

HENRY BERGER (1852); first heard in Philadelphia at St. Augustine's, Easter Sunday, 1852

St. Augustine's Church, R.C.
Fourth Street, south of Vine Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

[Excerpt from:] "Local Matters. / A Powerful Organ," *The (Baltimore, Md.) Sun* 28, no. 96 (Wednesday, March 12, 1851): 2 hereafter *S*.

A Powerful Organ.—The members of St. Augustine's (Catholic) Church of Philadelphia, ordered of Mr. Henry F. Berger, of this city, a tremendous organ, the price of which will exceed \$4,000. It will contain 42 stops, with four rows of keys. The largest pipes will measure 32 feet in length and 18 inches diameter. The committee of the church, composed of Rev. P. Stanton, Prof. Benj. Cross, and Edwin T. Eisenbrey, Esq., examined the organs made in the eastern cities, and then decided in favor of the Baltimore factory.

"Local Matters. / Great Organ for St. Augustine's Church, Philadelphia," *S* 30, no. 75 (Saturday, February 2, 1852): 1.

LOCAL MATTERS.
Great Organ for St. Augustine's Church, Philadelphia.—More than a year ago, a committee of gentlemen of St. Augustine's (Catholic) Church was appointed for the purpose of contracting with some celebrated organ builder in the country, for a grand organ of the first class. The committee came to Baltimore, and upon visiting the extensive establishment of Mr. H. F. Berger, and listening to his instruments, gave him the contract. Since that time the most experienced workmen in his shops have been developing their skill and judgment in the building of an instrument which is intended as a model in every respect, and now their arduous and anxious work is completed. The instrument, majestic and imposing in its appearance, and sublime and soul-stirring in its great power, brilliancy and sweetness of tone, may be proudly regarded as the production of a Baltimore establishment. As its character is seldom attained in the construction of even grand organs, an enumeration of its qualities is proper; although it would be difficult to do justice to its general performance—that can be realized by a visit to the factory in Frederick street, where the builder and others exhibit its ability. It combines large organ, choir organ, swell organ, and pedal organ. The large organ is supplied with the following stops:—Large open-diapason, small do., large double stop-diapason, stop-diapason, gemstone,

principal, twelfth, fifteenth, mixture, and trumpet. The choir organ, with open-diapason, dulciana, violin d'amor, principal, stop-diapason, flute, fifteenth, and clarionet. The swell organ, with open-diapason, viola principal, double stop-diapason, dulciana, stop-diapason, principal fifteenth, flute, hautboy, and trumpet. The pedal organ, with large double open-diapason, large double open-violin, small violoncello, principal bass, great and choir couple, choir and swell couple, pedal and great, bellows alarm, tremulant, four composition pedals for great organ, and composition pedals for pedal organ. The whole number of pipes being 1,914.
These are all contained in a most beautifully designed case, developing the Roman style of architecture, and to be dressed in imitation of rosewood. Its dimensions are 25 feet high, 19 feet deep, and 19 feet wide, being the largest ever built in this city. The melody and brilliancy of some of the stops are really very fine, amongst which may be named the violoncello, flute, clarionet, trumpet, and particularly the hautboy, which seems a perfect imitation even to the practiced ear. This stop has been performed upon in concert with one of those sweet little instruments, and the harmony was perfect. In a few days the committee will arrive, accompanied by celebrated organists of distant cities, when a grand exhibition of its great power will be realized. It has already been highly praised by the professors of this city.

"Local Matters. / Trial of the Great Organ," *S* 30, no. 79 (Thursday, February 19, 1852): 2.

LOCAL MATTERS.
Trial of the Great Organ.—The great organ just finished at the factory of Mr. Berger, South Frederick street, for the St. Augustine (Catholic) Church, Philadelphia, and which has been constituted a theme of admiration by the musical world, was tried on Tuesday night, in the presence of a large, very talented and discriminating audience, which entirely sustains the high character claimed for it by the friends of Baltimore talent. The first performer of the occasion was Mr. Schwing, Organist of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church, who delighted the whole company with a program exhibiting his taste and skill as a performer. He was followed by Mr. Thunder, Organist of St. Vincent's (Catholic) Church, and next by Mr. Louis Smith, the well known Organist of the First Presbyterian Church, whose exquisite performances were enthusiastically applauded. He concluded with the national anthems of "Hail Columbia" and the "Marseilles Hymn," in fine style.

