.	
Hook-Hastings	84,150.	

12/28/26

JOHN T. AUSTIN, PRESIDENT.
B. G. AUSTIN, VICE PRESIDENT.
JOHN SPENCER CAMP, TREASURER.

CABLE ADDRESS "ORGANS, HARTFORD"
WESTERN UNION CODE, A.B.C. CODE.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE
SHOULD BE ADDRESSED
TO THE COMPANY.



AUSTIN ORGAN COMPANY,

ORGAN DESIGNERS AND BUILDERS
CONTROLLING EXCLUSIVELY ALL
AUSTIN PATENTS.

HIGHEST AWARD & GOLD MEDALS AT:
JAMESTOWN EXHIBITION 1907.
PANAMA PACIFIC SAN FRANCISCO 1915.

SESQUICENTENNIAL EXPOSITION,
PHILADELPHIA, 1926.
MORMON TABERNACLE, SALT LAKE CITY.
EASTMAN THEATRE, ROCHESTER, N. Y.
MEDINAH TEMPLE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER, COL.
MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM,
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.
CITY HALL, PORTLAND, MAINE.
CINCINNATI MUSIC HALL, CINCINNATI, O.
FIRST M. E. CHURCH, LOS ANGELES, CAL.
LAKE PLACID CLUB, LAKE PLACID, N. Y.
CHAPEL OF THE INTERCESSION, N. Y. C.
STS. PETER & PAUL R. C. CATHEDRAL, PHILA.
BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.
ETC.

HARTFORD, CONN. November, 19, 1926.

HOTEL ASTOR, N.Y.C.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.,
26 Broadway, New York City.

Re: Organ for, New
Park Ave Bapt. Church,
Riverside, Brive, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

We have studied the matter of the proposed organ very carefully, having gone over the plans with the architect, and conferred from time to time with your organist, Mr. Harold V. Milligan.

We are pleased to submit herewith specifications for the proposed organs that can be built and installed in the chambers of the Church and Chapel as per the architect's plans. These specifications, we believe to be ideal and will result in an organ equipment that should be one of the outstanding features of any Church in the country.

MAIN ORGAN: CHANCEL, GALLERY AND TRIFORIUM DIVISIONS.

The Church Organ consists of a divided four manual organ in the Chancel, a gallery organ in two divisions including the Echo Section and a Triforium organ; said Triforium section to be placed in the Triforium, about half the distance between the Chancel and Gallery Organs. This is for the purpose of tying to-gether (tonally) the Gallery and Chancel Organs when used to-gether and in a measure to offset the tonal drag that the organist will otherwise feel when playing the Gallery Organ at the great distance he is from same. It will also assist very materially in the general ensemble and better blending of the various divisions of the organs from the body of the Church.

Page One.

ALL CONTRACTS ARE CONTINGENT UPON FIRES, STRIKES, ACCIDENTS AND OTHER DELAYS UNAVOIDABLE OR BEYOND OUR CONTROL

QUOTATIONS ARE FOR PROMPT ACCEPTANCE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

JOHN T. AUSTIN, PRESIDENT.
B.G. AUSTIN, VICE PRESIDENT.
JOHN SPENCER CAMP, TREASURER.



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HARTFORD, CONN.

Page Two.

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BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.
ETC.

We believe this feature to be a very important
one and well worth your serious consideration.

The price of the Church of Main Organ installed
complete and ready for use as specified is,

SIXTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED (\$67,500.00) DOLLARS,
exclusive of wiring for the motors, air ducts from the
blowers to the organs and electric lights in the organs.

CHAPEL ORGAN:

The Chapel Organ is a separate and independant
instrument consisting of Three Manuals and Pedal, includ-
ing Chimes and will be capable of doing anything that may
be required of it. The cost of the Chapel Organ is,

TWELVE THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED (\$12,900.00) DOLLARS,
exclusive of wiring for the motor, air duct from the blower
to the organ and electric lights in the organ.

The total cost of both the Church and Chapel Organs
is,

EIGHTY THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED (\$80,400.00) DOLLARS,
exclusive as stated above.

The writer will be pleased to go into the numerous
details of these specifications whenever you may desire it.

We are essentially builders of large instruments,
having designed and constructed many of the most important
ones throughout the country.

Page Two.

