

## Handbells

Two sets of handbells are owned by the church, one manufactured by the American firm of Schulmerich, and the other by Petit & Fritsen of Holland. Both sets have been donated by families and friends; some individual bells are memorials. Each set consists of thirty-seven bells, three chromatic octaves upwards from the bell notated one octave below middle-C. (A set of handbells is a transposing instrument, sounding one octave above notated pitch.)

A very handsome room on the third floor has been designated as the "Bell-Cote". It contains tables for the bells and the handbell music files. The tables have legs adjustable to two lengths, enabling the players to rehearse while seated, or to perform standing. Individual covers for each bell have been made, as well as cases for storage and transport.

## Pianos

Nearly every assembly room is provided with a piano. Baldwin grands are in the Music Room and the Social Hall, and the Chapel contains a small Steinway spinet. Instruments in other locations are of varying quality, but all are regularly tuned and maintained. Altogether there are eighteen pianos in the building, five of which are grands.

## Tower Bells

The central tower of the Church was constructed with a load carrying capacity of 150 tons, but unfortunately a carillon or chime of cast bells has never been installed. The one bell now in the tower was donated in 1867 by Mrs. B.A. Negley for the third church building. This bell was cast by A. Fulton & Co., Pittsburgh, weighs 2,760 lbs., and is pitched in the approximate area of E above middle C. The bell is now swung electrically.

During 1958 a "Carillon Americana" was installed in the tower by the Schulmerich Company of Sellersville, Pa. Played from a two manual console located on the first floor, it causes small tuned rods to be struck by tiny hammers, the resultant tones of which are amplified and sound electronically through the tower, giving a bell effect. Three types of tone are available from instrument, styled "flemish", "harp" and "celesta." Automatic playing is possible by the use of rolls, similar to those of a player-piano.

APRIL, 1982

## Musical Instruments In The East Liberty Presbyterian Church



*Playing the Musical Scale*

**Dr. Charles Huddleston Heaton, F.A.G.O.**

**Organist-Director**

# The Chapel Organ

The church building on this site which immediately preceded the present structure contained a four manual Austin Organ, Opus 873, which had been a gift from the McKelvy family in 1919. Although a relatively large instrument of fifty-four ranks of pipes, it was removed and mechanically rebuilt for installation in the present Chapel. Obviously, its 3,768 pipes, designed for a larger and entirely different location, were necessarily placed in inadequate space in the new room. The console and some pipes were located in the chancel, with the remainder in the rear gallery. The instrument served the church until 1972.

By 1970, in fact, serious talk was being given by various committees concerning whether it would be feasible to rebuild the 1919 organ or purchase a new one. After much deliberation the decision was made to purchase a new pipe organ for the Chapel from the Austin Organ Company, the tonal design having been worked out by Dr. Donald D. Kettring, then Minister of Music, Dr. Norris L. Stephens, Assistant Organist / Director, and the representatives of the company. Installation of the organ was completed in February, 1973. It is a three manual instrument with 2,014 pipes in thirty-six ranks and four divisions: Great, Swell, Positiv, and Pedal, and is a rear gallery installation.

The gallery organ case, incidentally, is of consuming historic interest: it antedates the 1919 Austin Organ; thus it and the tower bell may well be the oldest artifacts of the church still in use. It is probable that this is the original case for the organ built by Frank Roosevelt in 1888 for the East Liberty Presbyterian Church. The Roosevelt Organ contained 1,998 pipes, and was dedicated on September 28, 1888, by Clarence Eddy. (Charles Courboin played the dedicatory recital for the first Austin Organ on March 19, 1920, and Robert Carwithen dedicated the present Chapel organ on February 25, 1973.) Speaking pipes in the case have replaced the original gilt display pipes. The new Chapel Organ is dedicated to Minister of Music Emeritus Donald D. Kettring and his wife by the congregation.

## SPECIFICATIONS

### GREAT ORGAN (Unenclosed)

Pitch		No. of Pipes
8	Principal	61
8	Bourdon	61
4	Octave	61
4	Spitzflöte	61
2	Fifteenth	61
IV	Fourniture	244
8	Posaune (from Pedal)	29
	Chimes	

### SWELL ORGAN (Enclosed)

8	Rohrflöte	61
8	Gamba	61
8	Gamba Celeste T.C.	49
4	Prestant	61
4	Waldflöte	61
4	Gambette	12
II	Sesquialtera T.C.	98
2	Flautino	61
III	Plein Jeu	183
8	Trompette	61
4	Oboe Schalmey	61
	Tremulant	

### POSITIV ORGAN (Enclosed)

8	Holzgedeckt	61
8	Gemshorn	61
4	Koppelflöte	61
2	Principal	61
1 1 / 3	Larigot	61
II	Cymbal	122
8	Krummhorn	61
	Cymbalstern	

### PEDAL ORGAN

32	Resultant	32
16	Principal	12
16	Rohrgedeckt (from Swell)	32
8	Octave	
8	Gamba (from Swell)	
8	Rohrflöte (from Swell)	32
4	Choral Bass	64
II	Rauschquint	32
16	Contra Posaune	12
8	Posaune	
4	Krummhorn (from Positiv)	
	Chimes (from Great)	



# The Church Organ

During the time the present church buildings were under construction, a contract was signed with the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company of Boston, Massachusetts, for a new instrument. Installation was completed by the time the buildings were dedicated on May 12, 1935. The dedication of the organ took place the following Sunday, May 19, 1935, with a recital played by William E. Zeuch of Boston. As originally constituted, the organ contained 108 ranks of pipes playable from a four manual console located behind the pulpit. The Solo, Choir, String Organ and large Pedal pipes are located in the chambers above the pulpit, with the Swell, Great and additional Pedal on the lectern side. In the rear gallery are the Echo and Antiphonal divisions.

