

From the Builder

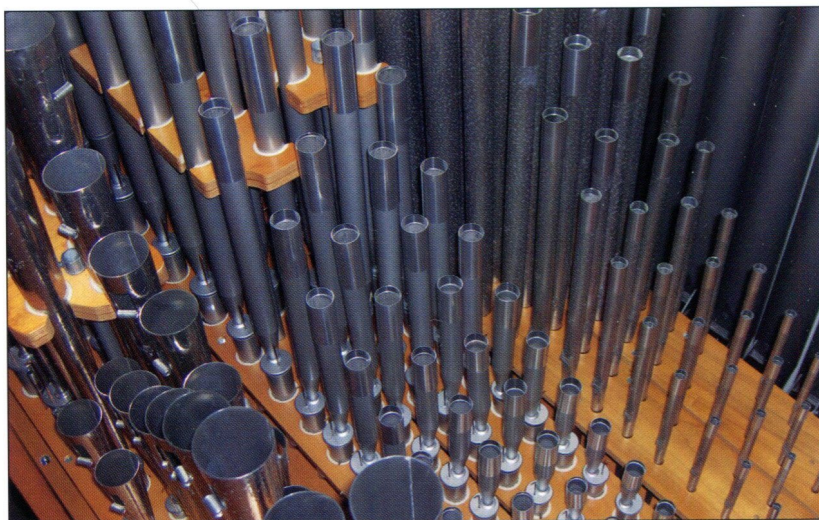
With its long and distinguished history of music making, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church has honored the Schantz firm with the commission to build a new pipe organ for its sanctuary. Incorporated in the new Schantz organ are twenty ranks from the church's original 1923 E. M. Skinner pipe organ and two ranks from the 1975 M. P. Moller rebuilding project. The new four-manual, sixty-eight rank Schantz pipe organ was designed and constructed uniquely for the congregation. Designed and constructed to meet the diverse musical requirements of the church's active music ministry, the organ dynamically supports and encourages the hymnody of the Presbyterian tradition, and accompanies various styles of choral music while effectively rendering organ literature of all periods.



Each of the organ's 3,940 pipes is actually an individual windblown instrument designed, crafted, and voiced especially for this building. Organized into sixty-eight ranks (or sets) of pipes, the pipes are made from an assortment of materials including zinc, lead, tin, and wood. The majority of the pipes, however, are made from a tin-lead alloy, which is cast, cut, shaped and soldered by the pipe makers in the Schantz workshop. The largest pipe in this instrument is over sixteen feet in length. By contrast, the smallest pipes are no larger than an ordinary pencil.

The organ's six divisions—Great, Swell, Choir, Solo, Antiphonal and Pedal—are actually complete organs within themselves. With their variety of accompanimental and solo sounds the Swell, Choir, Solo, and Antiphonal organs are placed behind expression louvers to allow further control of dynamics. The lightning-fast louver motors with soundtraps provide continuously variable control of the dynamic range of the expressive stops.

New stops of exceptional beauty have been built in the Schantz pipe shop. Of special note are the Solo Flauto Mirabilis (a very large scaled double-mouthed open flute), the wood harmonic Solo Orchestral Flute, the metal Great Harmonic Flute, and a metal capped harmonic Choir Zauberflöte. The organ contains five ranks of elegant Celestes. Variable wind pressures are used for desired tonal results that range from three and one-half to fifteen inches.



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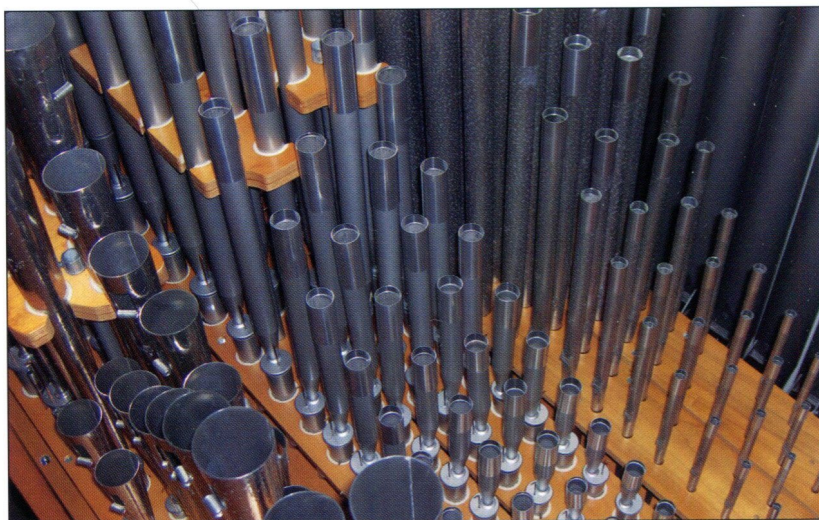
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The two gracefully scaled organcases are made of oak to harmonize and compliment the exceptionally fine millwork of the building. The casework provided the organ builder the opportunity for an improved placement of the organ's divisions. In addition to the two organcases three new tone openings were constructed to provide improved tonal egress into the church proper.



The handsome four-manual movable English-style drawknob console is made of oak, with cherry stop jambs, ebony drawknobs with white faces, and keys of bone and ebony. It features all of the modern conveniences for aiding the musician, including a solid-state combination action with ninety-nine levels of memory and a record/playback system.

