

New Organs



Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, Lake City, Iowa The Chapel of the Cross (Episcopal), Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Dobson Pipe Organ Builders of Lake City, Iowa, has installed its Op. 82 at the Chapel of the Cross (Episcopal), Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Organized on May 13, 1842, the Chapel of the Cross represented the first denomination to organize a congregation in Chapel Hill, and was intended to serve as a place where students and faculty of the University of North Carolina could worship according to their tradition. By the fall of 1842 specifications for a church building were prepared. Actual construction proceeded slowly and came to a halt several times due to lack of funds, but the chapel was completed debt-free and was consecrated on October 19, 1848. By 1921 the parish outgrew the modest chapel and built its current, larger sanctuary. New and old are connected by a cloister, all of similar architectural style. The chapel was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

The newer sanctuary serves as the

main worship space, while the chapel is used for services of up to a hundred people, numerous weddings and funerals where significant organ literature is played, and organ recitals. It was clear from the outset that the musical requirements of the new organ would be far greater than one might normally associate with a space such as the chapel. The organ builder's challenge was to design a comprehensive two-manual organ with sufficient pedal, all within the proper visual and tonal proportions dictated by the room's intimate physical and acoustical setting.

Initial design discussions for Op. 82 were lively, since the chapel's significant musical needs were seemingly at odds with the historical committee's concerns about a large organ case. Several key individuals contributed a great deal to these discussions: James and Susan Moeser, members of both the parish and the organ committee, as well as fine organists and teachers; Terry Byrd Eason, member of the parish and the organ committee, and also architectural consultant and designer involved with the chapel renovation; Clare Baum, resourceful chair of the organ committee;

and Wylie S. Quinn, director of music and organist. In the end all were able to agree on a plan that achieved everyone's goals.

Op. 82 is a two-manual and pedal instrument of 17 ranks with mechanical key and stop actions; for reasons of space and versatility, the Pedal has electric action. The organ is arranged like many 19th-century instruments: the Great is located at impost level immediately behind the façade, with the Swell placed behind the Great at a higher level. Underneath the Swell are the pipes of the Pedal. The blower and the weighted reservoir are located in a sacristy behind the wall against which the organ is placed. The organ case is constructed of rift-sawn, fumed and stained white oak that is enriched by hand-carved details. In addition, accents of American black walnut, ebony, rosewood, Carpathian elm burl and cow bone are found at the organ's console. Folding doors are available to enclose the stop jamb and music rack. A cover for the keyboards folds and recedes into the case when not in use.

The chapel's intimate acoustic requires very little power to fill the space with sound. While the stoplist looks substantial for the size of the chapel, it is voiced entirely on 60 millimeters of wind pressure. Consequently each stop sings gently yet carries effortlessly throughout the room. As the ensembles build, the organ sounds full and satisfying, yet not overbearing. Contributing to the impres-

sion that the organ sounds bigger than it looks are the Swell to Great 16' coupler and the Pedal 16' Bassoon.

The instrument was first used for services and programs in April 2006, and was formally dedicated on October 13, 2006 in a program by Dr. Quinn.

—John Panning

Photo credit: Lynn Dobson

GREAT (58 notes)

8'	Prestant
8'	Chimney Flute
4'	Octave
2'	Super Octave (from Mixture)
2'	Mixture IV
8'	Trumpet
	Swell to Great 16'
	Swell to Great 8'

SWELL (58 notes, expressive)

8'	Stopped Diapason
8'	Salicional
4'	Flute
2 2/3'	Nasard
2'	Gemshorn
1 1/3'	Tierce
8'	Oboe
	Tremulant (affects entire organ)

PEDAL (32 notes)

16'	Subbass
8'	Bourdon (ext)
16'	Bassoon
8'	Trumpet (ext Bassoon) Great to Pedal Swell to Pedal



Lewis & Hitchcock, Inc. has installed an Aeolian-Skinner organ in the residence of Patrick Allen of New York City. The organ is Opus 1128 of Aeolian-Skinner, built in 1947 for Room 424 of the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, where it was used as a practice instrument. When the organ became available, Dr. Allen, who had practiced on this organ while a student, purchased it and contracted with Lewis & Hitchcock to remove the organ, restore it, modify it to fit his apartment, and to install it. The drawknob console is located in his living room at the foot of the stairs leading to the second floor; the organ is installed in a former bedroom on the second floor, facing the stairs. Dr. Allen is organist and master of choristers of Grace Episcopal Church, Lower Broadway.

GREAT

8'	Bourdon	61 pipes
4'	Principal	61 pipes

Great to Great 4'

SWELL

8'	Viole de Gambe	61 pipes
4'	Gemshorn	61 pipes
8'	Hautbois	61 pipes

Swell to Swell 16'

Swell to Swell 4'

PEDAL

16'	Bourdon	32 pipes
8'	Spitz Principal	32 pipes
4'	Flute	32 pipes

Couplers

Great to Pedal 8'

Swell to Pedal 8'

Swell to Pedal 4'

Swell to Great 16'

Swell to Great 8'

Swell to Great 4'

Pistons (preset at the factory)

3 General, 2 Great, 2 Swell, SFZ and General Cancel

Toe Studs: 2 Pedal, Great to Pedal and SFZ

Shoes: Swell & Crescendo

The organ is listed on the NYC AGO Organs pages: <www.nycago.org/Organs/NYC/html/ResAllenP.html>

Photo credit: Steven E. Lawson

North Meets South Buxtehude and the North German School Keyboard Music of Domenico Scarlatti

An Early Keyboard Conference

Honoring Two Significant Recent Anniversaries

2008 Annual Meeting of the

Midwestern Historical Keyboard Society (MHKS)
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA USA – May 21-24, 2008

Papers, Lectures, and Concerts

Exhibits of Harpsichords, Clavichords, Fortepianos
For Registration Information, contact:

David Kelzenberg <david-kelzenberg@uiowa.edu>
2801 Highway 6 East, #344
Iowa City, IA 52240 USA
(319) 351-3926
Additional Information: <www.mhks.org>

Check your listing in

THE DIAPASON

2008 Resource Directory

To update information:
<www.TheDiapason.com>
and follow the prompts.