Mr. Schmidt, organist of Zion's Church, in Gay street, followed, in his peculiar style, and evidently seemed more at home than any one who had performed previously, in handling a grand organ. Mr. Barrington, organist of St. Mark's, Protestant Episcopal, next ascended the platform, and treated the audience to a *potpourri* of melodies, which surpassed all that had been previously heard. The "Bird Song," as sung by Jenny Lind; "Still so Gently o'er me Stealing," selections from Norma, and exquisite passages from other popular operas, and "Yankee Doodle," with variations, concluded his performance. But it was reserved for Mr. Berger himself, who built the tremendous instrument, and joined it together, to bring out its full powers, the heavy rolling bass notes jarring the building, whilst all the delicate stops were played with a brilliancy and melody which proved the excellence of the instrument. The present judges pronounce it the best organ in the country, and equal to any in power.

[Excerpt from:] "Local Matters. / Organ Trial," *S* 30, no. 80 (Friday, February 20, 1852): 1.

Organ Trial.—The papers of this city have already noticed the great organ just completed by Mr. Berger, Frederick street, for the St. Augustine Church, Philadelphia. Yesterday arrived from Philadelphia, the committee of the church, viz: Rev. Mr. Stanton, Prof. Benjamin, C. Cross and Prof. Edward T. Eisenbrey, who examined the instrument in every particular, and performed on it, the result of which is a certificate, declaring it equal, if not superior to any organ in this country, and constructed, in every respect, in a better manner than was specified in the contract. It will now be taken down, forwarded to Philadelphia, and put up in the church by the builder.

Henry Berger; Pennsylvania; Philadelphia; St. Augustine's Church, R.C.; 1852; cont'd., page 2:

"Organs [Ad]," *S* 30, no. 83 (Tuesday, February 24, 1852): 2.

ORGANS.—This is to inform the public and my friends generally, that the ORGAN for St. Augustine's Church, Philadelphia, lately exhibited, has been taken down, and will be forwarded in a few days. The Committee, Rev. Mr. Stanton, Prof. Benj. C. Cross, and E. S. Esentrey, Esq., (the two latter gentlemen well known to Organ Builders,) having carefully examined it on Thursday morning last, favor the builder with a certificate, which testifies that the instrument is superior in all respects to the contract. fe24-11". H. F. BERGER.

[Excerpt from:] "Local Affairs. / Great Organ of St. Augustine's Church," (*Philadelphia, Pa.*) *Public Ledger* 33, no. 13 (Thursday, April 8, 1852): 2.

Great Organ of St. Augustine's Church.—The new organ, recently erected in St. Augustine's Church, by Mr. H. F. Berger, of Baltimore, will be opened for service on Easter Sunday. Mr. Berger has already gained considerable reputation in his profession, which will be increased by the skill exhibited in the construction of this magnificent instrument. The most competent judges have already decided upon its merits as a rival to the best organs in this country. It is the subject of admiration with many of our distinguished musicians, who have been charmed by the brilliancy and sweetness of its tone. The instrument, majestic and imposing in its appearance, and sublime in its great power and refined harmony, is well suited to the beautiful edifice in which it stands. The object desired in its construction, namely, the excitement of devotion, will be attained by the soul inspiring melodies which the noble organ will send forth, under the admirable performance of Mr. B. C. Cross, the celebrated organist of St. Augustine's Church.

"Organ of St. Augustine's Church [Ad]," *PL* 33, no. 15 (Saturday, April 10, 1852): 2.

ORGAN OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH.—The Organists of Philadelphia are respectfully invited to a trial and examination of the new ORGAN, built for St. Augustine's Church, by Mr. H. F. Berger, of Baltimore, on **MONDAY AFTERNOON**, April 14th, from 4 to 6 o'clock. Tickets of admission will be sent to all the profession. In case any omission should accidentally occur, tickets may be obtained at the Pastoral residence, **FOURTH Street**, adjoining the Church. B. C. CROSS,
ap10-11*134 Organist of the Church.

"Trial of a Church Organ," *S* 30, no. 125 (Tuesday, April 13, 1852): 2.