JOHN T. AUSTIN, PRESIDENT.
B. G. AUSTIN, VICE PRESIDENT.
JOHN SPENCER CAMP, TREASURER.

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CHAPEL OF THE INTERCESSION, N. Y. C.
STS. PETER & PAUL R. C. CATHEDRAL, PHILA.
BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.
ETC.

Our enthusiasm and ability as well as our
financial resources make it possible for us to build
instruments of the highest grade.

Trusting that our specification will receive
serious consideration, we beg to remain,

Very truly yours,
AUSTIN ORGAN COMPANY.

Address,
Hotel Astor,
N.Y.C.

Herbert Brown.

November 18th 1926

To: Mr Rockefeller, Junior.
From: R W G
Re: RIVERSIDE CHURCH ORGAN

Mr Milligan says he has given considerable thought to the organ question.

While in his opinion any one of the firms would give the Church a good organ, he is not convinced the lowest bidder, irrespective of whom it happens to be, should be awarded the contract.

His feeling is the HOOK & HASTINGS COMPANY would put the best effort into the work. In our past, and present, business relations we have found them amiable, interested and painstaking, both in the building and care of the organ. We know their workmen, their factory is near.

The Cassavant people are reliable, from reports he has had. They are, however, a foreign concern, with a factory in Quebec, French workmen. Difficulties in the building and erection of the organ might be experienced, and the work perhaps to our disadvantage with strange workmen and a factory in another country.

The Skinner people, report has it, are somewhat high-handed in their methods and inclined to follow their own views - which would be unsatisfactory.

The Austen people are all right, but a commercial concern - their product being more stock.

All things considered, Mr Milligan feels the Hook & Hastings people would do everything in their power to produce the instrument you desire, and be more interested in the work, because of the previous and current relationship.

See memo attached for bids submitted.

RWG

230
9
December 9, 1926.

Dear Mr. Chapais:

Your letter of November 29th, with revised estimates of the organs for the Riverside Church, is received with appreciation.

If you will refer to my letter to you of November 23rd, you will note in the second paragraph that the comment contained in the letter with reference to the size of the organ applied to the specifications for the organ in the main auditorium, and did not refer to the organ in the chapel. It was the organ in the main auditorium, including its several parts, that our Committee felt should be restudied and reduced to an organ with a total of 123 stops. The Committee made no suggestion in regard to the organ which you have designed for the chapel, which seems to it of an appropriate and desirable size and range.

May I trouble you, therefore, in the light of this further explanation of the request which it was the purpose of my letter of November 23rd to make of you, once more to revise your specifications for the organ in the main auditorium on the basis of a total of 123 stops for that organ and its various adjuncts, and your estimate for that organ as well.

I note from the specifications recently submitted that you are prepared to furnish tilting tablets in the console.

Regretting to put you to this further trouble, and appreciating your courtesy in the matter, I am,

Very truly,

Mr. Charles Chapais,
Casavant Freres,
St. Hyacinthe, P.Q.,
Canada.

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(in charge of bookings)

December 7, 1926.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.,
26 Broadway,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Rockefeller:

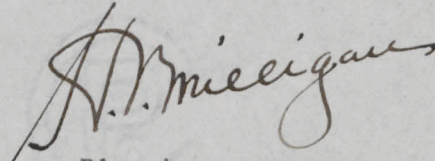
I have examined carefully the revised specifications from Casavant Brothers, which I am returning to you herewith. They evidently misunderstood the purpose of your request. As I understand it the Hook and Hastings Company was asked to revise their bid on the chapel organ from 46 stops to 34 stops in order to be compared with the Casavant bit of 34 stops. At the same time the Casavant Company was requested to revise their specification for the auditorium organ from 152 to 123 stops in order to be compared with the Hook and Hastings specification of 123 stops. I find on analysing the reduced Casavant specification that they have combined the chapel and auditorium organs (including main, anti-phonial and echo) making a grand total of 123 stops. They have cut down their auditorium from 152 to 98 stops and have cut down the chapel from 34 to 25 making a total of 123 all told.

I notice by their letter which accompanied the revised specifications that they are quoting a price on the entire proposition including both chapel and auditorium. In order to make a definite comparison between the bids of the two companies, it would be necessary for Casavant to specify an auditorium organ of 123 stops instead of 98 as in their present scheme, leaving their original chapel specifications to be compared with the revised Hook and Hastings.

