

*Myers
Park
United
Methodist
Church*



*History and
Configuration
of the Sanctuary Organs*

THE SANCTUARY ORGAN SPECIFICATIONS MYERS PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Chancel Organ

<p># GREAT ORGAN <i>Manual II</i> Sub Principal 16' Quintade 16' Open Diapason 8' Principal 8' Flute harmoniquê 8' Spitzflöte 8' Bourdon 8' Octave 4' Principal 4' Rohrflöte 4' Quint 2 2/3' Super Octave 2' Fourniture IV Cymbel III Mounted Cornet (SO.) ... V Double Trumpet 16' Trumpet 8' Clarion 4' Herald Trumpet (CH.) ... 8' Tuba Major (SO.) 8' Chimes Tremolo</p> <p>SWELL ORGAN <i>Manual III - Expressive</i> Lieblich Gedeckt 16' Geigen 8' Rohrflöte 8' Viole de gambe 8' Viox Celeste 8' Flauto Dolce 8'</p>	<p>Flute Celeste 8' Octave Geigen 4' Flute triangulaire 4' Fifteenth 2' Plein jeu V Basson 16' Trompette 8' Oboe 8' Vox Humana 8' Clarion 4' State Trumpet (ANT.) 8' Tremolo</p> <p>CHOIR ORGAN <i>Manual I - Expressive</i> Contra Gamba 16' Viola 8' Viola Celeste 8' Stopped Diapason 8' Dulciana 8' Unda Maris (t.c.) 8' Principal 4' Gemshorn 4' Koppelflöte 4' Voix Angélique II 4' Nazard 2 2/3' Flageolet 2' Tierce 1 3/5' Larigot 1 1/3' Scharff IV Fagotte 16' English Horn 8'</p>	<p>Clarinet 8' Herald Trumpet 16' Herald Trumpet 8' Tuba Major (SO.) 8' Tremolo Harp Celesta Zimbelstern</p> <p>SOLO ORGAN <i>Manual IV - Expressive</i> Cello 8' Cello Celeste 8' Harmonic Flute 8' Orchestral Flute 4' Corno di bassetto 16' Krummhorn 8' French Horn 8' Tuba Major 8' Mounted Cornet V State Trumpet (ANT.) 8' Herald Trumpet (CH.) 8' Tremolo</p>	<p>PEDAL ORGAN Violone 32' Bourdon 32' Open Wood 16' Diapason 16' Sub Principal (GT.) 16' Bourdon 16' Lieblich Gedeckt (SW.) 16' Contra Gamba (CH.) ... 16' Principal 8' Basse 8' Flute Couverte 8' Still Gedeckt (SW.) 8' Quint 5 1/3' Choralbass 4' Flute cantique 4' Mixture III Contra Bombarde 32' Fagotte 32' Bombarde 16' Double Trumpet (GT.) 16' Basson (SW.) 16' Fagotte (CH.) 16' Trumpet (GT.) 8' Basson (SW.) 8' Clarion (GT.) 4' Shawm 4' Herald Trumpet (CH.) ... 8' Tremolo Rossignol Double Zimbelstern</p>
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Shull Gallery Organ

<p>GALLERY GREAT ORGAN <i>Manual II</i> Violone 16' Principal 8' Hohlflöte 8' Octave 4' Zauberflöte 2' Mixture IV Trumpet 8' Chimes</p>	<p>GALLERY SWELL ORGAN <i>Manual III - Expressive</i> Gemshorn 8' Gemshorn Celeste 8' Gedackt 8' Prestant 4' Spitzflöte 4' Doublette 2' Mixture III Fagotto 16' Hautbois 8' Tremolo</p>	<p>GALLERY PEDAL ORGAN Untersatz 32' Violone 16' Subbass 16' Octavebass 8' Pommer 8' Choralbass 4' Posaune 16' Zimbelstern</p>
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*Æolian-Skinner Organ – 1949
Angerstein Organ Works – 1997*

Description of the Organ

The new organ in Myers Park Methodist Church is ideally located in a spacious chamber behind the large grill in the back of the Chancel. The walls of the chamber have been specially treated with hard Keene cement and enameled so as to project the tone of the instrument into the nave of the church without distortion.

The new instrument comprises three manuals and a pedal board, there are 54 speaking stops and no less than 3617 pipes and two percussion instruments – harp and chimes. The pipes range in size from the low C of the Pedal Diapason which is 16' long to the top C of the fifteenth which has a speaking length of only 3/4". These extremes cover a frequency range of 32 vibrations per second to 8000 per second. In other words, eight complete octaves.