TRIAL OF A CHURCH ORGAN.—St. Augustine's Church, in Philadelphia, on Sunday was filled to overflowing, mainly attracted by the grand music produced from the immense organ built for it by Mr. Berger, of Baltimore. All the organists of the city and the musicians generally were to be present yesterday afternoon, by invitation, to listen to its performances and try its tone.

[Excerpt from:] "By Last Night's Express Train," *S* 30, no. 126 (Wednesday, April 14, 1852): 1.

The trial of the new organ at the St. Augustine's church, yesterday, was a rich treat to the organists and other musical amateurs of our city. They universally accorded to Mr. Berger, of your city, the highest meed of praise, for the success which has attended his efforts to produce a superior instrument. A still larger organ will shortly be required, for a new musical hall now going up on Chestnut street, and it is highly probable that he will be selected as the builder. It is to cost \$5,000.

"A Concert of Sacred Music," (*Philadelphia*) *Pennsylvania Inquirer* 46, no. 99 (Saturday, April 24, 1852): 2.

A Concert of Sacred Music will be given to-morrow evening, at St. Augustine's Church, north Fourth street. Many of the most accomplished amateur vocalists in Philadelphia have volunteered for the occasion. The selection embraces some of the best productions of the most celebrated composers. The object is to raise a fund towards the payment of the new organ. The entertainment will no doubt be one of a very high character, and attract an immense audience.

"A Great Organ," *PI* 46, no. 102 (Wednesday, April 28, 1852): 1.

<p>A Great Organ.—The following description of the new organ, which has just been built by Mr. H. F. Berger, of Baltimore, for St. Augustine's Church, will interest all who pay attention to the progress of ingenuity and art in this country:</p> <p>Three sets of Keys, with Pedals and Swell.</p> <p>Great Organ.—C. C. to F. in Alt. PIPES.</p>	
1. Large open diapason,	54
2. Small do.	54
3. (16 ft.) large double stop diapason,	54
4. Stop diapason,	54
5. Gemshorn,	54
6. Principal,	54
7. Twelfth,	54
8. Fifteenth,	54
9. Mixture. 4 ranks, C G G C	216
10. Trumpet,	54
<p>No. of Pipes in Great Organ,</p>	
<p>CHOIR ORGAN.—C. C. to F. in Alt.</p>	
1. Open diapason,	54
2. Dulciana,	54
3. Violin d'amor. fr. F. in Alt.	54
4. Principal,	54
5. Stop diapason,	54
6. Large open Flute,	54
7. Fifteenth,	54
8. Clarinet. fr. F. in Alt.	54
<p>No. of Pipes in Choir Organ,</p>	
<p>SWELL ORGAN.—From 2nd C. Keys all through</p>	
1. Open diapason,	42
2. Violin Principal,	42
3. Double stop diapason (16 ft.)	42
4. Dulciana,	42
5. Stop diapason,	54
6. Principal,	54
7. Fifteenth,	42
8. Flute,	42
9. Hautboy,	42
10. Trumpet,	42
<p>No. of Pipes in Swell Organ, 444</p>	
<p>PEDAL ORGAN.—Two full octaves.</p>	
1. Large double open diapason,	25
2. " Violoncello,	25
3. Small Violoncello,	25
4. Principal Bass,	25
<p>Number of pipes in Pedal Organ,</p>	
<p>COUPLERS.—1. Great Organ and Choir Organ.</p>	
<p>2. Choir and Swell Organs.</p>	
<p>3. Pedal and Great Organs.</p>	
<p>BELLOWS ALARM, 1.</p>	
<p>TREMULANT, 1, for Swell Organ.</p>	
<p>COMPOSITION STOPS. 1st. Open diapason and Trumpet Gr. Org.</p>	
<p>2d. Positive Organ of do.</p>	
<p>3d. Small Violoncello.</p>	
<p>4th. Full Pedal Organ.</p>	
<p>Total No. of Stops in entire Organ, 41.</p>	
<p>Total No. of Pipes in entire Organ, 1614.</p>	

"Great Church Organ," *S* 32, no. 67 (Friday, February 2, 1853): 1.