There is no question in my mind but that the proposed Hook and Hastings organ of 123 stops is a much better instrument and much better balanced than the revised Casavant bid. I will be glad to explain this opinion in detail if you wish me to, but there is no need of doing it at this time if you wish to write Casavant Brothers again and point out to them their misunderstanding.

The question as to whether or not Casavant would use tablets instead of stop knobs in the chancel is answered at the bottom of the second page of their specification for the main organ. At the bottom of this page is written "tablets will be used instead of stop knobs".

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. W. McEigan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "W" and a stylized "M" and "E".

Director.

emh

J. C. CASAVANT PRESIDENT
S. CASAVANT VICE-PRESIDENT
C. J. LAFRAMBOISE, SEC. TREAS.

*Robert. I will telephone you
about this.*

Builders of the Organs in
ST PAULS ANGLICAN CHURCH, TORONTO.
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ETC. ETC.

Casavant Frères
LIMITÉE

PIPE ORGAN BUILDERS

Address all communications
to the firm.

Quotations subject to change
without notice.

St. Hyacinthe, P.Q. Canada. Nov. 29th., 1926.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.,

26 Broadway,

NEW YORK CITY.

Dear Sir:-

In answer to your favor of the 23rd.
inst., we beg to submit for your consideration four
new organ specifications for the Riverside Church.
The cost of these instruments, namely: the Chapel Organ,
the Echo, Antiphonal and Main Organs, as herein described,
would be \$ 75,300.00.

In the Main Organ, should we use an
Augmented Pedal instead of the straight stops that first
appear on the specification, the cost of the four instru-
ments would become \$ 70,300.00.

Our quotation covers organs proper,
blowers, motors, generators, all swell boxes, transportation,
duty and setting up expenses. The items that are not included
in our bid, are the organ cases or screens, display pipes,
windtrunks, wiring for the motor (both from the street mains
to the motors, and from the consoles to the motors), and the
remote control switches. The case of the console would be of
simple design, and our quotation does not include any carvings.
If your Architects would like to prepare the design for the
console case, should this design be more elaborate than what
we generally supply, we would gladly send a quotation, so that
every item will be properly covered.

Hoping the above will meet with the
approval of both the Committee and your Organist, we beg
to remain,

CC/SC.

Yours very truly,
Casavant Frères, Limitée

Charles Chapais
Charles Chapais.

ARCHIVAL COPY

November 23, 1926.

Dear Sir:

The Building Committee of the Riverside Church at its meeting yesterday considered the various propositions which had been made to it in the matter of organs for the auditorium and the chapel, Mr. Milligan, our organist, being present.

It was decided that while the organ which you have specified for the main auditorium would be a very complete and magnificent instrument, it is rather more elaborate and comprehensive, and therefore more costly than the Committee would be justified in considering. The Committee further decided that a total of 123 or 125 speaking stops would be about the limit to which it could wisely go.

Will you therefore be good enough to revise your specifications and estimate on this basis, and submit the result to me at your early convenience? The revised figures now being sought will be the ones upon which the contract will finally be awarded.

In view of the fact that in our present organ, built but three or four years ago, tilting tablets have been used instead of stop knobs, and since the tablets take up much less room and are far more easily accessible than the stop knobs, the Committee feels that the tilting tablets should be used. I understand that it is your practice to use stop knobs. Am I right in assuming, however, that you could construct a console with the tilting tablets, if that were stipulated, as the Committee feels it should be.

Awaiting your reply with interest, I am,

Very sincerely,

Mr. Charles Chapais,
Casavant Freres, Ltd.,
St. Hyacinthe, P.Q.
Canada.

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Skinner Organ Company

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October 18, 1926

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
26 Broadway
New York City

RE: Riverside Baptist Church
New York City

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find specifications for both the Auditorium organ and the Chapel organ.

The Auditorium organ figures \$70,963.00. If a Six Ranks String Organ is added, it would increase the cost \$3,000.00, making a total of \$73,963.00. The advisability of a Six Ranks String Organ was discussed somewhat with your Organist, Mr. Milligan.

The Chapel Organ figures \$16,570.00.

We have not figured for any possible organ casework or dummy display pipes and there are some minor additional expenses for local electric wiring, conduits and wind conductors as referred to in our "Details of Construction" which are attached to the specifications. It is impossible to figure the cost of organ casework or dummy display pipes before an acceptable design is submitted. You will probably want your architect to design any possible organ casework and if dummy display pipes are required, we can submit a figure for these after having the design and dimensions of the proposed case.

