

## New Organs



### Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, Ltd., Lake City, Iowa Church of St. Peter Claver, West Hartford, Connecticut

Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, Lake City, Iowa, has completed its Op. 85 for the Church of St. Peter Claver in West Hartford, Connecticut. The parish, founded in 1966, erected a church in 1969 to the designs of John Riley of the firm of Russell, Gibson and von Dohlen of West Hartford. Peter Claver, a Jesuit priest, spent forty years in Cartagena, Colombia, in the early 1600s, ministering to slaves shipped there from Africa. To recall this service, the design of the church evokes the hold of a ship, an image familiar to slaves, with light being admitted from a latticed skylight above.

As originally built, St. Peter Claver was supplied with an electronic organ and wall-to-wall carpeting. But the organ project, undertaken in 2006 at the initiative of Tim Stella, St. Peter Claver Director of Music, and Ezequiel Menendez, Director of Music at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, was part of a renewal of the church building, including enhancements such as a tile floor. The musicians, originally located at the front near the altar, were given a dedicated space at the rear of the church. While this proved advantageous in many ways, it required the organ to be placed under the lowest point of the ceiling, with the added vexation of two roof trusses passing through the space. Because the ceiling is low, the case design is a horizontal, rather than vertical, composition. The Great Prestant 8', the organ's single principal stop at 8', wouldn't fill the façade from side to side, so Lynn Dobson created groups of pipes that float in front of a neutral wooden screen. The organ case, made of white oak with a natural finish, is slightly folded in the middle like a book, making a very shallow V that fits gracefully into the corner and embraces the choir. The screen behind the horizontal wooden ribs is a muted blue, while the exposed pipes of the Pedal Bourdon 16'

are painted a burgundy color.

Though the organ budget was not large, the church renovations significantly improved the acoustic, greatly enhancing the effectiveness of the organ and all musical sounds created in that space. The stoplist provides all of the basics: a complete principal chorus on the Great, a lesser chorus capped by the principal-like Gemshorn on the Swell, a variety of flutes including the ingredients for a jeu de tierce on the Swell, a pair of strings, and a reed in each division. In addition to the normal unison couplers, there is a Swell to Great 16' coupler, which greatly increases registrational possibilities. Principals, strings and reeds are made of 75% or 52% tin; flutes are made of 30% tin or poplar. The organ is voiced on 75 millimeters wind pressure, supplied by a blower within the organ case and regulated by a large weighted reservoir. Mechanical key and stop actions are provided for the manuals, and electric action for the two Pedal stops. The console is detached; built of white oak like the case, the console interior and music rack are trimmed with American black walnut and veneered with Carpathian elm burl.

The organ was dedicated in November 2007, and Ezequiel Menendez, assisted by his wife Mercedes Featherston, presented a dedicatory recital on October 20, 2008 that included works by Mendelssohn, Zipoli, Couperin, Hollins, Franck, Piazzolla, Ginastera and Bach.

—John Panning, Tonal Director  
Dobson Pipe Organ Builders

#### GREAT – 58 notes

- 8' Prestant
- 8' Chimney Flute
- 4' Octave
- 2' Fifteenth
- 1½' Mixture IV
- 8' Trumpet
- Swell to Great 16'
- Swell to Great 8'

#### SWELL – 58 notes (enclosed)

- 8' Gedackt
- 8' Salicional
- 8' Celeste FF
- 4' Principal
- 4' Open Flute
- 2½' Nazard
- 2' Gemshorn
- 1½' Tierce
- 8' Oboe

#### PEDAL – 32 notes

- 16' Subbass
- 8' Bourdon (Subbass)
- 16' Fagotto
- 8' Trumpet (Fagotto)
- Great to Pedal
- Swell to Pedal

Tremulant (affects entire organ)

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## Summer Institutes, Workshops & Conferences

### Organ Masterclass with Ludger Lohmann

June 2–5, Herzberg, Germany.  
Mendelssohn's organ works; concerts, organ tour.  
Contact: <[www.organpromotion.org](http://www.organpromotion.org)>.

### Yale Institute of Sacred Music

June 8–12, 15–19, 22–26, New Haven, CT.  
Courses in congregational song, Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, hymn playing, others; Patrick Evans, Bruce Neswick, Markus Rathay, others.  
Contact: 203/432-9526; <[www.yale.edu/sdqsummerterm/](http://www.yale.edu/sdqsummerterm/)>.

