

## THE CATHEDRAL ORGANS

No other single musical instrument has the power, the near-orchestral range, and the sonic variety of a great organ. Grace Cathedral's 7,466-pipe Aeolian-Skinner instrument, the Charles B. Alexander Memorial Organ (1934), is one of the first and finest American classic style organs, and is among the largest church organs in the West. Although listed as Opus 910A of Ernest M. Skinner, America's greatest organ designer of the early 1900s, the Alexander organ was largely designed by Englishman G. Donald Harrison (1889-1956). One of Aeolian-Skinner's first major organs in the West, it was one of the earliest and finest examples of what Harrison dubbed the "American classic organ". Balancing Baroque and orchestral sounds by using a broad mix of pipes and stops, the American classic organ could accommodate the eclectic repertoire of church music that developed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, while also expressing the brighter and more crisp sounds of earlier styles.

When built, the organ had five divisions: Choir, Great, Swell, Solo and Pedal, and 6,077 pipes, and a 20-horsepower blower in the crypt of the Cathedral. Thanks to the sustained interest and generosity of Harrison and his successor Joseph S. Whiteford, additions and minor tonal alterations were made in 1952 and 1956, raising the total to 7,286 pipes. Swain & Kates made further alterations ca. 1959. Display pipes in the lower screen openings were removed in 1962. Two new divisions by Casavant Frères of Ste.-Hyacinthe, Quebec, were installed in 1974: one in the rear gallery and the other (the now-silent Bombarde) in the apse. A high-pressure Tuba Major was added by the venerable local firm Schoenstein and Co. in 2000, making the current pipe total 7,466. The console, too, went through several incarnations. In 1968 the original console was replaced by Fratelli Ruffatti of Padua, Italy. The console was mobilized in 1984, so that it could be rolled onto the choir floor and turned to any position for concerts. An electrical "umbilical cord" links it to the organ's mechanism. Edward M. Stout, Bay Area organ curator emeritus, now retired, worked with often-limited resources to restore and repair the great organ during his 42-year tenure. In 1998 Schoenstein created a new console with digital memory and combination action. Today, the organ is the fifth-largest in California (by manuals and ranks) and the fiftieth-largest in the world.

The organ has two spectacular English oak screens (1935), designed by cathedral architect Lewis Hobart were carved by Romanian-American master carver Samuel Berger. Weighing a total of 14 tons and assembled without metal nails or screws, their carved detail includes robed figures holding songbirds, angel musicians playing instruments, and dragons. Below, chorister angels with songbooks are joined by blowing figures representing the organ action. On the central bosses, support figures hold shields with the instruments of Christ's Passion. Halfway up the central side mullions are four cheeky monkeys.

Grace Cathedral has two additional organs, the Chapel of Grace Aeolian-Skinner (1930) and the William Davis hand-pumped organ (1862). The 1422-pipe chapel organ, originally built by the Aeolian Co. (Opus 1738), was the first to have its console shipped across the nation by air express. In 1951 Aeolian-Skinner upgraded the organ as their Opus 1151. The fine organ screen is also by Hobart and Berger. The hand-pumped Davis organ, made in New York for St. Paul's Church, Benicia, CA, was restored by Edward M. Stout in 1973 and is among the oldest California organs still in use. It is on wheels and is rolled out for concerts.

For further information contact the cathedral archivist, Michael Lampen, at <michaell@gracecathedral.org>

The Alexander Memorial Organ (in the Cathedral Quire)

Aeolian-Skinner Organ Co., Inc. Opus 910-A 1952

4 manuals, 107 stops, 125 ranks

Additions by \*Casavant Frères (1973-4) and \*\*Schoenstein & Co. (2001)

