

# HENRY BERGER (1854); “tried” in the church by Professor John Lenhard, organist of the Baltimore R.C.

Cathedral, Monday afternoon, April 10, 1854

St. Matthew’s Church, R.C. (Rev. J.P. Donelan, Pastor)

Fifteenth and H Streets, N.W.

Washington, D.C.

“Church Organ for Washington,” *The (Baltimore, Md.) Sun* 33, no. 114 (Thursday, September 29, 1853): 1; hereafter *S.*

**Church Organ for Washington.**—The Rev. J. P. Donelan, pastor of St. Matthew’s (Catholic) Church, of Washington city, was here yesterday, for the purpose of contracting for a grand organ for that handsome church. The instrument is to be made on contract by Henry F. Berger, and will cost \$2,500. It will contain two rows of keys, with pedal and swell organs, twenty-four stops, some of which are to be of the most brilliant order, especially the dulciana, hautboy, flute, clarinet, trumpet, violoncello and *viol d’amour*. The organ is to be of the best materials, and enclosed in a case of Grecian architecture, measuring 18 feet in height, 11 feet wide and 9 feet deep. It will be finished and erected in the gallery of the church by the 25th of December.

[Excerpt from:] “Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun. / Washington, April 5,” *S* 54, no. 86 (Thursday, April 6, 1854): 4.

roduced, and every Tuesday and Friday evenings the edifice is brilliantly illuminated from upwards of fifty burners. The new and magnificent organ built by Berger, of your city, will, I understand, be thoroughly finished and open for public trial on Saturday next. It is enclosed in a square case, finely grained in dark oak; has 24 stops, swell organ, &c., and is supposed to be, in tone and appearance, one of the best musical instruments ever introduced into either of our churches.

[In St. Matthew’s church, gas light had been introduced, and ...]

“New Organ [Ad],” *S* 34, no. 88 (Saturday, April 8, 1854): 4.

**District of Columbia Advertisements.**  
**NEW ORGAN.**—The new ORGAN recently erected by Berger, of Baltimore, in St. Matthew’s Church, (Rev. J. P. Donelan’s) Washington, will be played for the first time to its full capacity, in the hours of worship TO-MORROW (Sunday.) On Monday it will be open for exhibition and trial to all persons interested in the profession, from 1 to 3 o’clock, P. M. The public are also invited to be present at the same time. 11\*

[Excerpt from:] “Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun. / Washington, April 12,” *S* 34, no. 92 (Thursday, April 13, 1854): 4.

The trial of the large organ manufactured by Mr. Berger, of Baltimore, for St. Matthew’s (Rev. J. B. Donelan’s) Catholic church, took place on Monday afternoon, in the presence of an audience which crowded the vast edifice from base to gallery. Prof. John Linhard, organist at the Cathedral, Baltimore, and Mr. Berger, performed on it alternately from 2 to 6 o’clock. His Excellency President Pierce and the great maestro Jullien, were present, having been invited by the ladies of the choir. M. Jullien, after hearing each stop separately, pronounced it a fine toned instrument.—The organ contains 24 stops, and is well adapted to the powerful choir of St. Matthew’s.

“Organs,” *Washington (D.C.) Sentinel* 2, no. 19 (Saturday, April 15, 1854): 3; hereafter *WS*.

**Organs.**—“Mercury,” in one of his letters to the *Baltimore Sun*, states that “the trial of the large organ manufactured by Mr. Berger, of Baltimore, for St. Matthew’s church, took place on Monday afternoon, in the presence of a large audience.” It is further stated that “his excellency President Pierce and the great maestro Jullien were present, having been invited by the ladies of the choir.” “M. Jullien, after hearing each stop separately,” the account continues, “pronounced it a fine-toned instrument.” We do not know whether or not the “greater maestro” could pay a similar compliment to the “organ” of the administration.

Henry Berger; District of Columbia; Washington; St. Matthew's Church, R.C.; 1854; cont'd., page 2:

"New Organ," *The (Washington, D.C.) Daily Globe* 6, no. 113 (Saturday, April 15, 1854): 3.

**NEW ORGAN.**—The trial of a large organ which has recently been manufactured by Mr. Berger, of Baltimore, for the St. Matthew's Catholic Church, of this city, took place on Monday afternoon. The organ was performed upon alternately by Professor John Lenhard, organist of the Cathedral, Baltimore, and Mr. Berger, from two until six o'clock, p. m., and, we understand, gave universal satisfaction. It contains twenty-four stops, and was pronounced by M. Jullien, who was present, after he had listened to each stop separately, to be an excellent toned instrument.

[Excerpt from:] "Local and Personal. / Organs," *WS* 2, no. 19 (Saturday, April 15, 1854): 3.

**Organs.**—"Mercury," in one of his letters to the *Baltimore Sun*, states that "the trial of the large organ manufactured by Mr. Berger, of Baltimore, for St. Matthew's church, took place on Monday afternoon, in the presence of a large audience." It is further stated that "his excellency President Pierce and the great maestro Jullien were present, having been invited by the ladies of the choir." "M. Jullien, after hearing each stop separately," the account continues, "pronounced it a *fine-toned instrument*." We do not know whether or not the "greater maestro" could pay a similar compliment to the "organ" of the administration.