Great Church Organ.—About a year since, Mr. Henry Berger, Frederick street, constructed and erected in St Augustine church, Rev. Dr. Moriarty of Philadelphia, a fine organ, which he placed in the second gallery. The authorities of the church, however, have directed Mr. Berger to remove the organ to the gallery below in order to its enlargement. Some idea of its power may be inferred from the dimensions of the case, which will measure 36 feet in height, 16 feet wide and 14 feet deep. The work will be finished about April. It will display the Corinthian architecture and be finished in the best style of work, the front pipes being richly gilded; some of them are 16 feet in length, exclusive of the feet. A number of stops will also be added to the instrument.

[Excerpt from:] "Local Matters. / Large Church Organs," *S* 32, no. 116 (March 31, 1853): 1.

Large Church Organs.—Some time since the congregation of the St. Augustine church, (Catholic) Philadelphia, of which the very Rev. Dr. Moriarty is pastor, ordered of Henry F. Berger, of this city, an organ of the first workmanship for their magnificent new church, which was made and erected in the gallery. Yesterday, however, Mr. Berger shipped for the same congregation an addition to the instrument, which is 33 feet in height, 30 feet wide and 10 feet deep, the original instrument not being powerful enough. The music is contained in a superb case, in the Corinthian style of architecture, imitation of live oak, and an exact copy of the great Freiburg organ, Switzerland. The instrument was built with great care, and the manufacturer warrants it as a fine instrument.

"Philadelphia," *The New York Musical Review and Choral Advocate* (Thursday, February 15, 1855): 61.

PHILADELPHIA.

(From our Correspondent.)

FEB. 12, 1855.—Genuine winter greeted us the past week—thermometer at times below zero, deep snow covering our streets, and both rivers (east and west of the city) ice-bound. Several concerts have been given, however; among them, that of the Harmonia Sacred Music Society on the 8th inst., under the direction of Mr. J. C. B. STANBRIDGE. The programme was in general composed of good selections; but, owing to an exceedingly stormy day and evening, the attendance was smaller than usual. The solos were well received, and the choruses (a repetition of their former concert) were beautiful compositions, and duly appreciated. In accordance with the stereotype arrangement of the "Harmonia," the second part was opened by the introduction of the overture to *William Tell*, (piano style,) played upon the large organ by Mr. M. H. CROSS. Having heard this piece upon several former occasions, I have been led to conclude that something else, more adapted to the Harmonia Sacred Music Society, and the organ also, might be selected without any great labor or difficulty. The concert, however, was a good performance, and received merited applause.—A concert of sacred and secular music was given by Mrs. POWELL on the 9th, at Sansom-street Hall. The lady had the assistance of her sisters, the Misses C. and G. SHEPPARD. Mr. RILEY, the ballad-singer, and Messrs. TAYLOR and MAGINNIS also took part, the latter presiding at the piano. The programme composed some of the finest solos and duets from Bellini, Donizetti, Handel, Neukomm, Bochs, etc.

St. Augustine's (R. C.) Church, on Fourth street, south of Vine street, is a large and unusually substantial brick building, well known from the memorable riot of the summer of 1844, by which the former church was destroyed by fire. This incident is recorded in a marble tablet, conspicuously placed in the front of the new building. The notable pastor, Dr. MORIARTY, took a tour to Europe some years since, and whilst sojourning in Ireland, took occasion publicly to indulge in some injudicious remarks against this "glorious land of freedom;" which, upon being understood here, justly incensed a large portion of our citizens. The music of this, as well as of other churches of this denomination, is of a superior order. The organ now in the church was built by HENRY F. BERGER, of Baltimore, about three years ago; has three sets of keys, and pedals, and is upon the exterior decidedly the most showy and majestic instrument of our city. The case being of large proportions, and the building well adapted, it has a striking appearance. The instrument itself, however, is not in all parts excellent; for in many stops the scales are too small, and hence the tones are weak. The diapasons and pedal stops are of good quality and tolerably full; the reed-stops are of a good imitative character; but all combined, the volume and power of tone is evidently lacking for so large an organ. Mr. H. G. THUNDER is the organist, and is a competent musician. The voices in the choir are well developed; and a soprano of much power is heard prominently. The selections, however, being in many instances from operas and secular authors, do not under any circumstances meet my approbation in the church, no matter what argument may be used to justify the practice. Ecclesiastical or church music is, in my opinion, a distinct thing, possessing a character and style peculiarly its own; and can never be benefited by the contamination of theatrical melodies or secular ditties.