**Great (II)**

|        |                  |      |
|--------|------------------|------|
| 16'    | Diapason         | 61   |
| 8'     | First Diapason   | 61   |
| 8'     | Second Diapason  | 61   |
| 8'     | Flûte Harmonique | 61   |
| 8'     | Rohrgedeckt      | 61   |
| 8'     | Gemshorn         | 61   |
| 5 1/3' | Quint            | 61   |
| 4'     | Octave           | 61   |
| 4'     | Principal        | 61   |
| 4'     | Flute            | 61   |
| 3 1/5' | Grosse Tierce    | 61   |
| 2 2/3' | Twelfth          | 61   |
| 2'     | Fifteenth        | 61   |
| 2'     | Blockflöte       | 61   |
| 1 3/5' | Tierce           | 61   |
| IV     | Fourniture       | 61   |
| III    | Cymbal           | 61   |
| 16'    | Double Trumpet   | 61   |
| 8'     | Trumpet          | 61   |
| 8'     | Tuba Major       | (SO) |
| 4'     | Clarion          | 61   |

**Swell (III, enclosed)**

|        |                      |         |
|--------|----------------------|---------|
| 16'    | Lieblich Gedeckt     | 73      |
| 8'     | Geigen               | 73      |
| 8'     | Stopped Diapason     | 73      |
| 8'     | Gamba                | 73      |
| 8'     | Voix Celeste         | 73      |
| 8'     | Echo Celeste II      | 134     |
| 8'     | Flauto Dolce         | 73      |
| 8'     | Flute Celeste (TC)   | 61      |
| 4'     | Principal            | 73      |
| 4'     | Harmonic Flute       | 73      |
| 4'     | Spitz Flute          | 73      |
| 2 2/3' | Nazard               | 61      |
| 2'     | Fifteenth            | 61      |
| 1 3/5' | Tierce               | 61      |
| III    | Plein Jeu            | 183     |
| III    | Sharff               | 183     |
| 16'    | Posaune              | 73      |
| 8'     | Trompette Harmonique | 73      |
| 8'     | Corno                | 73      |
| 8'     | Oboe                 | 73      |
| 8'     | Vox Humana           | 73      |
| 4'     | Clarion              | 73      |
|        | Tremulant            |         |
|        | Zimbelstern          | 6 bells |

**Choir (I, enclosed)**

|        |                      |         |
|--------|----------------------|---------|
| 16'    | Gemshorn             | 73      |
| 8'     | Viola Pomposa        | 73      |
| 8'     | Viola Celeste        | 73      |
| 8'     | Melodia              | 73      |
| 8'     | Lieblich Gedeckt     | 73      |
| 8'     | Erzähler             | 73      |
| 8'     | Kleine Erzähler (TC) | 61      |
| 4'     | Gemshorn             | 73      |
| 4'     | Lieblich Flute       | 73      |
| 2 2/3' | Nazard               | 61      |
| 2'     | Piccolo              | 61      |
| 1 3/5' | Tierce               | 61      |
| 1'     | Sifflöte             | 61      |
| III-IV | Zimbel               | 213     |
| 8'     | Trompette            | 73      |
| 8'     | Clarinet             | 73      |
| 8'     | Tuba Major           | (SO)    |
| 8'     | Harp (TC)            | 49 bars |
| 4'     | Celesta              | --      |
|        | Tremulant            |         |

**Solo (IV, enclosed)**

|    |                        |    |
|----|------------------------|----|
| 8' | Flauto Mirabilis       | 73 |
| 8' | Gamba                  | 73 |
| 8' | Gamba Celeste          | 73 |
| 4' | Harmonic Flute         | 73 |
| 8' | French Horn            | 61 |
| 8' | English Horn           | 61 |
| 8' | Tuba Mirabilis         | 73 |
| 8' | Tuba Major (unencl.)** | 61 |

**Gallery (floating)**

|      |                  |     |
|------|------------------|-----|
| 16'  | Pedal Principal* | 32  |
| 8'   | Diapason*        | 56  |
| 4'   | Octave*          | 56  |
| 2'   | Fifteenth*       | 56  |
| VIII | Mixture*         | 448 |

**Bombarde (floating)**

(division silenced in 2001)

|     |              |     |
|-----|--------------|-----|
| 8'  | Montre*      | 61  |
| 4'  | Octave*      | 61  |
| 2'  | Doublette*   | 61  |
| V   | Cornet (TC)* | 245 |
| VII | Mixture*     | 427 |
| 16' | Bombarde*    | 61  |
| 8'  | Trompette*   | 61  |
| 4'  | Clairon*     | 61  |