### Taste and See: How to Teach for Depth in Worship

June 13–24, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI.  
Workshop with John Witvliet.  
Contact: <[www.calvin.edu/scs/2009/witvliet/](http://www.calvin.edu/scs/2009/witvliet/)>.

### AGO Pipe Organ Encounters

June 14–19, Wheaton, IL; June 21–26, Bethlehem, PA, Macon, GA, and Kansas City, MO; July 12–17, Sioux Falls, SD; July 19–24, Manchester, NH; August 2–8, San Diego, CA.  
Contact: <[www.agohq.org/](http://www.agohq.org/)>.

### York Course for Organists

June 15–18, York, UK.  
Hymnody, service playing, new repertoire, conducting tips, improvisation workshop.  
Contact: <[www.rscm.com/courses](http://www.rscm.com/courses)>.

### University of Michigan Summer Harpsichord Workshops

June 15–19, 22–26, Ann Arbor, MI.  
Bach's *Toccatas* and *Goldberg Variations* (June 15–19); fundamentals of harpsichord playing and repertoire (June 22–26), with Edward Parmentier.  
Contact: 734/665-2217; <[eparment@umich.edu](mailto:eparment@umich.edu)>, <[www.music.umich.edu/specialprograms/adult](http://www.music.umich.edu/specialprograms/adult)>.

### AGO Regional Conventions

June 15–18, Wichita, KS; June 22–25, Phoenix, AZ; June 28–July 1, Albuquerque, NM, Detroit, MI, and Seattle, WA; July 1–4, Boston, MA; July 5–8, Norfolk, VA.  
Contact: <[www.agohq.org/](http://www.agohq.org/)>.

### National Association of Pastoral Musicians Summer Institutes

June 19–21, Dallas, TX; July 13–17, Erlanger, KY; July 17–19, Lakewood, NJ; July 20–24, Houston, TX; July 24–26, Gaylord, MI; July 27–29, Lansing, MI; July 27–31, Greensburg, PA; July 31–August 2, Clarion, PA; August 14–16, Albuquerque, NM.  
Contact: <[www.npm.org](http://www.npm.org)>.

### International Organ Academy

June 20–28, Alkmaar, the Netherlands.  
Coaching by Pieter van Dijk, Frank van Wijk, Theo Jellema on historic organs.  
Contact: <[www.alkmaarorgelstad.nl](http://www.alkmaarorgelstad.nl)>.

### 30th Annual International Organ and Church Music Institute

June 21–23, University of Michigan.  
Lectures, masterclasses, concerts; Gordon Atkinson, Marilyn Mason, Michele Johns, Andrew Mead, Louis Nagel.  
Contact: Marilyn Mason, 734/764-2500; <[mamstein@umich.edu](mailto:mamstein@umich.edu)>.

### Mo-Ranch/PAM Worship & Music Conference 2009

June 21–26, Hunt, TX.  
Lectures, workshops, concerts; Tom Trenney, Michael Hawn, others.  
Contact: 800/460-4401; <[www.presbysmusic.org/](http://www.presbysmusic.org/)>.

### Montreal Conferences on Worship & Music 2009

June 21–27, June 28–July 4, Montreal Conference Center, Montreal, NC.  
Rehearsals, seminars, workshops; choirs, handbells, organ, visual arts, liturgies; Joby Bell, Robert Hobby, Mark Sedio, Anne Wilson, many others.  
Contact: Presbyterian Association of Musicians, 888/728-7228, ext. 5288; <[pam@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:pam@ctr.pcusa.org)>, <[www.pam.pcusa.org](http://www.pam.pcusa.org)>.

### Baroque Performance Institute

June 21–July 5, Oberlin Conservatory, Oberlin, OH.  
"Music in London, 1659–1759: from the birth of Purcell until the death of Handel." Daily coaching and masterclasses.  
Contact: 440/775-8044; <[www.oberlin.edu/summer/bpi/Default.html](http://www.oberlin.edu/summer/bpi/Default.html)>.

### Sacred Music Colloquium XIX

June 22–28, Loyola University, Chicago, IL.

Wilko Brouwers, Horst Buchholz, Scott Turkington, William Mahrt, others.  
Contact: <[MusicaSacra.com](mailto:MusicaSacra.com)>.

