

Announcing the New Additions of Enhanced Sounds of Our Sanctuary Organ

November, 2009

We are pleased to announce that often when we hear the sanctuary organ, “the low will be lifted up” – but not exactly as was meant in the teachings of Jesus recorded in the Gospels! In this case, we are actually upgrading the blend and resonance of the lowest notes on our magnificent Gibbs-Preyer Organ. Two stops (“drawknobs” on the organ console which control the myriad sounds) on our new console will engage the Carringer Memorial 32-foot Bourdon and 32-foot Principal.

These two new 32 foot stops produce the lowest notes the organ can play: one octave lower than any other notes which can be played by the organist’s feet on the pedal keyboard. These “digital 32’s” are an electronic imitation of two sets (“ranks”) of real organ pipes which would be so large that we would have to build an additional large chamber, or room, above the chancel area to accommodate 64 square wooden pipes ranging from 32 feet tall to about 6 feet tall. Chests, relays, wind supplies, support racks, and necessary mechanical systems would make the real pipes obviously impractical in our sanctuary, not to mention inordinately costly.

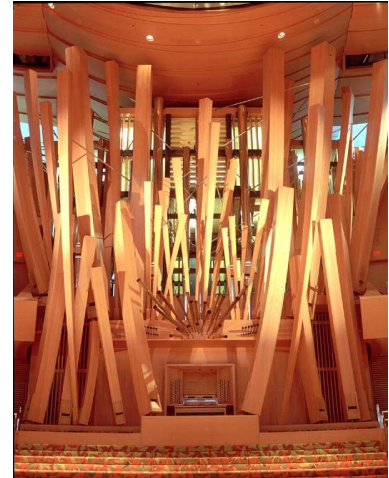
The effect of these electronic “pipes” will be to create two types of sounds in support of the ensemble, as selected by the player when appropriate: either velvety soft purring tones, undergirding the quiet flutes and strings of our great organ; or, warm, firm foundational tones supporting the fuller organ sound. This latter effect will have the advantage of rounding out the perceived edges of the loudest sound when the organist literally “pulls out all the stops.”

While most electronic organ sounds are generally not nearly as beautiful as real pipe-generated sounds, the lowest notes are easier to imitate with technology called “digital sampling,” in which real organ pipe sounds are recording digitally, stored in computer memory, and then reproduced through state-of-the-art speakers installed in the organ chambers.

The addition of this wonderful capability to the Gibbs-Preyer Organ has been made possible by the bequest by Dorothy E. Carringer to Christ Church in memory of her sister, Margaret Carringer. Dorothy asked that her bequest be split equally to support the Music Program and Camp Wakonda. Music Ministry evaluated several aspects of the Music Program at Christ Church, and determined this enhancement of the organ to be the best use of the music portion of the bequest.

An additional benefit from the Carringer Memorial will be a re-voicing of some of the pipes in the Swell division. There are some pipes which need to be regulated to better match the new technology of the organ mechanisms. When these particular pipes were installed 14 years ago, they were “trained” to respond and to “sing” using the old technology of the organ console and mechanisms. Now they need to be re-voiced for better blend and better tuning stability.

Thanks be to God for the generosity and thoughtfulness of God’s Servants, Dorothy and Margaret!



Wooden 32-foot organ pipes at
new Walt Disney Concert Hall