The specification of the organ is a collaboration of Christopher Martin, Director of Music, Jeff Dexter, Tonal Director, and Linwood Lunde, Project Liaison. The casework design and organ layout was completed by Eric Gastier, Schantz Staff Architect. The installation of the organ was headed by Robert Baumgartner, and tonal finishing was headed in consultation with Jeff Dexter by Jeff Herr who was assisted by Michael Zwick.

Having been completed during our firm's 132nd year, the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church organ challenged us once again to create an instrument that represents the art of organbuilding in its highest form. With the continuous tradition of excellent church music at Grace Covenant it was especially rewarding to incorporate twenty exceptionally fine E. M. Skinner stops in this very colorful and noble sounding instrument. In addition to the beauty that these original stops add to the new organ, they also provide a wonderful link to the many who have worshiped and been baptized here and found that the organ and its music contributed greatly to the beauty of this spiritual space. The building of this new Schantz pipe organ embodies the efforts of well over one hundred lay persons, craftspeople, artisans, and musicians.

From the warm singing tone of the Diapason choruses, to the softest whisper of the Flute Celeste—from the declamatory statements of the Covenant Trumpet, to the majestic tones of the Tuba Mirabilis—this organ now joins a tradition centuries old. It is a tradition that calls the faithful to worship and inspires great composers such as Bach, Luther, Watts, and Wesley. The men and women who represent the Schantz Organ Company are honored and privileged to have been a part of this historic process, and are very proud of this magnificent instrument. With you we look forward to the many avenues in which this organ will lead well into the future.



Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

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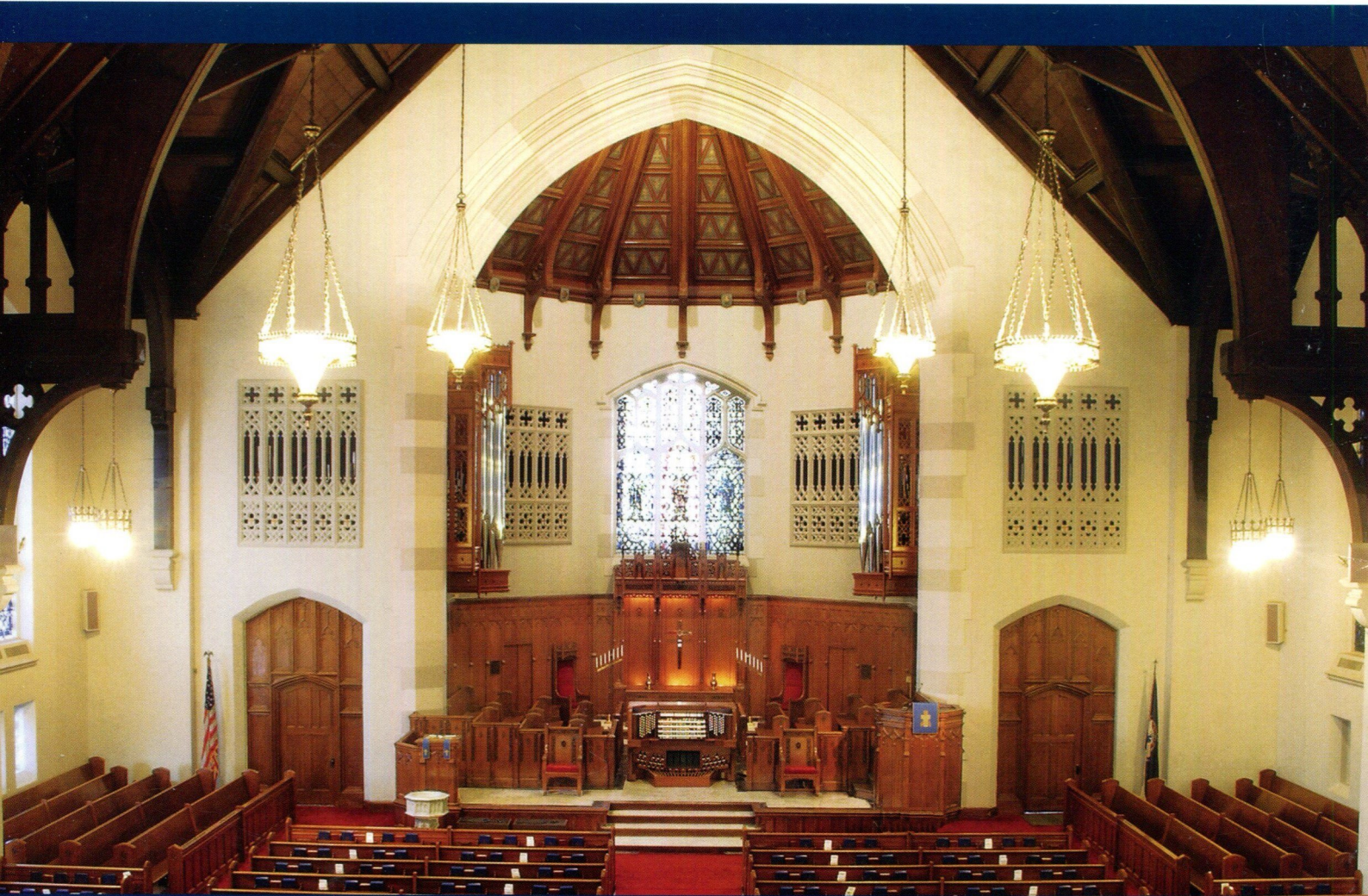


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 organ chambers and electric circuitry
 to facilitate the installation of the
 Schantz organ. We appreciate their
 concern and dedication to the speedy
 completion of this project.*

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