**Pedal**

|         |                          |      |
|---------|--------------------------|------|
| 32'     | Diapason (fr. Open Bass) | 7    |
| 16'     | Open Bass                | 32   |
| 16'     | Diapason                 | 32   |
| 16'     | Principal (16' Diap.)    | (GT) |
| 16'     | Bourdon                  | 32   |
| 16'     | Lieblich Gedeckt         | (SW) |
| 16'     | Violone                  | 44   |
| 16'     | Gemshorn                 | (CH) |
| 10 2/3' | Quint                    | 32   |
| 8'      | Octave                   | 32   |
| 8'      | Flute                    | 32   |
| 8'      | Still Gedeckt (16' Ged.) | (SW) |
| 6 2/5'  | Grosse Tierce            | 32   |
| 5 1/3'  | Octave Quint             | 32   |
| 4'      | Super Octave             | 32   |
| 4'      | Flute                    | 32   |
| 2'      | Blockflöte               | (GT) |
| III     | Mixture                  | 96   |
| 32'     | Contre Bombarde          | 68   |
| 16'     | Bombarde (fr. 32')       | ---  |
| 16'     | Posaune                  | (SW) |
| 8'      | Trompette (fr. 32')      | ---  |
| 8'      | Tuba Major               | (SO) |
| 4'      | Clarion (fr. 32')        | ---  |

**The Crocker Memorial Organ (in the Chapel of Grace)**  
**The Aeolian Co. Opus 1738 1929**  
**Rebuilt by Aeolian-Skinner Organ Co., Inc. Opus 1151 1951**  
**2 manuals, 27 stops, 18 ranks**

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**Great (I, enclosed)**

|     |                       |     |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| 8'  | Principal             | 61  |
| 8'  | Gedackt Pommer        | 61  |
| 8'  | Gemshorn              | 61  |
| 8'  | Gemshorn Celeste (TC) | 49  |
| 4'  | Spitz Prinzipal       | 61  |
| 4'  | Gemshorn              | 12  |
| III | Plein Jeu             | 183 |
|     | Tremolo               |     |

**Pedal (enclosed\*)**

|     |                  |         |
|-----|------------------|---------|
| 16' | Montre           | 32      |
| 16' | Gemshorn         | 12 (GT) |
| 16' | Lieblich Gedeckt | (SW)    |
| 8'  | Principal        | 12      |
| 8'  | Flute            | (SW)    |
| 4'  | Choralbass       | 12      |
| 16' | Contre Trompette | 12 (SW) |
| 8'  | Trompette        | (SW)    |
| 4'  | Clairon          | (SW)    |

**Swell (II, enclosed)**

|     |                  |     |
|-----|------------------|-----|
| 16' | Lieblich Gedeckt | 12  |
| 8'  | Koppelflöte      | 61  |
| 8'  | Viola Pomposa    | 61  |
| 8'  | Viola Celeste    | 61  |
| 4'  | Prestant         | 61  |
| 4'  | Koppelflöte      | 12  |
| 2'  | Octavin          | 61  |
| 2'  | Koppelflöte      | 12  |
| II  | Sesquialtera     | 122 |
| 8'  | Trompette        | 61  |
| 4'  | Rohrschalmei     | 61  |
|     | Tremolo          |     |

\*Pedal enclosed with Great, unless duplexed from Swell

**William Henry Davis ca. 1860**  
**Modification by John Bergstrom ca. 1885**  
**Restored by Edward M. Stout 1974**  
**1 manual, 6 stops, 4 ranks**

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|    |                    |                   |
|----|--------------------|-------------------|
| 8' | Open Diapason (TF) | 37 metal          |
| 8' | Stop Diapason Bass | 17 wood           |
| 4' | Principal (TF)     | 37 metal          |
| 4' | Principal Bass     | 17 metal          |
| 4' | Flute (TF)         | 37 wood and metal |
| 2' | Fifteenth (TF)*    | 37 metal          |

\*Replaced an 8' Dulciana, which was reported to be in storage in 1888.