The general tonal scheme of the organ follows along classical lines in which the pipes are voices on low wind pressures imparting a singing quality to the tone. Many of the natural harmonics of the fundamental tones are reinforced artificially by additional small pipes called mutation and mixture pipes. These pipes make for clarity of intonation and add brightness to the general effect. They are so voiced and regulated to enable a gradual build-up to be made by the organist until a very clear but complex ensemble is produced. One could liken the effect to the many pieces of glass which form a stained glass window.

To this classic structure are added some modern tones which in some cases imitate orchestral instruments such as the English Horn, Clarinet and Flute.

The organ is played from a console separated from the organ proper and so located that the organist can control the Choir. The sole connection between this console and the organ is a multiple wire cable.

Over 100 miles of wire has been used in making these connections. The console also contains elaborate electro pneumatic mechanism for controlling the various stops and couplers. A large electrically driven rotating blower located in the basement supplies the necessary compressed air for the instrument.

April 26, 1950
G. Donald Harrison, President, Æolian-Skinner Organ
Company, Boston, Mass.

Renovation/Restoration, 1997

The prospect of rebuilding, restoring, and expanding the venerable Æolian-Skinner Organ from 1949 has been both challenging and rewarding. While respecting the fine work done by the company, we also realized that the musical program and congregational participation had outgrown the scope of this once forward-looking instrument.

We looked at other larger, more versatile organs which G. Donald Harrison and the Æolian-Skinner Company had built from which to model expansion of the Myers Park organ. Notable instruments within my experience are Church of the Advent, Boston, Massachusetts, and Groton School, Groton, Massachusetts. Of particular interest here are doubled Great Principal Choruses at 8' and 4' pitches, and the inclusion of a 16' Sub Principal.

Since Harrison deemed the Swell division as the most important in the organ, we chose to leave it intact, save for replacing the 16' Fagott with a more suitable chorus reed, the 16' Basson. The Choir division was expanded to include a Principal Chorus for greater flexibility in accompanying and performance. The 16' Fagott was placed in the Choir, where it blends well with the 8' English Horn and Clarinet.

More notable Æolian-Skinner Organs, many in New York City, were of four and five manuals, and contained Solo divisions. Because we were desirous of having more solo colours and warmth of string tone in the instrument, Les Ackerman and I chose to add a Solo division to the organ rather than to sacrifice the existing three manuals by making great changes to them.

A new four manual console was built as a great resemblance to the original, which now resides in the gallery, completely unchanged. In the near future, a Gallery Organ will be installed, designed to play from both consoles. The Gallery console drawknobs, however, will still play the 1949 Chancel Organ as it was originally conceived. The Gallery Organ controls will be in drawerettes under the keydesk.

This organ restoration will be similar to the Mormon Tabernacle, done in recent years. We have fulfilled the instrument with the stops and colours missing from the original specification. As we have focused on restoration and historic improvements, you will enjoy this as one of G. Donald Harrison's finest pipe organs.

October 12, 1997
Daniel L. Angerstein, Organ Works,
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Excerpts from "A Narrative Compilation of News Items and Reminiscences of Myers Park United Methodist Church", compiled by Mildred Gwin Andrews, 1975

At the January 1950 meeting of the Board of Stewards, it was voted to make certain alterations in the chancel of the sanctuary which would enhance its charm. There was difference of opinion about this move but the Board majority voted for the open chancel. A. G. Odell, Jr., one of the younger architects in the community, was commissioned to design it. The change involved lowering the floor, moving the pulpit to one side, and extending the center aisle of the nave through to the communion table which would be placed against the carved screen in front of the organ. The choir, instead of sitting in its balcony facing the congregation, would be divided into two groups to sit in rows of pews on each side of the chancel, facing each other. Plans were on display for all to see, and the members were so advised in the Bulletin. It was to be ready for use when the organ installation was completed.

The Organ Committee announced, too, that over the years '47, '48, '49, contributions toward the purchase of the instrument amounting to \$30,800 had been made — but another \$18,500 was needed for the Organ Fund.