The electric wiring necessary for connecting the current from the outside to the organ blower motor and generator has to be done by a local licensed electrician. We will be glad to get figures for you from local contractors for any or all of this extra work if you care to have us, in order that you may know the entire cost in detail in connection with the organ. You may prefer to have your architect do this. The figures covering all of the extras cannot be accurately decided before the organ specification is determined and it would be advisable, if you please, to permit us to discuss these specifications in all details with your organist, Mr. Milligan before they are finally determined as there might be some further suggestions which he would like to make.

Assuring you of our keen appreciation for this opportunity and hoping to have the honor of building an organ for your new church, we are

Very truly yours

SKINNER ORGAN COMPANY

GOK/w
Encs.
C.C. to H.V.M.

Geo. O. Kingsbury Secretary

J. C. CASAVANT PRESIDENT
S. CASAVANT VICE-PRESIDENT
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HENRY C. PELTON	
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BY.....	DATE.....

Address all communications
to the firm.

Quotations subject to change
without notice.

St. Hyacinthe, P. Q. Canada. Oct. 9th., 1926.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.,

NEW - Y O R K.

Dear Sir:-

Furthering our letter of the 27th.ultimo, and with reference to the visit we made to New-York last week, to see your Architects and your Organist, we beg to submit for your consideration the enclosed specifications: one for the Main Organ of the Riverside Church, one for the Antiphonal Organ, one for the Echo Organ, and one for the Chapel Organ.

In preparing these different specifications, we have been guided by the memo from your Organist, by the dimensions of the various organ chambers, and by the dimensions of the Church and of the Chapel. We are offering you what we believe would be the finest organ appointment of any Church in New-York. The Main Organ has been prepared to answer the requirements of your Organist, both for Church and concert work. As Mr. Milligan wanted a fairly complete instrument, we have taken upon ourselves to offer you first what we term a straight organ, i.e. an organ without borrowings or extensions in the Pedal. Many a famous organ in Europe has been built on these lines. Such an instrument is more expensive than the corresponding organ with augmented Pedal, but we humbly believe that the difference in cost is more than offset by the beauty of tone. Of course, the decision rests with you. The complete Main Organ would cost \$ 72,000.00. Should the augmented Pedal be substituted for the straight Pedal, a reduction of \$6,530. would follow, which would bring the cost of the Main Organ to \$ 65,470.00.

ARCHIVAL COPY

$$\begin{array}{r} 72000 \\ 14000 \\ 7230 \\ \hline 93230 \end{array}$$

The specification of the Antiphonal Organ has been prepared to answer the requirements of the Church. As the Echo portion of the instrument would be located in the same chambers as the Antiphonal Organ, we have treated it not only as an Echo but also as a possible Choir Organ, so that many fine concert effects may be obtained, using the Antiphonal Organ as a straight three manual organ. In the distribution of couplers, we had these possible effects in mind, and we hope your Organist will approve of the idea. The cost of the Antiphonal Organ is \$ 14,000.00, that of the Echo, \$ 7,230.00. We may incidentally remark that any criticism that Mr. Milligan would like to make will be welcome, and we will comply, in drafting a final specification, with any suggestions that he may make to improve this proposition, if need be.

The specification of the Chapel Organ is that of a three manual, not very complete it is true, but well balanced for the purpose it is intended to serve. The cost of this instrument would be \$ 17,965.00.

If we are favored with your valuable order, and if we knew of the fact within a month, we could deliver the various instruments for October 1927.

... from now in due time.

September 4th, 1926.

Dear Sirs:-

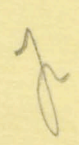
The Park Avenue Baptist Church is building a new church edifice on Riverside Drive opposite Grant's Tomb.

As Chairman of the Building Committee, I am enclosing a brief outline of what the Committee has thought is desirable to incorporate in the two organs needed, and would request that your representative arrange to meet Mr. Harold V. Milligan, our organist, whose address is c/ National Music League, 112 West 57th Street, at the office of the architects, Messrs. Pelton and Collens, 415 Lexington Avenue, 10th floor, for the purpose of looking over the plans of the church and the chapel and of discussing with these gentlemen the requirements as outlined in the enclosed memorandum.