During 1972-73 the Board of Trustees authorized a total cleaning of the instrument, and also approved a complicated process whereby cool air can be supplied to the blower room, located three floors beneath the chancel. During the next two years, periodic work was done under the direction of J. David Burger, of the firm of Burger & Shafer of Findlay, Ohio, revoicing judiciously several of the ranks which tonally leaned towards the Romantic influence of the Twenties. This work primarily involved the principals and major reed stops.

As one lived with the organ for several months after completion, it became confirmed that certain additions would crown the already superb ensemble. These stops, indicated by an asterisk in the specification, were added during 1975-76.

The church has been honored by the gift of two significant Memorial Stops to the organ. The first was the State Trumpet, installed in the arches on either side of the reredos and dedicated on Easter, 1974, to the memory of Jeffrey L. Diener. The Mounted Cornet, installed behind the grillwork in the corner of the organ chamber above the pulpit, was dedicated during February, 1976, to the memory of Gertrude P. Gray.

An extensive illustrated article about the organ, giving the evolutionary steps in detail, appeared in the February, 1976, issue of **MUSIC / the AGO-RCCO Magazine**, which is the official journal of the American Guild of Organists and the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

## SPECIFICATIONS

### CHOIR

16	Gamba	12
8	Diapason	73
8	Concert flute	73
8	Viol d'orchestre	73
8	Viol celeste	73
8	Kleine Erzähler	73
8	Kleine Erzähler celeste	61
* 4	Prestant (unenclosed)	61
4	Flute harmonic	73
4	Violina	73
2 2 / 3	Nazard	61
2	Piccolo	61
1 3 / 5	Tierce	61
1	Sifflote	61
* IV	Cymbale (unenclosed)	244
16	Fagotto	73
8	Corno di Bassetto	73
8	Orchestral oboe	73
8	Trumpet	73
* 8	State Trumpet	73

### SWELL

16	Bourdon	73
8	Diapason	73
8	Geigen diapason	73
8	Rohrflöte	73
8	Salicional	73
8	Voix celeste	73
8	Gamba	73
8	Gamba celeste	73
8	Flauto dolce	73
8	Flute celeste	61
4	Octave	73
	String Organ	
4	Flute triangulaire	73
2	Piccolo	61
V	Chorus mixture	305
* IV	Acuta	244
16	Posaune	73
8	French trumpet	73
8	Oboe	73
8	Cornopean	73
8	Vox humana	73
4	Claron	73

## GREAT

16	Diapason	61
16	Bourdon (pedal)	5
8	1st Diapason	61
8	2nd Diapason	61
8	3rd Diapason	61
8	Claribel flute	61
8	Gemshorn	61
VI	String organ	438
4	Flute	61
4	Principal	61
4	Octave	61
II	Grosse sesquialtera (5 1 / 3, 3 1 / 5)	122
2 2 / 3	Twelfth	61
2	Fifteenth	61
V	Harmonics	293
III-VI	Plein Jeu	268
* IV	Scharf	244
16	Contra tromba	61
8	Tromba	61
4	Octave tromba	61

## PEDAL

32	Stopped Diapason	12
16	Diapason	32
	8 Octave	12
16	Contra Bass	32
	8 Principal	12
16	Diapason (Great)	
16	Bourdon	32
	10 2 / 3 Quint	
	8 Gedeckt	12
	4 Flute	12
16	Gamba (choir)	
16	Echo Lieblich (swell)	
	8 Still gedeckt (swell)	
* 4	Choral Bass	32
* 2	Italian principal	32
V	Harmonics	160
32	Bombarde	32
	16 Trombone	12
	8 Tromba	12
	4 Clarion	12
32	Fagotto	12
	16 Fagotto (choir)	
16	Contra tromba (great)	

## ANTIPHONAL PEDAL

16	Major Bass	32
	8 Gedeckt	12
16	Gemshorn	32
	8 Gemshorn	12

## SOLO

8	Flauto Mirabilis	73
8	Gamba	73
8	Gamba celeste	73
4	Orchestral flute	73
8	French Horn	73
8	Tuba mirabilis	73
	String Organ	
8	English horn	73
* V	Mounted Cornet	210
	Cymbalstern	

## ECHO-ANTIPHONAL

8	Zart Flote	73
8	Vox angelica (II)	134
4	Fern flute	73
8	Vox humana	73
	Chimes	
8	Diapason	73
8	Melodia	73
4	Octave	73
II	Grave Mixture	122
8	Tuba	73
4	Clarion	73

The String Organ, six ranks of orchestral strings, is independently enclosed.

Combination pistons are ten each for manuals and generals. ~ SSL - 8 levels

The harp (~~Choir box~~) and chimes are available on most manuals.

The instrument now comprises 124 ranks, 7,743 pipes.