

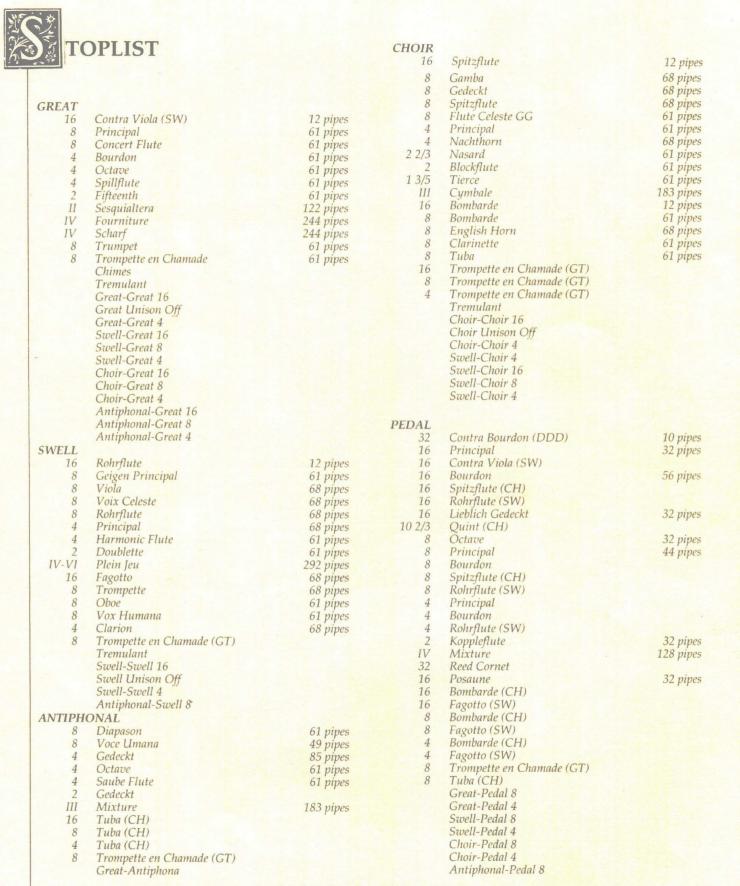
MINOT

Reuter Pipe Organ

Dedicatory Concert

First Lutheran Church Minot, North Dakota

November 24, 1991



Acknowledgements

Organ Committee: Doris Slaaten, Chairman; Alan Kurth, Duane Peterson and Rev. Paul Mathre Consultants: Gary Stenehjem and Dr. Mark Dimond Program Committee: Mary Muhlbradt and Gary Stenehjem Organ Photo: Reub Forsberg



he Pipe Organ Story ...

During the mid 1970's it became apparent that the Austin Pipe Organ at First Lutheran Church was in need of major renovation. An organ fund was established in 1977, and the project was shepherded by several key leaders, including Gary Stenehjem, Dr. Mark Dimond, Dr. R. Warren Pierson, and Floyd and Ragna Jensen. A major gift by First Lutheran Church Women in 1987 precipitated rapid growth of the organ fund. Planning and research intensified the last three years. It was concluded that renovation would not be cost-effective and that a new instrument was needed. The Reuter Pipe Organ Company, Lawrence, Kansas, was selected to provide the new organ.

rom The Builder . . .

Early in our planning discussion with First Lutheran it was evident that, based on current and future musical requirements, a new 3 manual pipe organ of approximately 40 ranks would be necessary. Last year an existing 3 manual Reuter organ became available when circumstances dictated the closure of a parish. A creative musical plan was developed by David R. Salmen of the Reuter firm which utilized this organ as the nucleus for a new worship instrument for First Lutheran. This plan was endorsed by the congregation and through the generosity of its members, this new 4 manual, 71 rank Reuter pipe organ is a reality.

The Reuter is an instrument with 5 manual and pedal divisions controlled from a moveable English style drawknob console. Console features include 14 general combination pistons and 36 divisional pistons controlling each of the five divisions as well as the couplers. The solid state combination action is available on 32 independent levels. Other conveniences are: 9 reversible mechanisms, extra width music desk and an adjustable organist's bench.

The playing action of the organ is Reuter's electro-pneumatic, providing reliability, durability and musical response. It is controlled from an advanced multi-plexed switching system in which only 16 wires connect the console to the organ.

The tonal plan of the organ as envisioned in the stoplist, draws from all periods of historical organ building. While elements from Italian, German, English and French instruments are present, the organ is American. It is designed and tonally finished to serve the worship requirements of this congregation.

The organ is designed with a luxurious appointment of 8' foundation colors which are complemented by nine 16' stops - a rarity in contemporary organ building. Two divisions of the organ are enclosed behind 11 stage expression motors providing musical flexibility for accompanying. Each division of the main organ has a distinctive reed chorus. Reed voices such as the Clarinette, Oboe, English Horn and Vox Humana provide solo colors. The "crown jewels" of the organ are found in the 8' Trompette en Chamade which is fashioned from polished copper, and in the 8' Tuba which is voiced on 14 inches wind pressure. These two unique stops provide powerful solo lines which will carry over the full organ, leading hymn descants and festival voluntaries.

The Reuter organ contains over 4,000 individual pipes ranging in speaking length from 32' down to those which are smaller than pencils and have a speaking length of about one-fourth inch. The instrument is the largest organ found in a several state region. Certain pipes within the organ are over 101 years old. They, along with others, have been retained because of the unique musical qualities which they now impart to the musical integrity of this worship instrument. In the building of this organ, the re-use of existing materials in an environmentally and musically sound manner was practiced. Four blowers are utilized in supplying the steady wind to the pipes.

The visual design of the organ case and balcony renovations were done by Richard Moore of the Reuter firm and Robert Anderson of Anderson, Wade and Whitty. The stoplist was designed by David R. Salmen, Regional Reuter Representative and Gary Stenehjem, Organist of First Lutheran Church.