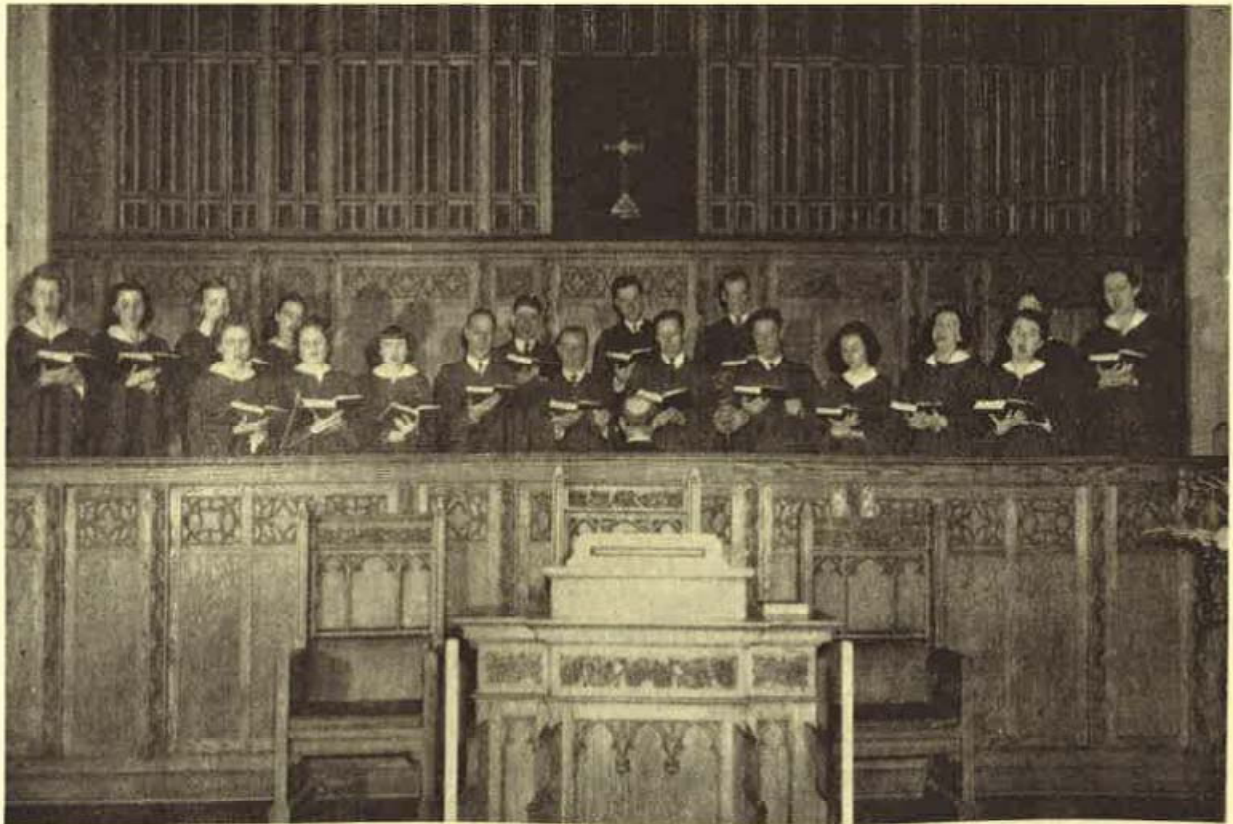
By mid-1950, the organ installation was completed. In tonal quality and range, it is still considered one of the finest pipe organs in the Southeast. The organ has three manuals and a pedal board, 54 speaking stops, 3617 pipes, and two percussion instruments: harp and chimes. The pipes range in size from the low C of the Pedal Diapason, which is 16 feet long, to the top C of the fifteenth, which is no bigger than a lead pencil. Such extremes cover a frequency range of 32 vibrations per second to 8,000 per second, actually 8 complete octaves. Some tones attain similarity to the English Horn, the Clarinet and the Flute. Over 100 miles of wire was used in making the connections. The console, of course, contains the elaborate electro-pneumatic mechanism for controlling various stops and couplers, and attached at the side of the console is the panel for playing the Tower Chimes.

Donald Harrison (left) points out the difference in organ pipe sizes to Dr. James Huggin. There is a range of eight octaves between the two pipes which Mr. Harrison indicates. The new organ has been installed at Myers Park Methodist Church, of which Dr. Huggin is pastor. (OBSERVER Staff photo - Houston)

Four representatives of the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company were down from Boston to assemble the musical parts and Donald Harrison, president of the company, came to Charlotte to supervise last-minute details.

Eugene Craft, the church organist, played the organ for the congregation the first time on Palm Sunday and presented a cantata that afternoon.

Excerpts from "A Narrative Compilation of News Items and Reminiscences of Myers Park United Methodist Church", compiled by Mildred Gwin Andrews, 1975



The Choir, showing the choir stall and chancel as it was in 1950. (From the 1950 publication "We go to Myers Park Methodist Church")