The Committee will be glad to have your recommendations as to how best their requirements for these organs can be met, and when you and Mr. Milligan, in conjunction with the architects, are in agreement as to what is most desirable as a solution of our problem, to receive from you full details and specifications, together with an estimate of the cost of building and installing the two organs.

Very truly,

Austin Organ Company
Hotel Astor
New York City



NATIONAL MUSIC LEAGUE, Inc.

STEINWAY BUILDING

113 WEST 57th STREET

NEW YORK CITY

PRESIDENT

MRS. OTTO H. KAHN

HAROLD V. MILLIGAN, Director

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HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

HENRY HARKNESS FLAGLER

CLARENCE H. MACKAY

FELIX M. WARBURG

Twin Lake Villa,
New London, N. H.
August 29th, 1926.

TREASURER

JAMES H. CARTER

Vice-Pres. National City Bank

Dear Mr. Rockefeller,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RICHARD ALDRICH

MRS. NEWBOLD LEROY EDGAR

MRS. CHAS. S. GUGGENHEIMER

MRS. OTTO H. KAHN

The ~~desision~~ decision of the Building Committee in regard to organ specifications seems to me to be an excellent one and the list of builders is admirable. Personally I do not care much for the Austin organs I have played, but they are generally considered among the big builders and it would not be at all out of place to ask for specifications and bid from them.

The Moeller Company does not rank as a first-class organ builder, although I have no doubt they can under-bid those mentioned. They have made money in recent years by building an enormous number of cheap and inferior organs for moving picture theatres but up to the present time their work has been distinguished for quantity rather than quality.

Following your suggestion that I prepare a brief memorandum for those invited to bid, I would propose something like this;

The Auditorium Organ is to be in two main divisions: (1) A chancel organ, complete in itself, occupying chambers on both sides of the chancel, to be used for accompanying the choir and for organ solos: (2) An Auxilliary Organ, to be placed in chambers above and on each side of the gallery at the rear of the auditorium, to be used principally to reinforce the chancel organ during congregational singing. As this Auxilliary Organ is to be used chiefly on the hymns and with full chancel organ, it should contain mostly foundation stops, sufficiently well balanced to be used in antiphonal effects with chancel organ if so desired. There is also space in one of the chambers at the rear of the auditorium for an Echo Organ. The entire Auditorium Organ is to be played from a console placed in the chancel.

The Chapel Organ should contain material for congregational singing, so that it may be used for prayer meetings and special small services, but it should be outlined so that it will provide suitable music for weddings and funerals.

I will be glad to meet any of the builders at the architects' office. They will, of course, want to know the size of the two auditoriums, and also the dimensions and shape of the organ chambers. I am returning to New York the latter part of this week and can always be reached either at the church or at the address given above.

Very sincerely,

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.,
Seal Harbor, Maine.

H. V. Milligan

August 25th, 1926.

Dear Mr. Milligan:-

On my return from the West late in July I found a letter from Mr. Jacobsen together with complete specifications of organs for the auditorium and for the chapel in the new Riverside Church, the same having been prepared in consultation with you.

At the last meeting of the Building Committee, it was decided that we should ask two or three other organ builders to figure on our requirements. The others are Cassavant, Skinner and Austin. The Moller Company of Hagerstown was suggested, but several spoke strongly against it.

Would it save any time if you were to prepare a brief memorandum, outlining the requirements for these two organs, that a copy thereof might be sent to these three firms with the request that they study the plans with the architects and submit proposals?

If this seems to you a good idea, would you kindly send me such a memorandum. If, on the other hand, you think it better that we should have the suggestions of these several firms without having put ~~in~~ any of our own ideas into their mind, do not hesitate to say so.

I fancy that it would be most desirable if you could meet the representatives of these firms at the architects' office and discuss the situation with them. Would this be possible and agreeable for you, and if so, when will you be in the city again?

Please drop me a line at the above address at your early convenience.

Let me say in closing that I think the committee is strongly predisposed in favor of Hook and Hastings, both because of their work on the present organ and because of their whole manner of doing business. On the other hand, I am sure that you will agree that competitive estimates and different points of view in solving our problem are desirable.

Very truly,

Mr. H. V. Milligan
Twin Lake Villa
New London, New Hampshire

P.S. Would you suggest any other or different organ builders?