### Berkshire Choral Festival

June 26–July 4, Montreal, QC, Canada; July 12–19, 19–26, July 26–August 2, August 2–9, 9–16, Sheffield, MA.  
Rehearsals, classes, lectures, concerts; Philip Brunelle, Simon Carrington, Dale Warland, others.  
Contact: 413/229-8526; <[www.choralfest.org](http://www.choralfest.org)>.

### Royal Canadian College of Organists National Convention

June 28–July 2, Toronto, ON, Canada.  
Recitals, workshops, worship services, social events; Gillian Weir, James David Christie, Ken Cowan, Thierry Escaich, Rachel Laurin, Patrick Wedd.  
Contact: <[www.rcco2009.ca/home.php](http://www.rcco2009.ca/home.php)>.

### Association of Anglican Musicians 2009 Conference

June 28–July 3, Los Angeles, CA.  
Workshops, liturgies, performances; Thomas Murray, David Willcocks.  
Contact: <[www.anglicanmusicians.org](http://www.anglicanmusicians.org)>.

### ATOS Annual Convention

July 1–5, Cleveland, OH.  
Jonas Nordwall, Ron Rhode, John Schwandt, Clark Wilson, others.  
Contact: <[www.atos.org](http://www.atos.org)>.

### Organ Historical Society Convention

July 5–10, Cleveland, OH.  
Michael Barone, Diane Belcher, Peter Conte, Ken Cowan, Joan Lippincott, Joseph McCabe, Thomas Murray, others.  
Contact: <[www.organsociety.org](http://www.organsociety.org)>.

### Summer Choral Conducting Symposium

July 6–10, University of Michigan.  
Masterclasses, Dalcroze Eurhythms, score study, reading sessions; Jerry Blackstone, Paul Rardin, Pearl Shangquan, Julie Skadsem.  
Contact: 734/764-0593; <[smtadmissions@umich.edu](mailto:smtadmissions@umich.edu)>.

### NPM National Convention 2009

July 6–10, Chicago, IL.  
Workshops, masterclasses, concerts; Lynn Trapp, Stephanie Honz, others.  
Contact: <[www.npm.org](http://www.npm.org)>.

### Illinois ACDA Summer Re-Treat

July 8–10, Illinois State University, Normal, IL.  
Rick Bjella, Patrick Liebergen, Eugene Rogers, others.  
Contact: <[www.il-acda.org](http://www.il-acda.org)>.

### Fédération Francophone des Amis de l'Orgue Congress

July 10–14, Lorraine region, France.  
Daily concerts; visits to chateaux, organs, museums.  
Contact: 33+380-77-93-96; <[gueritey@ffao.com](mailto:gueritey@ffao.com)>, <[www.ffao.com/congres.htm](http://www.ffao.com/congres.htm)>.

### Hymn Society Conference

July 12–16, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN.  
Lectures, worship, hymn festivals. James & Marilyn Biery, David Cherwien, John Ferguson, David Hurd, others.  
Contact: <[www.thehymnsociety.org](http://www.thehymnsociety.org)>.

### Long Island 2009 Choral Festival

July 12–17, Garden City, NY.  
Contact: <[www.lichoralfest.org](http://www.lichoralfest.org)>.

### PAM Westminster Conference

July 12–17, Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA.  
Lectures, seminars (organ, choral, handbells); Don Saliers, Robert Schneider, Tom Trenney, others.  
Contact: 888/728-7228 x5288; <[www.pam.pcusa.org](http://www.pam.pcusa.org)>.

### The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music & Worship Arts (FUMMWA) National Biennial Convocation 2009

July 13–16, Orlando, FL. John Bell, Ken Medema, others.  
Music and Liturgical Arts Week, June 21–26, Lake Junaluska, NC. Handbells, organ and choral workshops; Jane Holstein, Allen Pote, Joel Raney, others.  
Contact: <[www.fummwa.org](http://www.fummwa.org)>.

### Oundle International Summer Schools for Young Organists

July 13–19, 21–26, Oxford, and Oundle, UK.  
Programs for ages 13–21; lessons, concerts. Kevin Bowyer, David Goode, Anne Page, David Sanger, John Scott, others.  
Contact: <[www.oundlefestival.org.uk](http://www.oundlefestival.org.uk)>.